

**Catoctin Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 21, 2023- 9:00 AM**  
**Burkittsville Ruritan**

**In attendance:** Supervisors: B. Sowers, E. Arnold, J. Falkenstein, A. Holter. Associates: R. Grossnickle, W. Shafer. District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. Mark Townsend, UMDE Frederick Ag Agent. Matt Ahalt.

Meeting called to order by B. Sowers at 9:08 AM.

**Last Month Minutes approved as presented by motion:** A. Holter, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

**September Closed Minutes approved as presented by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by A. Holter. All in agreement.

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

**Expenses for the month approved as presented by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by E. Arnold. All in agreement.

1. **Bank Account Reconciliation** Motion to accept the Bank Account Reconciliation report as is by A. Holter, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

**Old Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson reported that the new board members have been appointed as follows: Diane Flickinger (At-Large), Robert Black (At-Large), Wes Shafer (Extension), John Falkenstein (Farm Bureau), and Ben Sowers (Frederick County Council). Waiting on articles of incorporation. Current boards continue to exist until the article of incorporation are obtained.
2. H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Board Meeting was held on October 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. There will be a separate dues mailing from Envirothon to held cover hosting the National event in 2027.
  - b. December 15, 2023 there will be a meeting with Mike Mason regarding updates to the small pond legislation LR1010.
  - c. Summer Meeting will be held back at Cambridge from July 8-10. Room rates will be \$189/night.
  - d. NRCS Cooperative Grant is at a standstill.
  - e. There are current vacancies on the Resolutions, Legislative, and By Laws & Rules Boards.
  - f. MASCD Winter Meeting will be held in Annapolis on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is now open.
  - g. DELMARVA Soil Summit will be held February 6-7<sup>th</sup>.
  - h. Hans Schmidt noted that DBM is scrutinizing imminent start ups and MACS is proposing 50% cost share for all startups and expansions.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that she, Bill Rawlings, and Mark Freese attended Sabillasville Harvest Days where they used the rainfall simulator to show how cover crops help keep the soil in place during a rainfall event.
4. H. Hutchinson reported on the partnership meeting. There was a presentation from MACS about the desire for NRCS to fund off site manure storage. CSP payments will increase from \$1500 to \$4000.
5. H. Hutchinson reported that the Annual Cooperators Banquet was held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the New Midway Volunteer Fire Company. There were 142 people in attendance and received nice comments about the photo books for the award winners.

**Current Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson reported that there have been two SSCC meeting since the board last met. At the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting the following were discussed:
  - a. Jason Kepler proposed changes to MACS funding. Proposed changing the funding caps from \$75k/practice to \$150k for non ag waste storage and lifting the farm cap.
  - b. Ag Waste remains capped at \$200k/practice and raising the farm cap to \$450k.
2. H. Hutchinson reported on the SSCC meeting from November 16<sup>th</sup> and the following was discussed:
  - a. Agriculture is responsible for 4% of methane emissions.

- b. John Roche spoke about dam removal. There will be new guidance coming out soon that will streamline the process. There are 18k small ponds in MD.
  - c. John Murphy spoke about the state law requiring the sod used for stabilization must be MD Certified.
  - d. There will be an NM Advisory committee meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - e. NRCS is funded through January 19<sup>th</sup> 2024.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that Jim George completed the annual financial review and everything went well. Each board member received a packet.
    - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by A. Holter, to accept the annual financial review. All in agreement.
  4. H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Winter Meeting will be returning to Annapolis on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with networking with legislators. Hotel rooms must be reserved by December 22<sup>nd</sup> and registration closes on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Tabled until the next board meeting so supervisors can decide if they are attending.
  5. H. Hutchinson reported that Katie Stevens has scheduled a meeting for January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am at 30 N. Market Street as a quarterly meeting. The meeting will include the director of Debbie Carpenter, Gary Hessong, Anne Bradley, Economic Development, NRCS, Ag Business Council, and Farm Bureau to discuss the pertinent permitting and zoning concerns.
  6. H. Hutchinson reported that she received an invite for the boards to attend the Taste of MD event at MD Live Casino on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Each ticket is \$100 and reservations are due by January 12<sup>th</sup>.
  7. H. Hutchinson provided a letter from NACDE requesting a donation in support of sending their staff to the regional conference.
    - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by A. Holter, to not give a donation to NACDE. All in agreement.
  8. H. Hutchinson reported that she received a letter requesting a donation from MD FFA Foundation to support their annual school activities.
    - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, E. Arnold second, to give \$500 to the MD FFA Foundation. All in agreement.
  9. H. Hutchinson reported that the National Envirothon is set to be held in MD in 2027. The committee is requesting annual dues in installments of \$1500 for four years.
    - a. A. Holter motioned, second by J. Falkenstein, to table discussion until the next board meeting. All in agreement.
  10. H. Hutchinson reported on a mailing from Crow Holdings Renewables expressing their interest in the ag complex land for a solar array.
    - a. The board was not interested.

**Committee Reports:**

- **RC&D:** No Report
- **Info/Education:** No Report
- **Awards:** No Report
- **Legislative:** No Report.
- **Ag Complex:** No Report.

**Communications:** H. Hutchinson reported she received communication from MASCD for a webinar on 12/8 about Lancaster stream delisting strategies.

**Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension, Economic Development):** Mark Townsend provided a handout of upcoming training opportunities.

**Urban Report:** Included in board packets.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 9:00 AM held at the Burkittsville Ruritan.

**Adjournment:** J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by A. Holter, that the board adjourn the regular meeting at 11:33am and meet in 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.

Minutes recorded by Kendra McAfee

APPROVED