

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
May 11, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

WCSCD Conference Room and ZOOM Option

ATTENDEES:

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

Associate Supervisors Present: None

Others Present: Elmer Weibley, Denise Price, Lori Flook Bishop, Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), and Jeff Semler (UMD Wash. Co. Extension)

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the April Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Elmer reported all accounts in order. The Board reviewed.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

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

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the April Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE REPORT:

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

The Board reviewed.

Edward Wurmb 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 Report was submitted for review and approval.

Brent Cammauf shared the following:

- Planning - (7) Conservation Plans completed/updated
- Implementation Federal Programs - (3) Producers including (19) practices
- EQIP funding process - preapproved Grazing projects
- Return of Chesapeake Bay Funds for the Bay states
- Rob McAfee, current acting State Conservationist; term ends May 21; a new acting State Conservationist to be named in the coming weeks.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the District Conservationist Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS: Jeff Semler (UMD Wash. Co. Extension) shared updates within the UMD Extension Office including Brian Sweeney working on getting cost share plans completed, Nutrient Management plans, regulations on food waste going into manure storage facilities, Right to Farm Law, chicken litter, and odor complaints get referred to Keith Potter, MDA NM Specialist. Some explanation and discussion. Elmer inquired about getting some Fact Sheets from the Extension office regarding managing back yard chicken flocks.

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

The April Sediment Control Review Report was submitted for approval by Dee Price. The Board reviewed and Dee provided explanation on several plans where no fee was required.

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

- Dee presented pond approval for five ponds at the National Pike Logistics Center (Dickinson) on National Pike. The plan was reviewed and approved by engineer Roger Thomas, and all ponds meet the pond standard 378.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the five ponds at the National Pike Logistics Center (Dickinson) on National Pike. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Grants - Update (Approved and Pending):

- 319 Grant, Little Antietam, Mayo/Bumpers project: 100% design and waiting on Local permitting; construction estimated to start in June.
 - 319 Grant, Town of Keedysville project on Little Antietam (South): Approved, contracted, and Pre-Application meeting scheduled for today, May 11, 2022
 - 319 Grant, Hamilton Run City of Hagerstown: Submitted December 2021. Possible Grant Approval/Rejection by December 2022; waiting on EPA
 - DNR Grant, Town of Boonsboro: Submitted December 2021. Possible Grant Approval/Rejection by June 30, 2022
 - NFWF Grant, Hamilton Run, Rest Haven Cemetery, Inc.: Submitted April 2022
- Elmer brought forth discussion regarding partnering with the County Government on stream restoration. They met earlier this week. The County would receive credits for impervious removal. The County would have to create a drainage easement. They would have someone to help with ongoing maintenance.
 - Dee mentioned discussion of supporting a pollinator habitat at the Department of Water Quality on Ellicott Parkway and the Annex Building on Northern Avenue. The District would offer services and purchasing of plants and materials up to \$1,000. This would not occur until the fall or next spring. Some discussion.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to support the project up to \$1,000 for a pollinator habitat at the Department of Water Quality on Ellicott Parkway and Northern Avenue during the 2022 budget, and up to \$1,000 for the 2023 budget. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FY23 County Budget/Engineer Position - Update: Elmer provided the following updates: A Budget hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2022, 6:00 p.m. at the HCC Kepler Theater. An update on the Civil Engineer Position, to date, only one application has been received, however, the applicant was not a P.E. The application process closes May 31, 2022.

FCA Projects - Update: Dee presented the Forsythe project (approximately twenty-seven acres of existing forest easement) to the Planning Commission, and yesterday, May 10, 2022, to the County Commissioners meeting, receiving approval. The C.R. Semler project is nearing a closing and getting easement completed. Next week the bid documents will be prepared for the planting next spring. The Districts payment is \$17,480.

The Planning Commission also approved for the warehouse project on Oak Ridge Drive to pay \$188,000 to the Forest Conservation Payment in Lieu Of.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

Cover Crop Program - Update: Elmer noted Ginger had sent out a reminder to customers for reporting of Cover Crops, due by June 3, 2022. So far, we have received nine out of seventy-five reports.

- Dee provided an update on the 2021 Outstanding Cooperator and Urban Awards. Outstanding Conservation Farmer recipient Dwayne Coulter, Hidden Valley Farm, advised he will be able to attend a County Commissioner meeting, as well as Potomac Excavating Company as Outstanding Contractor. Dee will coordinate a date and time for recognition with the County Commissioners office.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Draft FY23 District Budget - Attached: A Draft spreadsheet of the FY23 District Budget was provided for review and discussion. Elmer noted he is still waiting for MDA to request budget amounts for the Bay Trust budget which helps fund the Manager and Administrative positions, and the MDA General Fund Budget Request. This is due July 1, 2022. Dee and Elmer are continuing to work on the budget and will present again to the Board in June.

MASCD (Annual)/NACD (Regional) Meeting - August 28-31, 2022 - Information Attached: Information was provided for review regarding the combined MASCD (Annual)/NACD (Regional) Meeting - August 28-31, 2022. The supervisors are encouraged to attend if possible. There was some discussion.

- Elmer advised the MASCD Area Meetings, which are normally held during the Summer meeting, are now to be conducted before the State Annual meeting. Edward Wurmb is the State Committee Western Area Representative. We would like the Supervisors to participate, and we are looking at the dates and times of either July 7 or July 14, at 10:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. This will be held via ZOOM Conference. Most Supervisors preferred day and morning hours. The meeting date decided was July 14th.

- The Western Area Region is host for the annual MASCD Meeting in 2023. There was discussion on a need to form a “committee” to prepare for the 2023 Meeting. Decisions will need to be made such as location, which SCD will oversee what area, etc. Elmer recommended Dee head up the committee.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

The District needs to provide an auction item for the MASCD Endowment Auction. Budget money will be used for the purchase of the items. Brief discussion.

ADJOURNMENT:

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to go into a Closed Session Meeting and adjourn the May Regular Board Meeting. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Closed Session Meeting topic for discussion is to discuss the appointment, employment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Harry Strite adjourned the May Regular Board Meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Next meeting is scheduled Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m.; WCSCD Conference Room and ZOOM Option.