

Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 19, 2024
Soil Conservation District Office

Supervisors in Attendance: B. Sowers, M. Shafer, D. Flickinger, J. Falkenstein, R. Black.

Associates in Attendance: S. Leatherman, R. Myers, A. Holter (phone-in).

Guests in Attendance: District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. M. Townsend, UMD Frederick County Ag Agent, Jenna B., UMD Student. Patrick Heizer.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:14am.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved from October Meeting by motion: D. Flickinger motioned, second by M. Shafer. All in agreement.

Minutes approved from October Closed Session by motion: D. Flickinger motioned, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Financial Reports

October Treasurers Report approved as filed by motion: M. Shafer motioned, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Bank Account Reconciliation Report approved by motion: R. Black motioned, second by M. Shafer. All in agreement.

Expenses for the Month approved by motion: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. October SSCC: H. Hutchinson reported that Hans Schmidt, Assistant Secretary for MDA Resource Conservation, reported on the MACS small farm assistance for equine.
2. Urban Technician: H. Hutchinson reported that an offer was made to the selected candidate. HR agreed to offer 20% above base. The candidate received another employment offer and provided the offer letter. H. Hutchinson sent the provided offer letter and justification to the Chief Administration Officer who will decide if the SCD can offer a higher salary.
3. MASCD Board of Directors Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Board of Directors Meeting was held on October 22nd.
 - a. January 8, 2025 is the first day of the new legislative session
 - b. Chesapeake Bay Fund is recommending a new 100ft buffer for all nutrient applications. The current regulation is 35ft.
 - c. Mike Mason spoke about the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project and how this could affect land that is preserved.
 - d. The MASCD Annual Summer Meeting will be held August 4th to the 6th at Rocky Gap Casino.

- e. Jason Keppler, MACS Program Manager, reported that there was \$40million paid out in MACS fund for FY24 (2.4M for Manure Transport, 7M for MACS Capital, and 30M for Cover Crop). DBM is questioning reversions.
 - f. The Ag Advisory Committee to the Bay program is adding a farmer group to the advisory panel.
4. Office Lease: H. Hutchinson reported that she spoke to Rusty McCabe this morning in regards to the office lease. NRCS has a walk through on January 9th and a projected move in the following week.
- a. M. Shafer motioned, second by J. Falkenstein, to move with NRCS and address office space in the future. All in agreement.
5. Sandy Spring Bank: H. Hutchinson reported that she and J. Falkenstein went to Sandy Spring Bank to renew the CD's. The two CD's have been renewed at 3.85% for a 17-month term.
6. Carbon Study: H. Hutchinson reported that the carbon study had been proposed by Team Ag, Inc. H. Hutchinson questioned what the application process would be for those farms who would like to participate. M. Townsend suggests getting Team Ag, Inc. to come and discuss the proposal in detail.

New Business:

1. Expense Reports: D. Flickinger would like per-diem as the Western Area Representative for SSCC Meetings, she states that SSCC will pay mileage.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to pay D. Flickinger per-diem for attending SSCC meetings. All in agreement.
2. Internal Banking Transfers: H. Hutchinson presented a policy to complete internal banking transfers to reimburse the operating and urban accounts for D. Stonesifer's supplement and associated payroll taxes. Policy not signed and will just motion each month.
3. Banquet: H. Hutchinson reported that we have 120 attendees for the SCD Banquet on November 21st. H. Hutchinson will present the program and welcome guests, D. Flickinger will give the invocation, B. Sowers will give the welcome and present on Hurricane Helene.
4. MASCD Winter Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Winter Meeting will be held on February 3rd and legislative breakfast on February 4th. Ben, Diane, Steve, Wes, Matt and Adam will attend.
5. Soil Health Day: H. Hutchinson reported that the fourth annual Digging Deeper into Soil Health will be held on February 12th at the New Midway Volunteer Fire Company. This year's speaker is Luke Jones from Understanding Ag.
 - a. Board would like to have a full meal with shrimp.
6. MD Envirothon Dues: Received an invoice request for dues in the amount of \$750, but would like \$1000 to keep up with costs- this would get the SCD name on a t-shirt and program.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by R. Black, to pay \$1000 to MD Envirothon for dues. All in agreement.
7. Catocin Land Judging: H. Hutchinson received a request for donation in support of the Catocin FFA Land Judging for their trip to Oklahoma City.

- a. R. Black motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to give \$1000 to the Catoctin FFA Land Judging team.
8. Taste of MD: Taste of MD Agriculture dinner will be held on February 6th at the MD LIVE! Casino. Each ticket is \$100/person. H. Hutchinson will be attending. Board members must decide if they are attending by the December meeting. Ticket prices increase on January 10th.
9. Holiday Gathering: K. McAfee proposed bowling at 4D Fun Center which is \$50/person and includes 2.5hrs of bowling, unlimited pizza, and drinks.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to go to 4D Fun Center for the Holiday Gathering for bowling. All in agreement.
10. Fund Drive for NC: B. Sowers will be giving a presentation at the banquet on the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. There are funding drives that B. Sowers can put people in contact with if they would like to donate.
11. Brunswick MPRP: D. Flickinger thanks B. Sowers and M. Shafer for attending the open meeting at Brunswick High School for the MD Piedmont Reliability Project. D. Flickinger will forward more information needed if anyone would like it.

Communications: No Report.

NRCS Report: No Report.

MDA Report: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies: M. Townsend provided handout of upcoming workshops and trainings.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by R. Black, to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:23pm and that the board meet in special closed session to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(13). The motion carried unanimously.