



Catoctin Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2022- 9:00am
Burkittsville Ruritan Center
500 East Main Street, Burkittsville, MD

In attendance: B. Sowers, J. Falkenstein, E. Arnold, R. Grossnickle, J. Orlowski, A. Holter, W. Shafer, B. Brennan, H. Hutchinson, E. Doney

Meeting called to order by B. Sowers at 9:02am

Minutes approved by motion: A. Holter, second J. Falkenstein. All in agreement

Treasurer's Report approved by motion: J. Falkenstein, second A. Holter. All in agreement

Expenses for the month approved by motion: J. Orlowski, second J. Falkenstein. All in agreement

1. **Bank Account Reconciliation** – A. Holter moved to omit account statements from monthly meeting packets due to the amount of sensitive information on them, and instead include a 'Bank Account Reconciliation Report' giving an overview of each account, second J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

Old Business :

1. **Board Merger** – The State Soil Conservation Committee provided the petitions to merge the boards. H. Hutchinson will present at banquet about the merger and officially announce the petitions.
2. **Workers Compensation Insurance** – Connie Phillips of Connie Phillips Insurance gave a presentation of insurance options prior to the Frederick Board Meeting in October. John Falkenstein was in attendance. At that meeting, Connie stated that workers compensation insurance might not be appropriate because the board receives a per diem rather than a salary. It only pays 66.66% of a salary if you are hurt on the job. This does not cover travel to and from meetings. For board members this would only be 66.66% of the per diem from attending meetings, etc. and the cost of the insurance would be \$500-\$600 per year. J. Falkenstein moved to remit the previous motion on the table of receiving workers compensation insurance and sign the wavier declining the coverage, second A. Holter. All in agreement.
3. **MASCD BOD Meeting** –
 - I. **Pond Reviews** – In FY21, there was a resolution at the summer meeting for MASCD to develop a procurement to outsource pond reviews. Washington Co. developed an agreement for third party pond approvals; MASCD is currently reviewing that agreement and hoping to approve it and make it available for other districts to use.
 - II. **Happy Hour with Legislatives** – In previous years, MASCD would host a luncheon for legislators. The building used for the luncheon is not available this year. A happy hour at one of the local establishments in Annapolis was suggested. MASCD will look into this.
 - III. **MDA Update** – Hans Schmidt reported that MDA has finished their last round of interviews and would be making offers. Frederick Co. will be getting one planner & one technician.
 - IV. **Tree Solutions Now Act** – Calls for the planting of 5 million trees across the state. MDA is providing a \$1000/ac signing bonus for CREP contracts and is looking for other ways to increase tree plantings without taking farmland.
 - V. **New Proposed Regulations for Food Waste Residuals** – There are proposed regulations requiring incorporation or injection of food waste residuals, a crop is required on fields receiving applications. The comment period for these regulations has ended.



- VI. *District Board Member Surveys* – H. Hutchinson forwarded a survey from MASCD to board members via email. MASCD is looking for input on where SCDs would like for them to focus their activities. They would like to have them returned by the end of the year. H. Hutchinson will resend it and encouraged members to fill it out.
4. Other Old Business –
 - I. *Equine Planner* – Board members discussed the need for regional equine planner
 - II. *Western Region Flat Rates* – Western Region met to review flat rates; Jason Watt is lead on development. The group has created rates, they need to be reviewed by State Soil Committee and will be voted on at December meeting; they should be effective January 1, 2023.
 - III. *Harvest Day* – Sabillasville Environmental School held a harvest day and invited soil conservation to discuss the importance of soil health in agriculture. Planners, M. White and W. Rawlings, and technician M. Freese, and H. Hutchinson attended and did some soil health demonstrations.
 - IV. *Exemptions for Ag Driveways* – the question arose on whether there would be exemption to permits for ag driveways. Currently, permits are required for apron to county road → 9 times out of 10 an ag driveway turns into a driveway as houses are being built on farmland. Ag driveways do not require a time distance study.

New Business:

1. *Urban Technician Reclassification* – the county reclassified the position from a 7 to an 8, not a 9 as requested. Their reasoning is they have limited interaction with the contractors and they are not responsible for enforcement. We will continue to present the need for higher classification as it is justified.
2. *Soil Conservation Coordinator Position* – The position has been filled. Kendra McAfee has accepted the position and will start November 21, 2022.
3. *Banquet* – We currently have 144 RSVPs with 34 being guests. There will be no NRCS representative as positions in the state office are vacant. B. Sowers will be MCing the night with D. Flickinger giving the invocation. MHS Horticulture will be doing the centerpieces for the tables, and we have some fun door prizes.
4. *Soil Health Outreach Workshop* – The workshop will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at the Frederick Fair Grounds with guest speaker, Jim Hoorman.
5. *State Soil Committee* – At the November 17th meeting, they will discuss the proposed regional flat rate schedules.
6. *Envirothon Dues* – We received a letter from state Envirothon stating they are requesting districts to increase their dues contribution to \$1000.00 this year to cover the cost of the state event and to assist with sending the state winning team to Ontario for the national competition. J. Orłowski moved to pay dues in the amount of \$1000.00 to the state Envirothon, second A. Holter. All in Agreement.
7. *Taste of Maryland Agriculture* – We received our invite. RSVPs are due January 13, 2023 and the event is February 2, 2023 at the MD Live Casino in Anne Arundel. Tabled until next meeting.
8. Policy of Meeting Reimbursement – Tabled until winter meetings
9. *Christmas Luncheon* – a Christmas Luncheon with staff will be held December 15th after the board meeting. The board meeting will start at 10am with lunch served at noon.
10. *Cover Crop* – One cooperators cover crop agreement was denied for not having an active nutrient management plan at time of sign up. The plan became effective a few days after the application was signed and was within the application period. The denial was appealed to Hans Schmidt and was approved. We will request clarification on what is considered an active plan at time of signups.
11. *Pond Reviews* –
 - i. We asked an engineer to send a proposed ESD located in a Class III watershed to MDE for review. MDE does not want SCDs to approve small ponds in Class III watersheds. This ESD did not meet the need for a 378



review, however would hold and release warmed water into a Class III stream. MDE and DNR could not come to agreement regarding how to address temperature regulation and MDE advised that no review was needed.

- ii. New small pond procedures become effective 1/1/2023. NRCS recently revised the 378 small pond standard, which is referenced in COMAR, and is what the districts use to review small ponds. The changes are not consistent with what MDE is requesting. We are hoping for clarification.

Committee Reports –

- **RC & D:** No report.
- **Info / Education – Envirothon:** No report.
- **Awards:** No report.
- **Legislative:** No report.
- **Ag Complex:** No report.

Communications: No report.

Conservation Plans:

1. *Conservation Plans* – The board accepted the plans presented. – All in agreement.
2. *FY22 Totals* – paid out a total of \$2,865,678.29 for 313 practices
3. *State Office Update* – The acting State Conservationist is Eric McTaggart from NRCS HQ. Rob McAfee is moving to NRCS HQ and Ramon Ortiz has also accepted a new job at NRCS HQ.
4. *Programs* – No guidance or timeline for FY23 has rolled out yet
5. *Office Space* – The new office space will house FSA, NRCS, MDA and District staff as well as the area coordinator, WIP, nutrient management and soils group. Following new policy, the space will have a secured entrance area where visitors will buzz for the agency they need to speak with and be greeted at the door.

Urban Report: Distributed.

Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension): M. Townsend provided a written report from Extension.

1. *Planned Trainings* – Central MD Forage Conference – 1/19/2023, New Midway Fire Hall, estimated registration \$20. Central MD Agronomy Meeting – 2/23/23, Urbana Fire Hall, estimated registration \$25.
2. *Online Resource* – UME AG&FS Teachable Website
3. *Upcoming Trainings* – The November 14, 2022 Pesticide Recertification Lecture from 6-8pm has been rescheduled for December 5, 2022 from 6-8pm. December 15, 2022 there will be a Nutrient Management Voucher Training from 6-8pm.
4. *Current Research/Projects* – MDA/Extension Manure Injection, Parasite Resistance in Ruminant Animals (NE SARE)
5. *Prospective Research/Projects* – NFWF INSR Grant: Purposeful Cover Crop Strategies, NE SARE: “Optimizing spring cover crop management for productivity, soil health, and climate resilience.” NE SARE: “A comparison of forage production, livestock performance, soil health, and economics between perennial and perennial/annual combination forage systems”
6. *Custom Rates Survey* – Extension in Maryland and Delaware will be collecting up-to-date information about farm custom work rates, machinery rental rates, and hired labor costs this fall. The custom rates survey can be completed online at <https://go.umd.edu/customrate2023>

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15th, 2022 at the Burkittsville Ruritan at 10:00AM



Adjournment – A. Holter moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50am, second J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

Respectively Submitted by Emily Doney

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style. The name "Emily Doney" is clearly legible, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the word "Doney".