



**Joint Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 04, 2023- 8:30 AM  
SCD Office, Frederick, MD**

**In attendance:**

Supervisors: B. Sowers (by phone), S. Hipkins, J. Falkenstein, A. Holter (by phone), J. Orlowski (by phone), D. Flickinger, R. Myers, R. Black.

Associates: R. Grossnickle, B. Brennan.

SCD Staff: H. Hutchinson, District Manager. K. McAfee, Soil Conservation Coordinator.

Additional Guests: Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Becca Tucker. Frederick County Ag Agent Associate, Mark Townsend. NRCS, Brent Cammauf.

**New Business:**

1. County Quarterly Meeting Discussion
  - a. H. Hutchinson sent a letter to the County Executive in February regarding several issues the SCD was experiencing as they work with farmers to install best management practices. CE Fitzwater has requested that county staff explore the issues raised.
  - b. The regular Quarterly Meeting with the county environmental compliance division is scheduled for April 5, 2023. H. Hutchinson asks for Board Discussion on current issues facing the SCD and Farmers so that she could raise them at the meeting.
  - c. Electrical and Plumbing Permits: H. Hutchinson reports that farmers are hesitant to pull permits as the County has penalized them for unpermitted work that occurred on the property years ago (past owners, deceased family members). The current owner is responsible to correct all issues.
    - i. S. Hipkins questions- what if operator purchases the property that way?
    - ii. B. Cammauf reports that technically all trough work requires a plumbing permit in Frederick County. Each county interprets the rules differently and there is not consistency.
    - iii. H. Hutchinson reports that all non-potable wells which are sources for water troughs need plumbing inspections. H. Hutchinson requests that non-potable wells not require inspection and that potable well inspections, if used for trough, require a shorter response time.
    - iv. B. Sowers reports that when needing an inspection, you must go online and request an inspection. If you request the inspection before 11 am you can get an inspection next day, after 11 am then two days later. B. Sowers would like to speak to someone instead of going on the web.
  - d. No variance from ordinance when there is a resource concern:
    - i. H. Hutchinson reports that currently there is an operator whose barn is 63ft from the road (needs to be 65ft per the ordinance) there are no variances that allow him to construct a stacker on the side of the barn, which would bring the structure 15ft closer to the road.
    - ii. Currently there are no economical solutions due to slope and rock. NRCS proposed pouring a concrete slab and not roofing it, allowing for the operator to



scrape the manure and keep it out of the stream. This proposal was denied by the County.

- e. Nutrient Management Planner:
  - i. H. Hutchinson reports that the County Executive is aware of the nutrient management deficiency in the county. The County suggest a cost share program instead of a new position. H. Hutchinson reports that the SCD is not allowed to charge for NM plans (COMAR) to be written in the office, so the SCD could not recoup costs if a position is hired. Baltimore County SCD has started their own cost share program for NM plans.
  - ii. B. Sowers reports that there is no private sector to write plans.
  - iii. M. Townsend reports that Extension has 40 plans left to be written.
  - iv. B. Sowers questions to why RC&D is not funding a position for a plan writer.
  - v. H. Hutchinson reports that Extension has advertised a NM planner position in Frederick County.
  - vi. Current cost share is 87.5%, R. Myers questions if we could provide more that 87.5%. H. Hutchinson is unsure.
  - vii. Motion made by B. Sowers to table discussion for one month and hold another Joint Board Meeting, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

## 2. Board Merger

- a. H. Hutchinson reports that both boards have enough signatures to move forward. Justin Hayes, MDA Office of Attorney General, reached out to discuss the referendum process. This does not require a public meeting, but can be requested by the SCD for SSCC to hold.
- b. H. Hutchinson reported that she posed the question of a mail in ballot, but Justin Hayes said the mail in ballot would have to go to every resident in Frederick County. An in-person vote would need a member from SSCC to monitor the ballot box. The alternative is to offer a mail in ballot on the website.
- c. Motion made by B. Sowers to request SSCC to hold a public meeting in central Frederick County for constituents to voice opinions on Board Merger, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

## 3. Invitation to Secretary Atticks

- a. H. Hutchinson posed question of whether the boards are interested in inviting the new MDA Secretary, Kevin Atticks, to visit Frederick County. Carroll County is hosting a "coffee with Kevin". If so, would the boards like to host a light breakfast where farmers could drop in, or have a private meeting and do a small tour?
- b. B. Black states he would be interested in holding the meeting in conjunction with Farm Bureau and the Grange again like Legislative Day.
- c. After discussion, consensus for meeting to be held in mid-July at New Midway Fire Hall.
- d. Motion made by B. Sowers to hold a meet and greet with Secretary Atticks at New Midway Firehall in conjunction with Frederick County Farm Bureau and Grange, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

## 4. Banking



- a. H. Hutchinson met with Lori Cromwell at ACNB Bank about the ICS accounts. Currently, one account is making .1% interest and the other is making .05% interest. After the conversation, Lori made both accounts now .1% interest.
  - b. H. Hutchinson stated that there is another option for ICS accounts. There is manual sweep option available and these accounts would then make 2% interest. The SCD would need to set policy on an amount to keep in the joint urban checking and manually sweep the excess after that. Sweeps would have to be done by either the District Manager or Treasurers. A policy would need to be developed for this.
  - c. After discussion between boards, decisions to move accounts to CD's:
    - i. Motion made by B. Sowers to move \$200,000 from the Ag Complex account to a CD, the Joint Operating account will open four CD's in the amount of \$225,000 each, seconded by R. Myers. All in agreement.
    - ii. Motion made by R. Black to move \$200,000 from the Frederick Operating account to a CD, seconded by R. Myers. All in agreement.
    - iii. Motion made by R. Myers to move \$25,000 from the Endowment account to Truist Bank CD, seconded by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.
    - iv. Motion by J. Falkenstein to move \$180,000 from the Catoctin Operating account to a CD with an interest rate of 3.77% or better, seconded by B. Sowers. All in agreement.
5. Cover Crop Signature Authority (Catoctin)
- a. H. Hutchinson reported that the MACS Cover Crop Program needs authorized signature for the SCD. In the past, the Alternate District Representative has been Steve Leatherman, who is retiring on June 1<sup>st</sup>. H. Hutchinson recommends making K. McAfee the Alternate District Representative, following suit with Frederick SCD.
    - i. Motion made by J. Falkenstein to make K. McAfee the Alternate District Representative for the Catoctin SCD, seconded by B. Sowers. All in agreement.
6. Ag Complex Ground
- a. H. Hutchinson reported that she was approached by M. Townsend with interest to do cover crop trials and black oat trials at the Ag Complex ground.
  - b. R. Grossnickle notes that it is approximately 9 acres.
  - c. After discussion between boards, Motion made by B. Sowers to let M. Townsend do research at the Ag Complex Ground, seconded by R. Black. Discussion occurred. S. Hipkins, Frederick Chairman, asked for vote. The noes have it, motion is lost.
  - d. R. Myers moved to table decision until the next meeting contingent that M. Townsend brings a proposal for the site, seconded by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.
7. Steve's Retirement
- a. H. Hutchinson reports that Steve Leatherman's last day will be June 1<sup>st</sup> and would like to host a retirement party/open house.
  - b. J. Falkenstein suggests giving a gift valued between \$300-400 as this was done for past District Manager.
  - c. K. McAfee will plan in conjunction with H. Hutchinson.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30am in the Frederick SCD office. Following meeting will be Steve's retirement party.



**Adjournment:** J. Falkenstein moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:50am, seconded by R. Myers. All in agreement.

Minutes recorded by Kendra McAfee