



WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

August 9, 2023 - 10:30 a.m.

WCSCD Conference Room Live and with the ZOOM Platform

ATTENDEES:

Supervisors Present: Harry Strite (Chair), J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer), and J. Tyler Harp (Supervisor)

Associate Supervisors Present: None

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Lori Flook Bishop, Mark Kendle, Owen Stanton Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), Hans Kefauver (USDA, NRCD) and Elizabeth Milihrum

CALL TO ORDER:

The August Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:42 a.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the July Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All accounts in order.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District Board of Supervisors

Harry E. Strite
Chair

J.D. Rinehart
Vice Chair

J. Scott Shank, III
Treasurer

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

J. Tyler Harp
Supervisor

Boyd Michael
Associate

Kirk E. Winders
Associate

Annual Review of Receipts and Disbursements: The auditor from accounting firm Albright, Crumbacker, Moul, & Itell, LLC was in the office August 3, 2023, for the Annual Review of Receipts and Disbursements. An official report will be forthcoming, however, the auditor did have one observation noting the Board should have had an official motion for Lori Flook Bishop to be added as a check signer in September 2022 following the fraudulent activity and opening of a new District Checking account. Dee provided the auditor with the Supervisor Handbook for review, indicating no recommendations officially.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve Lori Flook Bishop to continue as a signer on the District Checking account. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. Tyler Harp made a motion to approve Mark Kendle to be issued a District Credit Card for use as needed. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Certificate of Deposit: During the July Meeting, after viewing several options, the Board voted to proceed with a 12-month CD at 4.50% APY through Truist Bank, with funds from the matured EE Savings Bond. Dee opened the CD in the amount of \$20,736, July 24, 2023. Following, we received an email from Bekki Shirley with Truist Bank, dated July 25, 2023, stating “since the funds are public funds, they must be collateralized with US Securities to provide additional safety. Public funds accounts typically receive 0.01% interest due, however we were able to get a 3.15% for 12 months exception rate approved. The rates provided a few weeks ago are for nonpublic funds accounts.”

The Board discussed and concurred with Dee purchasing the CD offered in lieu of with a 3.15% for 12 months rate as noted.

Grants - Employee Expenses: The Board discussed the income and expenses set up for the grants.

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

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

J. Tyler Harp made a motion to approve the July Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE SUMMARY REPORT:

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

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the MACS Monthly Cost-Share Summary Report as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS:

Hans Kefauver (USDA, NRCS), shared information with the Board regarding an NRCS/UMD Extension Field Day being organized for November 7, 2023. The theme/focus for the Field Day is essentially "Cover Crop with a Purpose" and would be geared towards staff, farmers, producers, etc. The plan is for attendees to visit three farms: a dairy, grain, and vegetable farm, all who practice/implement a different cover crop. Expenses may include transportation, breakfast and lunch items, portable restrooms, a handwashing station, etc. Funding to support the Field Day expenses are expected to be covered by a University of MD Extension Grant and/or NRCS, however, if not fully covered, costs would need to come from other sources. Hans asked the Board of Supervisors if they would be willing to assist with any associated costs not covered by University of MD Extension or NRCS.

The Board concurred.

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

Sediment Control Review Report: The July Sediment Control Review Report was submitted for review and approval by Mark Kendle (Programs Technician/Office Coordinator).

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the July Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pond Approval(s): None

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Urban Planner Position - Update: Owen Stanton, the new Urban Planner, started employment with the District, Monday, July 17, 2023. Owen was present for the Meeting and welcomed by the Board.

Nutrient Management Plan (Writers) - Update: Last month, Dee shared an update from the previous Board discussions of the possibility of pursuing a Nutrient Management Plan Writer position at the District via the MASCD statewide agreement with NRCS. Dee advised there has been much push back from the public. Dee has spoken with Brian Sweeney, the current NMP Writer with University of MD Extension regarding his position.

The current pursuit will be a contractual employee, paid per plan. The Board concurred. J. Scott Shank, III, Treasurer agreed to send an RFP once the MASCD/NRCS Agreement has been signed.

Cover Crop Program - Update: Dee provided an update on the 2023-2024 Cover Crop Program. This year's signup included approximately 71 applications with 8,609 acres.

Board of Supervisors - Appointment (J. Tyler Harp) & Associates: During the SSCC meeting July 20, 2023, J. Tyler Harp was appointed as the new Farm Bureau Appointment Supervisor for WCSCD. Tyler has taken his Oath of Office and was officially welcomed on the Board today as Supervisor.

Janet Stiles Fulton - (Associate, Honorary, or Emeritus) - Action: The Board has not had an opportunity to speak with Janet Stiles Fulton regarding her consideration of continuing as an Associate Member following her resignation. The Board will also contact Ariel Herrod as to her interest in being an Associate Member as well. The Board will provide an update at next month's meeting.

Phone System - Update: Dee met with Glessner Communications, Thursday, July 20, 2023, to see what options are available for a new phone system in the District Office. An email with options/quotes was provided for review and discussion.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve Option A: "you pre purchase the 11 phones @ \$2,420.00 + any taxes up front and then pay a monthly fee @ \$165.00 + any taxes per month for 36 months" and to approve "running any additional network cable to offices if needed for the estimate of \$165.00 per each office". J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Forest Conservation - Update (2 Applications): Last month, information was shared regarding two potential applicants for the District's Forest Conservation Program. The Baker-Shenk property (approximately 8 acres) and the Foltz property (56.4 acres). Dee and Mark presented to the Washington County Planning Commission, Monday, August 7, 2023, and will take to the Board of County Commissioners, Tuesday, August 22, 2023. The parcels are adjoining, both in the Sharpsburg area along the Sharpsburg Pike, Mondell and Remsburg Roads with direct conveyance to the Potomac River.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Western Area Meeting Held, July 27, 2023): The Western Area Meeting was held via the ZOOM platform, Thursday, July 27, 2023. Dee organized and facilitated the Meeting in Edward Wurmb's (Western Area Representative Chair) absence. There were 10 people in attendance. The group discussed several items, including the need for soil erosion and sediment control training, aspects of the new MDE processes/requirements, effective January 1, 2023, for Small Pond Reviews, and the forthcoming August 31, 2023 termination of University of Maryland Extension Nutrient Management Plan Writers and the potential to move forward with the MASCD-NRCS Agreement and associated funding, all of which will be discussed further at the MASCD Annual Summer Meeting, Cambridge, MD. Adam Heavner, Manager, Allegany County SCD, thanked Dee for pulling the meeting together.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Dee shared she had received a 'Thank You' email from Sarah Greaves for assistance provided. Sarah was the previous CFO for Washington County Government.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to adjourn the August Regular Board Meeting.
J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the August Regular Board Meeting at 11:41 a.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.