

Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 18, 2025
Soil Conservation District Office

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

Associates in Attendance: S. Leatherman, R. Myers, M. Ahalt, S. Hipkins

Guests in Attendance: P. Heizer, District Manager, H. Hutchinson, Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee, K. Stevens, FCG Office of Agriculture, Director, B. Cammauf, NRCS, District Conservationist.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:04am.

Meeting Minutes

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

Minutes approved from January Closed Session by motion: J. Falkenstein, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

Financial Reports

January Treasurers Report approved as filed by motion: M. Shafer motioned, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

Bank Account Reconciliation Report approved as filed by motion: D. Flickinger 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. Hood Climate Summit: H. Hutchinson will have a table set up on 2/28. There is still no agenda available.
2. Legislative Day: H. Hutchinson reported on Legislative Day held at New Midway Volunteer Fire Company on 2/8. During Legislative Day H. Hutchinson brought up modifying the floodplain ordinance to FCG Council Members. Council Members Donald and McKay asked to be involved in the changes.
 - a. After the meeting, H. Hutchinson emailed Council Members Donald and McKay and Tolson DeSa the requests to change the ordinance. Shannon Moore was included in the conversation and believed the ordinance should be consistent with COMAR. She also requested the SCD and DEE be involved in the development or changes to ordinances.
3. Taste of Maryland: H. Hutchinson, M. Shafer, and M. Ahalt attended the Taste of MD at MD LIVE! Casino on 2/6. Governor Moore inducted the Deford Family of Baltimore County into the Governor's Agriculture Hall of Fame.
4. Scholarship: K. McAfee has posted the 2025 George A. Nicholson Sr. Memorial Scholarship to the website, sent to FCPS Ag teachers, and distributed to the schools through Peach Jar.
5. MASCD Winter Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported on the MASCD Winter Meeting held on 2/3 in Annapolis, MD.

- a. Hans Schmidt, MDA, gave an overview of the budget. MDA was granted three new positions in MACS, four in Nutrient Management for food processing residuals (one of them being an attorney), and one for the LEEF program.
- b. Six storage permits and six transport permits have been issued for food processing residuals. Land applications are opening.
- c. WIP will be revised in 2025, but MDA remains committed to the current goals.
- d. 500,000 acres of cover crop were certified this year.
- e. There was a presentation on the LEEF program- there will be four listening sessions around the state.
- f. MASCD Summer Meeting will be held on August 4, 5, and 6 at Rocky Gap Casino and Resort. Monday night will be a BBQ. No live auction will be held this year- only a silent auction.

New Business:

1. SSCC Meeting: The SSCC meeting will be held on February 20 at 9:30AM. D. Flickinger invites the board to join the SSCC meeting in person on March 20th at the Washington County Extension Office.
2. Soil Health Day: H. Hutchinson reported that the event has been rescheduled until 2/26.
3. Envirothon: H. Hutchinson reported that Barry Burch provided a budget and order for the awarded prints. He asked if the office would handle ordering the pizza and the office will. In the print order he is asking for the SCD to purchase and additional print for a 25-year volunteer.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to accept the 2025 Frederick County Envirothon budget. All in agreement.
4. Forest Clearing Workgroup: H. Hutchinson reported that the next Forest Clearing Workgroup meeting on 2/27.
5. UMD Soil Judging Team: H. Hutchinson reported that the UMD Soil Judging Team is requesting support as they travel to Wisconsin for the national event. 15 students will be attending, and it will cost around \$1000 per student.
 - a. M. Shafer motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to give \$500 to the UMD Soil Judging Team. All in agreement.
6. MPRP: D. Flickinger reported on the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project. Deadline for intervention was set for 2/17. Two days before, new information was brought forth regarding access roads. These new access roads go through neighboring properties.
7. Ag Complex Ground: J. Falkenstein noted that the ag complex ground is not being used by the district but being farmed by 'word of mouth'. We are not receiving rental income. Current person farming the ground has damaged the well casing and it needs to be replaced.
 - a. H. Hutchinson to send a certified letter to current person farming ground to stop all activities.
 - b. John will take soil samples.
8. The district received a letter from the Department of Treasury regarding non-payment of unemployment for Catoctin and Frederick SCDs. After several attempts to rectify via email and letter, Heather requested assistance from the Office of Attorney General at MDA. They were able to reach someone who could deactivate those accounts. Unfortunately, the FCSCD account

was not activated and our payments for the last three quarters have been in pending status. We are being assessed late fees on those payments.

9. Ben requested to re-start the Bylaws Committee.

Communications: Thank You letter provided by MD FFA for donation.

NRCS Report: B. Cammauf reports that all leasing across the country is on hold for 90 days and looking to be a holding pattern. 16 Probationary NRCS employees were terminated. Staff may be moved to help with workload in other counties.

MDA Report: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies: K. Stevens reports that Agricultural Strategic Plan will be released soon. The Office of Agriculture will be hosting an event on March 25 at the Great Frederick Fair Grounds. The Ag Innovation Grant will be opening soon.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by M. Shafer, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:43am 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.

APPROVED