



WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

October 9, 2018
Antietam National Battlefield - Mumma Farm

ATTENDEES:

Supervisors Present: Harry Strite (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 (via telephone), Lori Flook Bishop, Colleen Cashell (USDA, FSA), and Jeff Semler (UME)

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:06 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the September Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Janet Stiles Fulton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All accounts in order. The Board briefly reviewed and discussed report.

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the September Treasurer's Report as submitted. Janet Stiles Fulton 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 September Monthly Bill Approval Report was submitted for review and approval.

A question and explanation of payment to Fox Sales was discussed.

Jere DeBaugh made a motion to approve the September Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. Janet Stiles Fulton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE REPORT:

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

September was a busy month with Riparian Forest Buffer BMP's. Forty-eight (48) acres of new trees are to be planted via the CREP Program in the Spring of 2019.

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST'S REPORT:

The District Conservationist's and Monthly Job Report was submitted for review and approval.

The Board reviewed both reports. A manure storage facility for Philip Hege has been completed, and work at Winders Dairy is currently under construction.

Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to approve the District Conservationist's and Job Report as submitted. Jere DeBaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS:

Colleen Cashell (USDA, FSA) offered the following:

- Current Farm Bill expired September 30, 2018. New Farm Bill negotiations being discussed.
- CRP annual payments authorized by expired farm bill have been processed. No payments to be processed under forthcoming Farm Bill until all issues resolved and bill signed.
- No incentive programs at this time.
- MPP continue to have payments for the next few months.
- Market Facilitation Program (MFP) open and enrolling. Specific rates apply per crop.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Cover Crop - Certifications to Date: Six (6) farmers have reported Fall Cover Crop to date, equaling 1200 acres. Deadlines are November 5, 2018 - last day for planting, and November 12, 2018 - last day for reporting.

Grants - Update, CBT Design Grant: A grant application was submitted to the Chesapeake Bay Trust for \$197,150. The grant proposal is for two stream restoration designs, Elmer collaborated with our partners at Ecotone on the submission. Elmer submitted an invoice to MASCD for \$3,600.00 for completion of CREP plans by staff. All other grant quarterly reports were submitted on time and accepted.

Elmer requested approval of the 319 Grant MOU for Kirk Winders' cattle walkway additional funding in the amount of \$52,585.00.

Janet Stiles Fulton made a motion to approve the 319 Grant MOU for Kirk Winders project. Jere DeBaugh seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rainfall - Concerns (Agricultural & Urban): Dee shared there has been approximately sixty (60) inches of rain to date this year. The District has received several complaints via phone, for example, flooded roads, and sinkholes. Some concerns have required staff to go out to inspect. Staff has explained to callers, this is a record year for rain and the water table is high.

Vista Business Park - Distribution Facility: Elmer and Dee reported an update on the Project. This is a very large site off Crayton Boulevard; twenty-five (25) acres under roof. The Grading Plan is nearing final review. A Pre-Construction Meeting will be held once plan is finalized and all signatures are received.

MACS Flat Rates - Update: The Maryland Agriculture Cost-Share Program (MACS) provides this service to allow the average costs, or Flat Rates, to be established instead of requiring each project be bid separately. Estimates requested for services such as, fencing, general contracting, roofing and guttering, roofing contracting, tree planting, and well drilling, were due in September. Elmer will finish the rate figures within the week, and provide further information to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Employment Law Training: Elmer and Dee recently attended Employment Law Training. Dee put together a To Do List of many topics presented in class. The goal is to focus on, research, and do as many as, or all possible tasks on the To Do List. The District purchased software to keep up-to-date on Employee Manuals.

FMLA Coverage for District Employees: During the Employment Law Training, Elmer and Dee learned about the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). A handout was distributed highlighting public agency coverage. Elmer will be doing further research on this subject.

Stream Restoration Agreements: Elmer noted stream restoration agreements have been signed for James Snurr, Virginia Claggett, and Heidi Bumpers.

MASCD Letter to Attorney General: Copies 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, was distributed and discussed.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

The American Dairy Association will be holding a Conference at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, November 2-4, 2018. The District has been asked to participate by hosting a dairy tour at a local farm, Saturday, November 3, 2018, 3-6 p.m., for approximately 30 people. Elmer asked Janet Stiles Fulton and Jere DeBaugh if they would be interested in hosting the tour at their farm.

Elmer and Dee will attend a Dam Safety Workshop in Baltimore, Wednesday, November 14, 2018. The Board concurred to change the next Board Meeting date to Thursday, November 15, 2018.

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

Dee Price (Urban Program Director) reported the following:

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

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

The Total County Fee Checks collected for September 2018; \$500.

Dee noted the County Fee Check is very low this month, due to the probability of recent continual wet weather putting everyone behind.

ADJOURNMENT:

Janet Stiles Fulton 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 11:16 a.m. Next meeting to be held, Thursday, November 15, 2018, 10:30 a.m., at WCSCD Conference Room.