

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES MARCH 2025**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025 in the conference room of the ASCD office located at 12407 Naves Cross Road, Cumberland, MD. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:04 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Lee Heavner, Associate; Whitney Patterson, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Adam Miller, DNR Forester; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Minutes – Amanda moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the February treasurer's report. Amanda moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Steve. Motion passed.

Natural Resources Career Camp Scholarship – Adam Miller explained some restructuring changes coming to DNR's forestry boards statewide and how it might affect local forestry board's budgets. All were provided a handout (attached) that describes the week-long career camp and how students apply. He reported the cost to send one student to the camp held in Garrett County is \$500 tuition plus \$150 activity fee. Amanda moved to donate \$500 to sponsor one student. Kevin seconded; motion passed. Adam left the meeting due to prior appointments.

Bills – 1) FSU Scholarship's 5-year pledge was fulfilled in 2024. All were provided the criteria (attached) for the scholarship. After discussion, Amanda moved to commit to another 5-year pledge of \$500 per year. After further discussion, Amanda's motion was amended to include asking FSU Foundation to view essays submitted by the applicants. Kevin seconded the amended motion; so, moved. Steve moved to pay the following bills: 2) 2025 county fair book ad of \$75, 3) County fair award sponsorship of \$50, and 4) Yearly general liability insurance policy of \$1,845. Amanda seconded and motion passed.

Permits – There were 8 land-use permits approved in February generating \$598 in fees collected by the county and 7 major reviews completed with Evitts Creek project bringing \$1,700 income to the district.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported Allegany County has 7 obligated contracts, 4 high tunnels and 3 forestry/golden winged warbler projects. All 7 are pre-approved using EQIP funds. NRCS received a memo stating that USDA Secretary, Brooke Rollins communicated that payments for existing IRA contracts will be honored. Chad reported some staffing changes. The Allegany County forestry technician position vacated by Noah Jack and funded by Western MD RC&D is expected to be filled. Other

positions vacated by deferred resignations and employee reductions will not be filled. Field offices have not been merged but some staff are being dispersed to existing field offices. The Continuing Resolution (CR) expires this Friday, March 14th and goes before the House today. Another area of concern for funding is if Congress doesn't raise the debt ceiling.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah Llewellyn, Extension Educator, was not able to attend the meeting but sent an update. She is still working on the upcoming Ag event at Washington Middle School. Several applications were received for the nutrient management writer position.

Lee gave an overview of the Allegany County Farm Bureau meeting he attended. A "State of Agriculture" for Allegany County was provided in everyone's packet (attached).

OLD BUSINESS

Past Supervisors Plaque – Everything is finalized with the Sports Shoppe and we expect to pick up the plaque before the next board meeting.

Tree Sale Update – Sales are good. This year's totals are similar to last year's. Adam will pick up the trees on Monday, April 7th. Staff will sort orders that afternoon and finish after the board meeting on 4/8/25. Customers will pick up their orders on Wednesday, 4/9 and Thursday, 4/10.

NEW BUSINESS

MDA Cover Crop Program Funding – All were provided the March 2025 MASCD Report (attached). Adam reported CBTF budget cuts and grants that fund MDA programs may affect up to 55 MDA employees, Cover Crop, CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) across the state. MACS (MD Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share) and MALPF (MD Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation) funding may also be suspended or eliminated. Adam announced upcoming MASCD and NACD meetings and events.

County Budget FY26 – Adam hasn't received any budget forms yet. It will become necessary to push for a new district truck.

OTHER BUSINESS

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, the cooperators agreement for Lisa Hall/Verdeen LLC was approved.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Kevin, the two conservation farm plans as outlined in the DM report were approved.

There were no cancellations to come before the board.

Correspondence: (All attached) 1) Thank you card from NACD for our FY25 Gold Level membership; 2) Letter from ACM announcing the change in the scholarship recipient and 3) letter of thanks from the new ACM scholarship recipient, Christian Beeman.

On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
3/12/2025 11:43 AM