

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

REGULAR MEETING

June 11, 2025 - 10:30 a.m.

WCSCD Conference Room Live and with the ZOOM Platform

ATTENDEES:

Supervisors Present: Harry Strite (Chair), Edward Wurmb (Supervisor), Ariel Herrod (Supervisor), and J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer), and Joshua Ernst (Supervisor) (via ZOOM)

Associate Supervisors Present: Boyd Michael (via ZOOM)

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Mark Kendle, Lori Flook Bishop, Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), and Jim Kriner

CALL TO ORDER:

The June Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:30 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Keri Benton and Stacy Miller of TriBridge Partners, LLC, an employee brokerage firm, joined the Board Meeting via ZOOM, to provide information and answer any questions regarding a potential 'Retirement Health Insurance - Employer Contribution' program for District employees. This has been an ongoing topic of discussion at previous Board meetings. The guests provided information for development of an Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement (ICHRA) and agreed to get back to Dee with answers to questions. Following much conversation, the Board decided to revisit at a future meeting for further discussion.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the May Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District Board of Supervisors

Harry E. Strite
Chair

J. Scott Shank, III
Treasurer

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

Ariel L. Herrod
Supervisor

Joshua C. Ernst
Supervisor

Boyd J. Michael, III
Associate

Kirk E. Winders
Associate

TREASURER REPORT:

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

All accounts are in order.

Dee noted she still has not received Trust Fund and General Fund MOU's to enable her to complete the District Budget, Salary Analyses, etc. for Board review and approval, therefore, a Closed Session Meeting in July will be necessary.

Ariel Herrod made a motion to approve the May Treasurer's Report as submitted.
Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

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

Ariel Herrod made a motion to approve the May Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted.
Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE SUMMARY REPORT:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the MACS Monthly Cost-Share Summary Report as submitted. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS: None

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

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

Ariel Herrod made a motion to approve the May Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pond Approval(s): None

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

AED - Update: A follow-up from last month's meeting and discussion. Dee and Mark met with Charlie Eckstine, the building landlord, about the purchase of an AED in exchange for use of WCSCD's internet for their security camera viewing. The Eckstine's have liability concerns with the AED's and do not want to purchase one for the building. The Board concurred to purchase a residential AED for the WCSCD office.

Cover Crop Program Spring Certifications - Update: Dee noted operators have been steadily coming in to report their Spring Cover Crop Spring Kill-Down Certification. Sign-up must be completed within two weeks after kill down. The deadline was extended from June 3, 2025 to June 10, 2025. The new Cover Crop Program sign-up runs June 23, 2025, through July 17, 2025. Information is provided on the WCSCD website.

MASCD Committees - Draft Recommendations for Board Review (continuation of May Meeting Discussion): A follow-up from May's Board Meeting, regarding an email from MASCD which includes breakdowns of current, proposed, and other committee structures, as well as, four questions for Board discussion and feedback. The Board decided to table discussion until the June Meeting, agreeing in the meantime to review and have recommendations ready to share. The Board shared their thoughts and provided answers. Dee will email the responses to MASCD.

County Health Insurance Rates: Insurance rates were expected to increase approximately five percent; end result - overall medical and dental increased approximately eight percent with no increase in vision coverage.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Antietam Creek Report Card Event: The Antietam-Conococheague Watershed Alliance (ACWA) and the Beaver Creek Watershed Association (BCWA) have invited WCSCD to participate in an outreach event titled Antietam Creek Watershed Report Card, June 12, 2025, 3:00 - 6:30 p.m., held at the Beaver Creek School Event Center. According to their announcement, this event will provide community members an opportunity to meet various organizations and environmental practitioners to learn methods and funding sources to improve their personal land stewardship practices. Dee and Mark plan to attend, representing/promoting WCSCD.

Hamilton Run Stream Restoration Outreach Event: The City of Hagerstown, Catoctin Land Trust, WCSCD, and Ecotone, Inc. will hold a Hamilton Run Stream Restoration Public Comment Session, Monday, July 14, 2025, 5:00 – 6:30 pm, to be held at the Hagerstown American Legion Post, Northern Avenue, Hagerstown. This is a free event, with light refreshments provided and a public comment session. Participants may also review the Hamilton Run stream restoration plans and meet with designers, builders, and environmental organizations.

Catoctin Land Trust (Grant Funding Committee): Dee and Mark are now participating on the Catoctin Land Trust Grant Funding Committee. The intent is to assist with, participate in, partner with, etc., projects in many aspects of water quality, i.e. stream restoration, watershed signage, tree plantings, etc.

Department of Emergency Services (Meeting Opportunity): Dee had an opportunity to participate in a meeting with Washington County Emergency Services, DNR Forest Service, etc. regarding decisions made in/for drought conditions and burn bans affecting farmers, CRP participants (prescribed/controlled burns), etc.

The group discussed tiered restrictions, in lieu of, bans and will take this concept before the Board of County Commissioners.

Western Maryland RC&D Dues: The District received an invoice from Western Maryland RC&D, for their FY2025 Annual Contribution Request (July 2024 - June 2025), in the amount of \$200.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to pay the FY2025 Annual Contribution Request in the amount of \$200. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Dee brought forth for the Board's attention, a recent article in the University of Maryland Extension newsletter, the Agronomy News, titled Maryland's New Heat Illness Prevention Standard.
- The Board discussed the new County Permit processes for Agriculture and how the District plans to handle. The following documents are required:
 - 11 X 17 Drawing
 - Letter from the District Conservationist (stating the practice is associated with a BMP)
 - Agricultural Structure Certificate Application

District, MDA, and NRCS staff will be sending this information to the County as a service to our producers at the request of the District Manager.

- The Washington County Ag Expo and Fair is scheduled for July 12-19, 2025. The District will have an unmanned booth, complete with pamphlets, literature, and handouts for children.

ADJOURNMENT:

Edward Wurmb made a motion to adjourn the June Regular Board Meeting.
Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the June Regular Board Meeting at 12:01 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, July 23, 2025, 10:00 a.m.,
WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM
Platform option.