



## WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### MINUTES

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

November 15, 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), Edward Wurmb (Supervisor), J. Tyler Harp (Supervisor), and J.D. Rinehart (Supervisor) (via ZOOM)

Associate Supervisors Present: Kirk Winders and Ariel Herrod (via ZOOM)

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price (via phone), Lori Flook Bishop, Mark Kendle, Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), and Kristina Stair (MDA)

#### CALL TO ORDER:

The November Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:38 a.m.

#### REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the October Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All accounts are in order.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's Report as submitted. J. Scott Shank, III 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

Ariel Herrod  
Associate

### **MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:**

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

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve the October 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.

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

### **REPORTS FROM OTHERS:** None

### **URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:**

Sediment Control Review Report: The October 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 October Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pond Approval(s): There were no ponds for approval this month.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following old business:

Nutrient Management Plan Writer - Update: Continued discussion; the MASCD/NRCS Agreement is still being worked on at the State level and therefore, no action can be taken toward agreements with Districts at the local level. The local level agreement would potentially allow for Districts to move forward with contractual Nutrient Management Plan Writer positions, incentive payments for Conservation Plan writing, etc.

The University of Maryland Extension (UME) has advertised for a Nutrient Management Coordinator for Washington County. This is a 12-month position through the Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP).

Forest Conservation - Update: Dee provided an update on the two applicants for the District's Forest Conservation Program; the Baker-Shenk property and the Foltz property. The District's Attorney, Brian Kane, heard back from the County Attorney's Office, November 14, 2023, regarding Title Insurance, in lieu of, simply a Title Search at his recommendation. Washington County has agreed to move forward with Title Insurance for these easements and those moving forward.

Grants & (Ecotone, Inc.) - Update:

- Dee reviewed with the Board an email from Attorney, Brian Kane, regarding the current MOU between WCSCD and Ecotone, Inc. Attorney Kane reviewed the MOU and provided his recommendations. This review from legal counsel is a follow-up due to Curt Hall leaving Ecotone, Inc. and other changes in ownership and leadership. The Board asked, Mark and I meet with the new leadership to review current projects and to also meet with the company Curt Hall is now employed, Ecosystem Planning & Restoration.
- Mark Kendle shared, construction on the Boonsboro Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project has been completed, with the exception of live stake planting, (planned for January/February 2024).
- Mark also shared information on the MDE and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Tour, held, Thursday, November 2, 2023. The group toured (2) two 319 MDE Grant funded projects and (2) two County projects. The EPA group came from Philadelphia to see the projects. Mark noted this was overall a positive experience; we have received positive feedback regarding site selection and quality of work.

Phone System - Update: As discussed during last month's meeting, Glessner had made a recommendation for a new 24 Port Power Over Ethernet data switch in the chance that Wi-Fi connection is lost. The Board approved the one-time cost of \$632.50 and the data switch has been installed.

Advanced Cover Crop Training Field Day - Update: Kristina Stair (MDA) provided an update following the November 7, 2023, Advanced Cover Crop Training Field Day, sponsored/organized by NRCS, UMD Extension, MDA, and the District. There were approximately 150 attendees: both farmers and staff. There were several speakers during lunch, as well as, presence from the Washington County Commissioners. During the last Board Meeting, the Board approved a donation of up to \$1,000 for breakfast items, beverages, paper products, etc. Kristina shared the total for the breakfast items, beverages, paper products, etc. was \$692.35. Harry Strite attended and added it was a very well put together, informative event.

Winter Meeting - Update: The MASCD 2024 Winter Meeting Draft Agenda, Registration, and hotel information was provided. The MASCD Winter Meeting dates are scheduled for January 22-23, 2024, at the Westin in Annapolis, MD. Business meetings will be held on the first day with a Breakfast Legislative Reception and potential meetings with elected officials on the second day. Dee will make registrations for Board and Staff members attending.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following new business:

Maryland FFA Foundation - Donation: The District has received a donation request letter from the Maryland FFA Foundation for continued support for their annual fundraising campaign. The District has budgeted, and previously supported, the Maryland FFA Foundation fundraising campaign at a \$100 donation.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to support the Maryland FFA Foundation fundraising campaign with a \$100 donation. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Maryland Envirothon 2024 Dues: The District has received an invoice request and letter from The Maryland Envirothon for continued support and payment of 2024 Membership Dues. The District has previously supported The Maryland Envirothon at the Bronze level of \$750.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to support The Maryland Envirothon and payment of 2024 Membership Dues at the Silver Level of \$1,000. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Grown Local 2024: The District has received a request for advertisement in the 2024 Grown Local Edition of the Hagerstown Magazine. In the previous year's edition, the District advertised a Full Page at a cost of \$900. The current advertising rate for a Full Page is \$950.

J. Tyler Harp made a motion to submit a full-page advertisement at the rate of \$950 for the 2024 Grown Local Edition. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

- Dee received a request from the Maryland Envirothon Vice-Chairman, Bruce Young. The Maryland Envirothon Committee approached the Board of Directors at the MASCD Annual Meeting, August 27, 2023, for approval to host a fourth NCF Envirothon. The proposal was to host the 2027 NCF Envirothon at Mount St. Mary's University. After discussion and approval to bid to host, the MASCD Board of Directors request each District to pay four annual dues installments of \$1500 per year (totaling \$6,000).

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to donate \$1,500 for the 2024 year, subject to reevaluation and District financial review each year. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Mark Kendle brought forth information for the Board's awareness. The company who recently installed security cameras at the property building stopped by the WCSCD office recently to ask if the District would allow use of our internet to run tests on the cameras. Offices at the other end of the building are having issues with internet speed and the cameras not working properly. Cameras are working off different tenants' internet. The company did not disclose how long the tests might take, such as, a day, several days, a week, etc. The Board discussed.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to not allow the District internet to be used for camera tests due to impacting the speed needed for the WCSCD office operations. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Edward Wurmb made a motion to adjourn the November Regular Board Meeting. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the November Regular Board Meeting at 11:40 a.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m., at Fountain Head Country Club, 13316 Fountain Head Road, Hagerstown, MD 21742. Christmas Luncheon with staff to follow.