

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

August 19, 2026 - 10:30 a.m.

Jimmy Joy's Log Cabin Inn, Hancock, MD

ATTENDEES:

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

Associate Supervisors Present: Boyd J. Michael

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Mark Kendle, Lori Flook Bishop, Wyatt Newcome, and Keith Potter (MDA, Western MD Area Coordinator)

CALL TO ORDER:

The August Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:39 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. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

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

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

QuickBooks Increase: Dee advised the cost of using QuickBooks Desktop is increasing from approximately \$1,351 annually to \$1,891 annually. This has been accounted for in the FY27 approved budget. Additionally, Dee added, we are trying to stay on the Desktop version as long as possible without switching to the online version at the recommendation of our IT Service.

District Board of Supervisors

Harry E. Strite
Chair

Ariel L. Herrod
Vice-Chair

J. Scott Shank, III
Treasurer

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

Joshua C. Ernst
Supervisor

Boyd J. Michael, III
Associate

Kirk E. Winders
Associate

James M. Kriner
Associate

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

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

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

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE SUMMARY REPORT:

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

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

Dee shared an email she received regarding an intent to build/animal husbandry plan she and Wyatt assisted with. The client was very pleased with the efficiency of our office.

Washington County "Go Wild for Wildlife" Campaign/SMORES Program - Update: Mark provided an update; we have met with the Town of Boonsboro's Green Team, the Town of Keedysville's Green Team, and City of Hagerstown. The Town of Boonsboro may be the first practice installed, Keedysville is currently deciding which practice they will approve, and the City of Hagerstown has two potential locations and practices in mind; Pangborn Park and Fairgrounds Park.

Dee added, Keith Potter purchased the SMORES Bee Hotel at the MASCD Meeting Endowment Auction, donated by WCSCD.

Pond Approval(s): None

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Grants - Update:

Dee shared, MDE is moving forward with the Watershed Study, initiated by the District and MDE, during a meeting at the Rest Haven Cemetery a few years ago. The study needs to be completed prior to any design/construction for stream restoration to take place in the cemetery.

Ecotone continues to treat invasives, etc. at the Keedysville Stream Restoration project site.

ICHRA - Update: The developed Policy for ICHRA (Individual Coverage Health Reimbursement Arrangement), (establish eligibility and parameters in providing assistance with Health Insurance costs at the time an eligible employee retires) previously approved and partnered with Ventura (a third-party administrator) via Tri-Bridge Partners. Ventura has been sold; however, a new third-party administrator has been obtained.

Logo Revisions - Apparel: Treasurer, J. Scott Shank, III recommended ordering shirts for supervisors and staff, to have printed with the new logo. Shirts have been ordered and shipped.

New Vehicle - Update: Following up previous discussion from the June and July meetings regarding the replacement of the Chevy Trailblazer, the Board requested quotes with desired changes for a vehicle, sought through the direction of Washington County Division of County Roads and Fleet Management, and additionally advised to obtain a quote for a used Toyota Tundra, whereas we would purchase on our own, providing our own service, etc.

Wyatt and Mark brought forth two options for Board discussion; however, they have looked at and test drove 'Option 1', a used 2023 Ford F-150 XLT SuperCrew. This truck has approximately 24,000 miles, and still includes some factory warranties, plus the option of purchasing additional warranty coverage. The cost without additional warranty is approximately \$43,000.

Mark advised he would recommend and like to move forward with the 2023 Ford F-150 XLT SuperCrew. The Board advised not to purchase any additional warranty with the vehicle purchase.

In the event of unavailability, J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve a budget of up to \$50,000 for the purchase of a new District truck. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cover Crop Program - Update: The New Cover Crop Program signup ended July 17, 2026. There are (49) applications received for the 2027 program.

Heart of Maryland Collaborative Event - Update: Dee, Mark, and Wyatt recently participated in 'The Heart of Maryland Collaborative Presents - Discover the Heart of Maryland' event, held July 25, 2026, at Antietam Creek Vineyards, Sharpsburg. The event was sponsored by Catoctin Land Trust and included partners working together in Washington and Frederick Counties.

Some of the partners represented were CLT, WCSCD, MD DNR, Maryland Environmental Trust, ACWA, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Frederick County Office of Agriculture, Chesapeake Conservancy, and several others.

Whole Watershed (LEEF) Program - Update: During the July Board Meeting, the Board approved to move forward with The Maryland Department Agriculture, Whole Watershed Outreach Agreement for consideration and signatures outlining a program (LEEF) not yet developed. Program parameters are scheduled to be released in Fall 2026. Dee discussed this document with the Board and expressed her concerns with signing the document as presented due to the lack of our Attorney's review, not having the program parameters, etc. The Board discussed, with not all members having read the document, wishing to move forward with signature following final edits.

The \$125,000 has been deposited into our account. The Agreement was signed by District Chair, Harry Strite.

MASCD Annual Meeting - Update: Dee, Mark, Lori, J. Scott Shank, III and Edward Wurmb attended the MASCD Annual Meeting, held at the Hyatt Regency, Cambridge, August 3-5, 2026.

Dee provided several highlights, including:

- District Managers' Meeting - Cyber Insurance (Discussion)
- State cost-share inefficiencies
- Agritourism
- State Employee - Telework
- J. Scott Shank, III was voted on to sit on the Nominations Committee
- Edward Wurmb was voted on to sit on the Endowment Committee
- Harry Strite received his 20-year pin
- State deficit
- Nutrient Management Revisions

Website Compliance Revisions - Update: With no discussion regarding updates for Website Compliance Revisions during the MASCD Annual Meeting, this topic continues to be tabled until further guidance. April 2028 continues to be the date for Districts to become compliant.

Kiosk (Eastern Panhandle Gasline) - Update: To recap, during the February 2025 Board meeting, Dee provided an update on the Eastern Panhandle Expansion Project (Columbia Gas Line) project going under the Potomac River near Hancock. The Board approved to pay for the Kiosk/Sign for the project, approximately \$3,134.96, (which will be placed along the Potomac River on the C&O Canal) with the understanding TC Energy will reimburse WCSCD. Dee has had no luck in obtaining a permit for the Kiosk via the NPS. Anastasia of TC Energy contacted Dee and advised to utilize wherever the District would find suitable. Dee suggested our wildlife program or creek access points.

MDE/MDA MOU (Enforcement) - Update: Keith Potter (MDA) noted, MDA is continuing to review the document at this point. Last month, the 2010 version and current Draft versions were sent for Supervisor review and reference.

Youth Supervisor and WCSCD Entering Area Signs - Update:

A recap on both topics originally discussed during Board Meetings in 2024:

The Board discussed creation of a Student Associate Board Member position, originally inspired by Harford County's program highlighted at the 2023 MASCD Annual Meeting. Following the Board's concurrence in September 2024, Dee reached out to Erin Anderson in Public Information at Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) upon Associate Boyd Michael's recommendation. After initial outreach went unanswered, Boyd Michael offered to follow up directly with Ms. Anderson. By December 2024, progress was made when Dee received an inquiry from Adam Perry at Washington County Technical High School requesting specific details about the Student Associate Board Member position. Dee has received no response to date.

Dee discussed noticing geographical roadside signs in other locations marking boundaries for "Soil Conservation Areas" and proposed implementing similar signs for Washington County Soil Conservation District (WCSCD) boundaries. With the Board's interest, Dee contacted the State Highway Administration, the County Roads Department, and Paul Nicol with the MDOT Advertising Program to investigate requirements and push the project forward. The discussion was progressing, however, official response and details from the State Highway Administration and County Roads Department were still pending. Dee has received no response to date.

Dee requested to halt all efforts due to unresponsiveness of NPS and the highway departments. The Board concurs with the contingency of remaining open-minded for future opportunities.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS:

Dee mentioned (FYI item) email correspondence regarding the situation with the Town of Boonsboro and the Campus Drive Realignment project proposed, i.e. urgency, incremental approvals for dam safety by MDE, etc.

Additionally, a follow up concerning two PIA (Public Information Act) requests received by the District. Dee responded by email, including the requested form and fee schedule documents required for PIA requests. No further contact has been made by the requestors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

MOU's (General Fund and Trust Fund) - Review, Approval, & Signature: Dee presented a copy of the FY2027 (General Fund) MOU Between Maryland Department of Agriculture and Washington County Soil Conservation District and the FY2027 (Trust Fund) Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund Agreement for Board of Supervisor review and approval, as well as, Harry Strite's (Chair) signature.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve both documents and to move forward with Harry Strite's (Chair) signature on the FY2027 (General Fund) MOU between Maryland Department of Agriculture and Washington County Soil Conservation District and the FY2027 (Trust Fund) Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund Agreement. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MASCD Dues Request: The District received an invoice from the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) for Annual Dues of \$2,700, and Teacher Awards Contribution at \$50, totaling \$2,750.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to approve payment of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) for Annual Dues of \$2,700, and Teacher Awards Contribution at \$50, totaling \$2,750. Ariel Herrod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- Several FYI items were provided in the Meeting materials for Board of Supervisors reference.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to adjourn the August Regular Board Meetings. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the August Regular Board Meeting at 11:48 a.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2026, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.