

**Frederick County SCD Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, July 16, 2024**  
**Soil Conservation District Office**

**Supervisors in Attendance:** D. Flickinger, B. Sowers, M. Shafer, R. Black (phoned-in)

**Associates in Attendance:** A. Holter, S. Leatherman, S. Hipkins, R. Myers

**Guests in Attendance:** B. Burch, Envirothon Coordinator; H. Hutchinson, District Manager; E. Doney, MDA Conservation Planner

**I. Meeting called to order** by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:06 am.

**II. Minutes from June Board Meeting:**

a. Open session minutes reviewed with the following amendments:

i. Under *'Expenses for the month approved by motion...'*

- "H. Hutchinson discussed bank accounts stating that the Sandy Spring Urban account isn't collecting any interest. After further discussion, J. Falkenstein made a motion to open a money market account with Sandy Springs Bank in the amount of \$250,000 from the Sandy Spring 5602 Urban Account and a second with \$200,000 from the operating account. Motion was seconded by M. Shafer. All in agreement."

ii. Under *'Committees:'*

- "Info/education: H. Hutchinson presented an email from B. Burch regarding the Envirothon: Harford County placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Frederick County placed 9<sup>th</sup> at the State Envirothon competition. B. Burch provide, via email, a list of county, state and national event he plans on attending. After discussion, a motion was made by J. Falkenstein and seconded by D. Flickinger to allow B. Burch to be reimbursed per diem for 4 state Envirothon meetings, 1 state Envirothon competition, 1 Frederick County training day, 1 Frederick County competition day and the MACSD Envirothon update and award presentation – for a total of 8 meetings, meetings that last over multiple days can receive additional per diem. Mileage may also be reimbursed if it is not provided by the state. Per diem and mileage will not be provided for National Envirothon in New York ~~or the oral presentation preparation for North Harford High School or MASCD Envirothon update and award presentation.~~"

ii. It was further discussed that meetings that already occurred in fiscal year 2024 but have not been paid for will be paid for out of fiscal year 2025

iii. D. Flickinger moved to approve the minutes from the June board meeting with the above amendments. M. Shafer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Minutes from June Board Meeting Closed Session:

- i. D. Flickinger moved to approved the closed session meeting minutes from the June Board Meeting. M. Shafer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**III. Financial Reports:**

- a. Treasurers Report was presented by H. Hutchinson. M. Shafer moved to approve the treasurer's report as filed. D. Flickinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - i. There were questions about the service charge on bank account reports. It was noted that it is for positive pay and once the accounts are moved to Sandy Spring, we will still have positive pay, but we will not be charged for it.
- b. Bank Account Reconciliation Report was presented by H. Hutchinson. M. Shafer moved to approve the reconciliation report as filed. D. Flickinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
  - i. B. Sowers brought up the concern that there was \$40,000 in the Truist account not gaining interest, just to pay the credit card bill from. It was clarified that the Truist account needs to be kept at \$40,000 to have the \$10,000 credit card limit. H. Hutchinson did look into getting a credit card from Sandy Spring Bank, but since we are new, there was only going to be a \$1000 limit. It was moved by D. Flickinger for H. Hutchinson, M. Shafer and J. Falkenstein to explore other credit card options and report back to the board. The motion was seconded by M. Shafer. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Expenses for the month were presented by H. Hutchinson. M. Shafer moved to approve the expenses. D. Flickinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Introduction of Guests:** No guests were present. B. Sowers did note that he invited Ecotone to the meeting.

- H. Hutchinson shared that Ecotone is planning a stream restoration on Peter Pearre and Mike Ryan's properties. The county is taking credit toward their MS4 TMDL requirement for the restoration project on Ryan's property, and we were asked if we would want the WIP credit for the restoration on Pearre's. H. Hutchinson expressed concern the project would not meet NRCS standards since we were not part of the review, rendering us unable to take the WIP credits for the buffer. Also, the stream restoration conflicts with the county floodplain ordinance as it would require work in the floodway. She stated that we have met our WIP goals for stream restoration, so she declined the credits.

**V. Old Business:**

- a. Bylaws: J. Falkenstein, S. Leatherman, D. Flickinger and H. Hutchinson met on June 26<sup>th</sup> to work on the bylaws. They worked through some updates and language changes. H. Hutchinson discussed that at MASCD meeting Karen Houtman shared her bylaws from her district and they were much more specific than ours. There is still amending that needs to be done.
- b. SSCC Meeting:
  - i. H. Hutchinson was unable to attend, but gave a brief synopsis based on notes from D. Flickinger. Lorretta Collins was introduced as state soil conservation committee

executive secretary. Rachael Jones gave a report on legislation. Hans Schmidt reported that only one-third of cover crop payments have been filed. Food processing residual regulations came out July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a 3-permit process for storing, handling/hauling and applying.

- ii. Ed Wurmb, who is currently serving as the Western MD SSCC representative is looking for volunteers to take his place. D. Flickinger noted that she was interested. The process will require Wurmb to officially step down, ask for volunteers, Alisha will then need to submit Diane's name. This position will be an appointed and voting member of the SSCC.
- c. MASCD Meeting:
- i. Auction brought in \$4180 and received a \$200 donation bringing the total amount of funds to \$4380.00. Our barrel of cheer brought in \$240.00
  - ii. Brad Gingras was the keynote speaker. He presented on multi-generational workforce strategies. This topic was also discussed at the quarterly district managers meeting yesterday – some districts stated they would discuss with their boards about bringing snapchat and Instagram into their social media offerings to bring in younger generations.
  - iii. Two resolutions were submitted by Western MD and were voted on at the meeting.
    1. The resolution to only submit and not read district and regional reports was passed.
    2. The resolution to allow a board member or the district manager to sit in on interview for new hires within the district was not approved but resolved by requesting that districts receive the start dates, names and applications of new hires prior to their start date.
  - iv. B. Sowers asked for clarification on why the Envirothon sold their Polaris & trailer for \$1 each to the St. Mary's district. It was due to MASCD not being able to insure the equipment because they were not stored on site, so they sold it to St. Mary's (because they were willing to insure it on their policy and store them) with the contingency that Envirothon can still use it as needed.

## VI. New Business:

- a. Expense Reports:
  - i. B. Burch's expense was moved to approve by M. Shafer. Seconded by D. Flickinger. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Quarterly Meeting with Environmental Compliance:
  - i. S. Leatherman, D. Flickinger, J. Falkenstein, D. Stonesifer, R. Thomas and H. Hutchinson attended. They discussed small pond criteria, hazard class based on dam height, submerged wetlands and as-builts. It was noted that we asked for partial as-builts for sediments basins / small ponds to ensure that we get the proper documentation for final sign off on them. The county cannot require partial as-builts, but SCD can

encourage them. Without the information at the final approval stage, core samples or dam reconstruction may be required.

- c. Soil Smart Farm Tour Sponsorship:
  - i. Received our sponsorship letter. Last year we donated \$250/district for a total of \$500 to help cover the cost of the transportation, which costs \$1400. After some discussion, it was moved to sponsor \$1000 towards the transportation costs by D. Flickinger. M. Shafter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Banquet: The Jefferson Ruritan has been reserved for the banquet for November 21, 2024. Jay Lehman with Big Boys BBQ will be doing the catered meal. Menu yet to be selected.
- e. Envirothon Budget:
  - i. We received a proposed budget for the NCF Envirothon hosted by Maryland in 2027, as requested by districts. They are asking for \$1500/year/district over the course of 4 years, for a total of \$6000/district to sponsor the event. B. Burch noted they are soliciting for monies from other organizations to sponsor the event and are estimating that 17 out of 23 soil conservation districts in Maryland will contribute money. H. Hutchinson noted that MASCD is offering grants of \$2000 to help with events like this and the grant can be used to pay the sponsorship. M. Shafer moved to commit the \$6000 to sponsor the 2027 NCF Envirothon, but not to pay the funds until needed. D. Flickinger seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- f. MACSD Dues: Annual Dues of \$2700 and \$50 for teacher sponsorship are due. D. Flickinger moved to pay annual dues and sponsorship. M. Shafer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. Remington Calendars: Price increased to \$2.48/calendar if ordered by September 15<sup>th</sup> for 700 calendars, bringing the total price to \$1736.00. It was moved to order 700 calendars by D. Flickinger. M. Shafer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- h. Other Current Business:
  - i. Apparel: An update on apparel was provided by H. Hutchinson. The vendor we have been working with is not able to embroider our logo, so she has been working on finding a new vendor. A few options, such as Tri-State Graphics in Hagerstown, were suggested. B. Sowers asked if employees and board members were offered to order more apparel with the district's logo on them at their own expense, H. Hutchinson stated she would offer that to them.
  - ii. Fair:
    - 1. Planning on doing the rain-fall simulator again. B. Sowers brought up the idea of growing something, H. Hutchinson stated she has thought about transplanting a sweet potato vine in our see-through planter.

2. B. Sowers stated that it would a good idea to ask if board members can be present at least one day to talk positively about soil health. The students are there Monday-Thursday from 9am – 1pm. Staff that assist with the booth should get lunch vouchers.
- iii. Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project:
  1. This project is a transmission investment for a reliable grid, supporting Maryland's energy future. D. Flickinger went over how it is affecting farmland across Frederick County, as well as Carroll and Baltimore Counties. These lines will require a 150ft easement across multiple lands that are already in land preservation.
  2. D. Flickinger passed around an email from Jennifer Teeter of Wakefield Valley Citizens to Protect Farmland with a list of contacts and steps to take to raise concerns and awareness of the project and its effects.
  3. H. Hutchinson discussed her meeting with the county where each division went over the process and what would be needed for review prior to project approval. This does include sediment and erosion control plans, which go through our office.
- iv. Engineering:
  1. Data center projects were put on fast track by the county, so when one comes in for review, everything else is being put on hold, causing us to get behind on small pond reviews. We have 30 days from drop-off to complete the initial review and on some projects we are already past our 30 days. Frustration was shared about how we are footing the bill for the data center project/plan reviews, so it was decided that H. Hutchinson would write up a letter Jessica Fitzwater, county executive and cc Katie Stevens and maybe come up with a compromise. If we are not able to keep up with designs or are unable to complete them, they will go to MDE. It was expressed to Tolson DeSa, in a letter, that the SCD would prefer to retain the first review status on ag exemptions.
  2. H. Hutchinson said she discussed small pond reviews with the engineer from Charles County at MASCD. He offered assistance if we needed. The board members agreed that using his assistance was a last resort.
- v. Sabillasville Environmental School: S. Hipkins brought up that he had an unofficial request from the environmental school for funds. He will bring more information to the next meeting when he receives it. D. Flickinger questioned if the county will be pulling funds from all charter schools in the county in light of budget cuts.

**VII. Committee Assignments:**

- a. RC&D: tabled until next meeting
- b. Info/Education: No report
- c. Awards – H. Hutchinson stated that we need to start thinking about cooperator of the year for the banquet.

- d. Legislative: No report
- e. Ag Complex – No report

- VIII. Communications:** A thank you note from the students at safety camp was passed around the board meeting.
- IX. NRCS Report:** Report given in closed session.
- X. Urban Report:** The urban report is attached in board members' packets. There was no discussion.
- XI. Other Business from the Floor:** no other business
- XII. Cooperating Agencies:** no other cooperating agency representatives present
- XIII. Next Monthly Board Meeting:** Scheduled for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Frederick County Soil Conservation District Office
- XIV. Adjournment:** M. Shafer motioned, seconded by D. Flickinger, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:13 am and that the board meet in special closed session to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(13). The motion carried unanimously.

APPROVED