

Frederick Board Meeting
Thursday, December 28, 2023- 09:00 AM
Soil Conservation District Office

In attendance: Supervisors: D. Flickinger, R. Myers, S. Hipkins, R. Black, B. Burch. Associate B. Sweeney (joined at 10:04am). District Manager H. Hutchinson, Soil Conservation Coordinator K. McAfee. Guest: Mark Townsend and Patrick Heizer.

Meeting called to order by S. Hipkins at 9:11AM.

Minutes approved as presented by motion: B. Burch, second by R. Myers. All in agreement.

Closed minutes approved as presented by motion: D. Flickinger, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

December Joint minutes approved as presented by motion: R. Myers, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Treasurer's Report approved as presented by motion: D. Flickinger, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Financial Report Statements approved as presented by motion: B. Burch, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Expenses for the month approved as presented by motion: R. Myers, second by B. Burch. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported on the ongoing issue of discrepancies between district records and county reimbursements for minor grading review fees through Infor. H. Hutchinson and D. Stonesifer met with Jeff Wisner who developed a report for the SCD to run track reviews consistent with timing of county fee collections. A review of the report revealed that the county is waiving fees for county projects.
 - a. B. Burch motioned, second by R. Black, to address the county fee discrepancy at the quarterly meeting on 01/24/2024 and to not exempt the county for the fee of plans the SCD reviewed. All in agreement.
 - b. H. Hutchinson reported that the county increases their fees every July and the SCD was unaware. To increase fees for the SCD we must take justification to county council.
2. H. Hutchinson reported on the current standings of the board merger. The application to merge and letters of appointment for supervisors were submitted to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State requested that the letters of appointment be certified by the appointing authority. Justin Hayes is drafting.
 - a. H. Hutchinson spoke with Mike Mason about getting someone to sponsor the legislation for the referendum. It was suggested to approach Karen Lewis Young or Jesse Pippy or possibly to submit as a delegation bill. Currently we are developing a one-page summary of the merger to give to the legislators. H. Hutchinson will also need to present to the Frederick County Delegation regarding the merger.

Current Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Winter meeting will be held on January 22 & 23, 2024 at the Westin in Annapolis, MD. The business meeting will be on the 22nd starting at 10AM.
 - a. D. Flickinger, S. Hipkins, R. Myers, and H. Hutchinson will all be attending the business meeting.
2. H. Hutchinson reported that the Taste of MD Agriculture event will be held on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at the MD Live! Casino. Each ticket is \$100/pp and reservations are due by January 12th. There was a motion at the November meeting to purchase two tickets.
 - a. S. Hipkins and H. Hutchinson will be attending. B. Sweeney would also like to attend.
 - b. B. Burch motioned, second by R. Black to purchase a third ticket if necessary. All in agreement.
3. H. Hutchinson brought forward a donation request from the MD Ag Education Foundation.
 - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by B. Burch, to donate \$500 to the Maryland Ag Education Foundation. All in agreement.

4. H. Hutchinson brought forward a donation request from the University of MD Soil Judging team as they look for sponsors to help cover travel costs to the national competition at Iowa State University in April of 2024. Estimated cost per student is \$1100 for the ten-day trip.
 - a. B. Burch motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to donate \$100 to the University of MD Soil Judging Team. All in agreement.
5. H. Hutchinson reported that she B. Sowers, D. Flickinger, and B. Sweeney attended the county legislative planning meeting held at Horizon Farm Credit. The Legislative Day will be held on Saturday, February 10th.
 - a. The order will be changed this year with the County starting at 9:30am, lunch, then the State at 12:45pm, and followed by Federal at 2:00pm.
 - b. H. Hutchinson forwarded Denny Remsburg's summary of discussion topics to board members.
 - c. There was a concern raised regarding reallocating funds from Ag Preservation to the Kirwin Commission's Blue print for Education - this was proposed in Howard County.
 - d. Other items discussed were more signage for Amish buggies, trade issues with Canada and Mexico, streamlining the black head buzzard permits, supply chain issues for ag equipment parts, foreign control of the food industry, biosolids and DAF containing PFA's, no county funding for weed control, and issues with cost share for manure storage.
6. H. Hutchinson and other district managers met with Mike Mason in regards to the small pond legislation. Legislation has been drafted and M. Mason will be reaching out to all SCD's regarding the fiscal impact and what is the state and local effect. M. Mason will send a copy of the proposed bill to SCD's.
7. On 1/24 at 10:00 am there is a quarterly ag meeting with the county at 30 N. Market Street. Chairman of the boards should plan to attend.
8. H. Hutchinson reported that the Null Building at the Great Frederick Fair Grounds has been reserved for February 28, 2024 for our Soil Health Day featuring speaker Dale Strickler.
9. H. Hutchinson reported that the Nutrient Management Update will be held on January 9th at New Midway Volunteer Fire Department. Cost to attend is \$30 and registration is required.

Committee Reports:

1. **Awards:** No Report.
2. **Legislative:** No Report.
3. **Info/Education:** No Report.
4. **Ag. Complex:** No Report.
5. **RC&D:** No Report.

Communications: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension, Frederick County Economic Development): M. Townsend provided handout.

Urban Report: Handout provided by D. Stonesifer.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: R. Myers motioned, seconded by R. Black, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:07am 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.

Minutes recorded by Kendra McAfee