



WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
November 28, 2018
WCSCD Conference Room

ATTENDEES:

Supervisors Present: Harry Strite (Chair), J.D. Rinehart (Vice Chair) J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer), Jere DeBaugh (Supervisor), and Janet Stiles Fulton (Supervisor)

Associate Supervisors Present: Edward Wurmb and James Weddle

Others Present: Elmer Weibley, Denise Price, Lori Flook Bishop, Colleen Cashell (USDA, FSA), Josh Smith (WMRC&D), and Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS)

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:32 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The October Regular Board Meeting Minutes were submitted for review and approval.

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the October Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The October Treasurer's Report was submitted for review and approval.

Dee noted all accounts in order.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report as submitted. Jere DeBaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District Board of Supervisors

Harry E. Strite
Chair

J.D. Rinehart
Vice Chair

J. Scott Shank, III
Treasurer

Janet Stiles Fulton
Supervisor

Jere F. DeBaugh
Supervisor

Boyd Michael
Associate

James Weddle
Associate

Edward C. Wurmb, D.V.M.
Associate

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

The October Monthly Bill Approval Report was submitted for review and approval.

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the October Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE REPORT:

The MACS Monthly Cost-Share Report was submitted for review and approval.

Elmer reviewed the MACS Report with the Board. A number of applications have received Public Works Approval since the preparation of the report. Some claims are delayed due to Nutrient Management Certifications not up to date, and several Agreements were cancelled for various reasons.

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the MACS Monthly Cost-Share Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT:

The District Conservationist's and Monthly Job Reports were submitted for review and approval.

Brent Cammauf reported the following:

- Status of two current jobs; a waste storage facility, and forage and biomass planting.
- Still awaiting a new farm bill.
- Early signup deadline for remaining RCPP's is November 16th. No date for anything else.
- Nationwide study of NRCS employees - keeping track of time and tasks; District and MDA employees also participating.
- NRCS to hire many employees nationwide.

Elmer briefly reviewed Job Report with Board.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the District Conservationist's and Job Reports as submitted. Janet Stiles Fulton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS:

Josh Smith (Western MD RC&D) offered the following:

- One new employee hired for Washington County - Food Council Coordinator; will be housed at the Washington County Extension Office; Three more employees to be hired for the Western Area Grazing Team
- Quarterly Meeting, Thursday, December 13, 2018, Western Maryland Research & Education Center, Keedysville, MD

Colleen Cashell (USDA, FSA) offered the following:

- Ballots were sent and required to be returned by December 3, 2018; P. David Roth only candidate nominated. Write-In's allowed. Counting Tuesday, December 4, 2018.
- Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payment based on rate per crop.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Cover Crop - Certifications to Date: Fall reporting 6100 acres. More to be reported, however, waiting on Nutrient Management Certification Forms to be completed. Three farmers have made a firm commitment for the Bio Mass Program, covering 265 acres.

FMLA Coverage for District Employees: Elmer contacted the Department of Labor, Baltimore, and verified, yes, as a government agency, regardless of number of employees, FMLA Coverage has to be offered, however, the agency must have 50 employees in order for employees to be eligible to participate. Elmer will develop a policy with a human resources attorney for all District employees.

The consensus of the Board of Supervisors is to allow Elmer and Dee to develop a policy and present to the Board by February 2019.

Update on letter from MASCD to Attorney General: Last month, the Board reviewed a copy of a letter from The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD), to the Attorney General's Office, regarding coverage under the Tort Claims Act. The Attorney General responded that he would not respond to the MASCD since they were not a State agency. It was suggested that the letter would be responded to if it were sent by the State Soil Conservation Committee. Elmer will contact Lindsay Thompson, MASCD, and keep the Board posted on the issue.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

Information was distributed and discussed regarding the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) proposed easement payments, draft amendments to the MOU with Washington County, and financial information for current and completed projects.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Christmas Luncheon (Date & Schedule): The Christmas Luncheon for Board Members and staff will be held December 12, 2018, following the Board Meeting at 10:00 a.m. This will be held at Homewood Suites by Hilton, 1650 Pullman Lane, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Menu and RSVP's were briefly discussed.

Looking Ahead (District Structure, Priorities, etc.): Elmer requested approval to move forward with discussion, job descriptions, etc., to better serve agriculture and urban customers. The board discussed date and time preferences for strategic planning meetings and work sessions. Gatherings will occur February, March and April. After much discussion, Harry Strite will serve on meetings related to Agriculture, J. Scott Shank, III will attend Urban discussion, Edward Wurmb will sit in on all meetings, and J.D. Rinehart will be available in April. Jim Weddle also expressed an interest in participating. The District Conservationist and Area Coordinator will also be invited to attend.

Letter to Secretary Bartenfelder: The Board reviewed and discussed a letter from a farm customer, forwarded to Secretary Bartenfelder, expressing concerns with the MACS program of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, specifically claims and permits.

Nationwide Deferred Compensation Program Discussion: The Board discussed changes with Nationwide and reviewed new options available. The current fixed option no longer exists. Only one member (employee) is effected by the changes.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion for Treasurer J. Scott Shank, III to sign the agreement, authorizing a new option, Option Number Two, as provided by Nationwide. Jere DeBaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

The MASCD Winter Meeting will be held February 13 and 14, 2019, Annapolis, MD.

A handout highlighting the 'Nutrient Management Program Directory of For Hire Certified Nutrient Management Consultants' in Washington County was distributed.

Elmer mentioned receiving information for the Taste of Maryland Dinner. This to be further discussed at the December Board Meeting.

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

Dee Price (Urban Program Director) reported the following:

The Sediment Control Review Report was submitted for review and approval.

Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to accept the Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Total County Fee Checks collected for October 2018; \$1,650.

ADJOURNMENT:

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to adjourn the Regular Board Meeting. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite adjourned the Regular Board Meeting at 12:21 p.m. Next meeting to be held, Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 10:00 a.m., at Homewood Suites by Hilton, 1650 Pullman Lane, Hagerstown, MD 21740.