

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OCTOBER 2023**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 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 1 p.m.

Supervisors present were Lee Heavner, Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, and Carl Robinette. Others present were Ben Sansom, Associate; Wesley Gordon, Associate; Adam Heavner, District Manager; Sarah Llewellyn, University of Maryland Extension; Slater Hafer, NRCS Soil Conservationist; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

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

Treasurer's Report - Lee gave the September report. On the motion of Lee, seconded by Amanda, the report was approved as presented.

Bills – There were no bills to be presented.

Permits – There were 19 permits approved in September generating \$1,588.00 in fees collected by the county. One major plan was reviewed.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist, was unable to attend the meeting due to dam inspections in Garrett County. He provided a written report (attached). Slater Hafer highlighted Chad's report. Congress passed a 45-day continuing resolution which keeps the government operating until November 14, 2023. The CRP/CREP program funding is secure in the new Farm Bill. The new program, Act Now, is specifically designed for turn-key projects.

Other Agency Reports – Sarah reported that Nutrient Management Specialist applications are still being received. The state is filling 12 positions to cover the whole state. Extension is making a big push to get an additional \$2 million for nutrient management training. The online software is not accessible to everyone and is not user friendly. Action teams are working on the collection of food to re-distribute to decrease food waste.

OLD BUSINESS

No Till Drill Update – The equipment was welded by Dallas Petre as an in-kind donation.

Allegany/Garrett Local Work Group Meeting (Recap) – Our submitted LWG form is in everyone's packet (attached). Carl provided feedback to Chad regarding incentive payments and meeting arrangements. Carl wants to let as many people as possible know that funds not utilized for voluntary conservation efforts will be forwarded to regulatory agencies such as the MDE and/or EPA. This was emphasized in question 8.

Western Maryland RC & D Meeting (Recap) – Jim Mullan and Lee Heavner attended. Jim reported there is a lot of money coming through for projects. He was impressed with the number of projects and with the presenters.

NEW BUSINESS

November Meeting Date – Due to schedules, the November meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, 11/7/23 at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Lunch Place & Date – The lunch will take place after the December board meeting on 12/12/23. Mona will check on prices and venues to discuss at the November meeting.

Maryland Department of Agriculture – Short Film of Greg Heavner’s Operation – Next Tuesday a crew will use a drone to film the Heavner farm for a You Tube video, highlighting the forest buffer. Adam will let everyone know when the video will begin to air.

Maryland Ag Council – A group of 15 – 20 will visit Allegany and Garrett Counties on October 10th & 11th. Our board is being asked by the Allegany County Farm Bureau to split the lunch bill at the Flintstone Firehall. Staff from our office will be part of the tour on 10/11 regarding the forest industry. Slater Hafer will highlight some Golden Winged-warbler sites and Brent Walker, the County Sediment Control Planner, will discuss the process to apply for timber harvest. Lee moved to pay half of the lunch bill for the group. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations for review.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Lee, seconded by Amanda, the four plans listed on the District Manager’s report provided in supervisor’s packets were approved.

Correspondence – 1) Invite from Allegany County Farm Bureau to their annual Fall Banquet on Tuesday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m. at the Flintstone Firehall; 2) Email from Missy Cannon Helgason announcing the MASCD 2024 Annual Meeting July 8th – 10th at Hyatt Chesapeake in Cambridge (both attached).

The meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
10/4/2023 10:48 AM