

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

April 16, 2025 - 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), Ariel Herrod (Supervisor), and Joshua Ernst (Supervisor)

Associate Supervisors Present: Boyd Michael

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The April Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:43 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

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

TREASURER REPORT:

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

All accounts are in order.

Dee also noted the Washington County Government Budget approval is set for June 3, 2025.

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

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

The March Monthly Bill Approval Report was submitted for review and approval, however, it was noted there was a glitch with the printing of the report in QuickBooks. The Monthly Bill approval was tabled and will be brought back for approval at the May Board Meeting.

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. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM OTHERS: None

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

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

Grant Report: Dee shared a brief update on the following grants.

- Keedysville Stream Restoration Project - Ecotone, Inc. is finalizing the design for signature. Permits have been received from the Army Corps. of Engineers and the Maryland Department of the Environment. Following plan signature (approval), we will apply for local permitting, and plan to begin construction June/July 2025.
- Hamilton Run - (along Northern Avenue within the City of Hagerstown) - Continuing to work with Ecotone, Inc. on design and needed studies for bridge designs, etc. Also, now working with Catoctin Land Trust and their National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Funding to assist with constructing the full project, in lieu of, a band-aid approach.
- Rest Haven Cemetery - Continuing to work with adjoining landowners involved in the drainage concerns to rectify/mitigate stormwater to allow for a future on-site stream restoration.

Pond Approval(s): None

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Supervisor Appointment - At-Large - Update: Joshua (Josh) Ernst was approved for the At-Large Supervisor position during the March 20, 2025, State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting. Josh has completed his Oath of Office and was officially welcomed on the WCSCD Board of Supervisors by Chair, Harry Strite.

Dee added, to please keep in mind people of interest for future Associate Members of the Board.

MASCD Summer Meeting - Reservations and Registration: 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. Reservations and registrations have been made for Dee, Mark, and Lori. Any Supervisors wanting to attend, please let Dee or Lori know as soon as possible so registrations and reservations can be made. We have advised, room availability is limited. A BBQ is scheduled for Monday evening, and the Banquet with a silent auction is scheduled Tuesday evening.

State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting (March 20, 2025) - Update: Dee provided a recap of items discussed during the SSCC meeting, held in-person and with a hybrid option, March 20, 2025, at the Washington County University of MD Extension Office. An email with attachments was included for Board review and reference.

Legislative - Update:

Dee provided a brief Legislative update as provided by Mike with Providence Strategies..., lobbyist for MASCD.

The bill regarding MDA access to Soil and Water Quality Plans for enforcement has been withdrawn; further research will be done this Summer as to the reasoning behind the need for access.

Several other bills were discussed, i.e., Solar Sighting, 2.5% Sales Tax for IT Services, etc.

AED - Update: Continuing discussion; the previous quote on the AED was for Residential. Commercial AED's are more costly. Two price quotes provided for Board review. During discussion, J. Scott Shank, III recommended reaching out to the building landlord to see if they would be willing to install a commercial AED in the hallway and WCSCD may be willing to pay a portion of the costs. Dee mentioned checking with Charlie Bennet in Farm Service Agency, to see if USDA requires an AED to be installed in buildings they lease. This will be brought back at a future meeting.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Election of Officers: Dee mentioned to the Board, please keep in mind, at the beginning of each Fiscal Year, the officers are reappointed or appointed to positions for the Board of Supervisors. J.D. Rinehart previously held the Vice Chair position. The Election of Officers will be at the beginning of the Fiscal Year (FY), July 2025.

MASCD Summer Meeting Sponsorship: The District received a digital sponsorship packet for support of the 2025 MASCD Summer Meeting. Last year, WCSCD sponsored the Annual Meeting at the Gold level of \$1,000.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to repeat the previous year's sponsorship of \$1,000 for the Gold level. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tentative Health Insurance Rates: An email was forwarded to Supervisors and an FYI item to review regarding tentative monthly rates for Health Insurance in FY26. There is an estimated 5% increase for both employers and employees for Medical and Dental rates. Vision rates will remain the same. These rates will not be officially approved until the FY26 County Budget has been approved by the County Commissioners, June 2025.

May Board Meeting Reschedule - Due to MDA State Meeting: Dee noted, due to the scheduled MDA State Meeting, May 14, 2025, at Sandy Point State Park, the May Board Meeting will need to be rescheduled to the third week, Wednesday, May 21, 2025. The Board concurred.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Dee and Mark are considering attending an MDA sponsored "Management Excellence Course" June 10-12, 2025, in Annapolis if the Board concurs.

The Board requested additional information regarding the course and authorized Mark to attend if he chooses.

- Dee discussed working with the ACWA and using Districts funds to repair and install Watershed Kiosks around the County.

The Board requested the use of already appropriated County Funds as the first option with the possibility of the District funding a portion of the work.

- The District received documentation from the Washington County Farm Bureau, requesting renewal for the 2025 Maryland Farm Bureau (FB) Membership Dues, in the amount of \$95.

Ariel Herrod made a motion to pay the renewal for the 2025 Maryland Farm Bureau Membership Dues, in the amount of \$95. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to adjourn the April Regular Board Meeting. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the April Regular Board Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.