



## WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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### MINUTES

#### WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

February 19, 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), J.D. Rinehart (Vice Chair), and J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer), via ZOOM

Associate Supervisors Present: None

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Mark Kendle, Lori Flook Bishop, Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), Keith Potter (MDA Western MD Area Coordinator), Monica Grosh (MDA), Jeff Semler (UMD Washington County Extension), and Josh Ernst

#### CALL TO ORDER:

The February Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 11:00 a.m.

#### INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Monica Grosh was introduced as the new MDA Technician.

Josh Ernst is observing today; invited by Chair, Harry Strite. He has a potential interest in becoming an Associate Supervisor or Supervisor.

#### REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the January Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. Ariel Herrod 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

Ariel Herrod  
Supervisor

Boyd Michael  
Associate

Kirk E. Winders  
Associate

### **TREASURER REPORT:**

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

All accounts are in order. Dee noted \$128,000 was transferred from MVB Checking to the MVB Money Market account.

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

### **MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:**

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

The amount of \$39,572.32 on the Monthly Bill Approval Report was the check amount to close the Truist Checking Account; written to the District, further deposited into the Middletown Valley Bank Checking Account.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the January 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.

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

### **REPORTS FROM OTHERS:**

- Keith Potter (MDA) gave a brief report including:
  - Six new employees for the Western Region counties
  - Nutrient Management AIR's due March 1
  - The SSCC provided a new/updated Maryland SCD Personnel Directory
  - Forest Clearing Workgroup - Heather (Frederick County) and Matt (Carroll County)
  - Animal Health - Nine cases of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (bird flu) on the Eastern Shore; MDA staff involvement; bird depopulation; biosecurity measures for staff and vehicles; ordering supplies for Districts
  - Backyard Flock - Discussion
  
- Dee is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the Washington County Planning Director and Zoning Inspector regarding staff visiting sites for required waste management plans due to the County's Animal Husbandry Requirements, as well as, to make the County aware of this concern. This discussion is needed due to the current (bird flu) in poultry, dairy cows, and other animals with possible infections to humans. The County inspectors

are the enforcers of 'backyard animals.' The Board advised to do visits remotely if possible, and if needed, purchase safety gear/booties/disinfectants.

- Jeff Semler (UMD Extension) advised, there are currently three people contracted (outsourced) to write Nutrient Management (NM) plans. Please continue to forward any NM inquiries to Jeff Semler for processing.

### **URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:**

Sediment Control Review Report: The January 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 January Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

CSI/CESSWI Renewals - Update: Dee and Mark recently attended a CSI training day for renewal of their CSI Certifications. Additionally, Dee continues required training yearly and renewed her CESSWI Certification recently as required, which was originally obtained, March 4, 2014.

Eastern Panhandle Project - Update/Request: Dee provided an update on the Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project (Columbia Gas Line) project going under the Potomac River near Hancock. There was a recent issue with a "frac-out". The contractor shut drilling down immediately and resolution measures were put in place promptly. Additionally, progress is being made on the Kiosk/Sign for the project, which will be placed along the Potomac River on the C&O Canal. Anastasia of TC Energy contacted Dee, to see if the District would be willing to pay for the Kiosk/Sign upfront, with TC Energy reimbursing WCSCD afterwards due to vendor availability, etc. The approximate sign cost is \$3,134.96.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to pay for the Kiosk/Sign in the approximate amount of \$3,134.96 with the understanding TC Energy will reimburse WCSCD. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pollinator Incorporation (Rhoton/45 West...): Dee recently spoke with developers of the proposed warehouses being built at 45 West Oak Ridge Drive and on the Rhoton Farm, regarding incorporation of pollinator habitat into the projects. She discussed plantings and provided photos of the warehouse on Downsville Pike that planted a hillside into a pollinator habitat. The Developers seemed receptive to moving forward with this concept.

Pond Approval(s): Dee brought forward, one (1) pond for approval and Chair signature.

Dee presented details with MDE's new letter format for Small Pond Approval and is seeking approval and Chair's signature for Trammell Crow-Rhoton Farm. The pond meets the Pond Standard 378 and MDE's requirements.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the pond for Trammell Crow-Rhoton Farm and to move forward with the Chair's signature. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Additionally, Dee advised, we are hearing, with forthcoming updates to stormwater regulations, there will be a combination of ESD (small practices) and ponds (requiring Small Pond Review) by our outsourced Engineer, rather than as previously focused, mostly ESD practices. This will increase the need and workload for our outsourced Engineer.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following old business:

Winter and National Meetings - Updates: Edward Wurmb attended the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 8-12, 2025. Ed added, the Keynote Speaker, Erik Weihenmayer, and his story, was interesting. In 2001, he became the only blind person in history to climb Mount Everest.

Dee, Mark, Owen, and Edward Wurmb attended the MASCD Winter Meeting in Annapolis, February 3-4, 2025. Meeting discussion included:

- Supervisor attendance, policy, oath, membership, etc.
- Food processing
- Federal workforce
- A bill dropped allowing MDA access to Soil and Water Quality Plans for enforcement
- MASCD and SSCC quarterly meetings; moving meetings around the State to accommodate Supervisors and Staff with the hope to increase participation

The second day breakfast and meeting with Legislation, in the office space of Lobbyist Mike Mason with Providence Strategies, was lightly attended.

As a reminder, the MASCD Summer Meeting will be held in Allegany County at Rocky Gap Casino and Resort, August 4-6, 2025; hosted by the Central region. They will be having a BBQ on the first evening, and during the Banquet, there will be a silent auction, instead of a live auction. Room availability is limited. Supervisors are asked to let Dee or Lori know if they are interested in attending so registrations and reservations can be made.

Supervisor Appointment - Extension: Jeff Semler (UMD Extension) asked the Board if there were any additional applications for Supervisors to send to Loretta Collins (SSCC). Loretta advised two applicants are required for this At-Large Appointment. Supervisor J.D. Rinehart has completed an application for consideration. His Appointment Term expires February 12, 2025, however, J.D. will remain on the Board until the SSCC's decision is made during forthcoming monthly meetings.

## **OTHER OLD BUSINESS:**

J. Scott Shank, III provided an update regarding the interest of an AED Defibrillator package for the WCSCD office. His contact at Emergency Services advised they do not provide or maintain AED Defibrillators, however, provided an example to purchase. This is the same item that Dee provided a quote for in past discussions. The AED package cost is approximately \$1,499.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to purchase an AED Defibrillator package for the WCSCD office in the amount of approximately \$1,499. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following new business:

Washington County Ag Expo and Fair - Advertising and Vendor Request: The District received information regarding Advertising, Vendor, and Sponsorship of the 2025 Washington County Ag Expo and Fair. Dee is seeking the Board's interest in participating in a vendor space and advertising as done in years past.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to place a full-page advertisement in the 2025 Book, as well as, reserve a vendor space, as done in years past. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Date for August Board Meeting and 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House Event (August 20, 2025): The Board agreed upon the August Board Meeting and the 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House Event to be held, Wednesday, August 20, 2025, with the meeting beginning earlier in the morning, and the event taking place from 12:00 - 3:00 pm. Dee has spoken with Brooke's House regarding catering light refreshments, fruit, and chocolate.

Extension Advisory Council - Request: Jeff Semler (UMD Extension) shared information regarding the Extension Advisory Council. As noted on the UMD Extension webpage, the Extension Advisory Committee is a diverse group of professionals, community leaders, and stakeholders dedicated to informing program development, assisting with outreach efforts, and identifying community needs by helping the UME faculty with overall advisory services to support program determination and issues. These members represent various partnerships and institutions, bringing their expertise, resources, and perspectives to support UME's mission. Their contributions ensure that programs and strategies are inclusive, relevant, and impactful.

Jeff has asked Dee if she would be interested in being a member of the Council, not only representing WCSCD, but also a farm owner in Washington County. The Council is mandated to have meetings four times a year. Dee expressed her interest in participating.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to support Dee as a participating member of the Extension Advisory Council. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

- Dee advised effective July 1, 2025, there will be an increase to employee Health/Dental/Vision Insurances, at approximately 5-10%.
- Email from Alisha Mulkey, with a link to a brief survey regarding DEI. They are asking District Managers to complete per Governor Moore's direction. The Board discussed and advised Dee to move forward with the survey if she is comfortable doing so.
- Dee noted the flyer, highlighting WCSCD, attached for Board reference. This was put together by MASCD for distribution to Legislation during the Winter Meeting in Annapolis.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the February Regular Board Meeting at 12:41 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.