

MINUTES OF
GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS MEETING

September 20, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Supervisors Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel, and Katharine Dubansky were present. Others attending included: Chad Bucklew, Chris Herbert, and Butch Helbig.

Katharine made the motion to accept the minutes from the August 16, 2022 Board Meeting as provided and Kris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Boal and Associates provided a Balance Sheet, Profit and Loss Sheet, Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual, and a Profit and Loss Detailed Sheet. Chris provided the Brinker Account Statement as it came in the mail that morning. Bill made the motion to accept the financials as provided; as long as, Brian Boal reaffirms to the Board that the \$999.16 fee in his submission is for the Brinker Account fee. Kris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

District Manager's report presented to the Board:

- **MASCD Update** – Chris attended both Board of Directors meetings and numerous other seminars. The MASCD dues will be raised \$500 per district to \$2750. The main theme of the meeting was equity. Chris mentioned of the new workbook concerning the workload/goals for technicians. Training on the workbook is to be in September. Starting January 1st, the MACS Flat Rates will go to a Regional Flat Rate System like the NRCS EQIP System. The 2023 Summer Meeting will remain at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge hosted by Western MD.
- **County Plans going Forward** – Bruce Metz, from the County, sent Chris an email stating that his office should not be the go between for the District and the engineers when it comes to Sediment & Erosion revisions. Chris told the Board that the County has always done that because he was pretty sure that neither Shaun nor Roger took care of it. Smokey said that a meeting with the County should be made to determine the duties of each player and/or a letter/MOU with the County should be devised and meet with either/both the County Administrator/County Commissioners. As of now, the DM is stuck with doing that work on top of all his other duties.
- **Office Positions Update** – Chris knew that the State held interviews for the DM position. Smokey then told the Board that due to his letter to MDA dated August 20th, he was an observer on the panel of 3 candidates. Bryon responded to an email from Smokey stating that someone should be selected in the next few days. Smokey believes the new DM should have some input on the new Admin Assistant position.
 - Chris hasn't heard anything about the MDA Planner position.
 - Katharine asked about the Administrative Assistant position. Chris told her that he knew of the Board's number 1 and 2 selections, but they did not advise him on how to negotiate with their choice when it came to salary, benefits, etc. Smokey reiterated that nothing had been done and he was tired of enabling the DM and it wasn't his job to do the legwork

since he isn't getting paid to the DM job. Chris reminded him that he has also not been paid for his acting position over the last 6 months.

- **For the Record** - Chris did what he was asked by contacting the company that Brian Boal and Scott Weeks use about health insurance and he provided that info to the Board in an email on August 19th. Smokey called Chris on the phone and said that he was also talking to an insurance guy. Chris attempted to get some questions answered by Byron to no avail. Smokey emailed Chris on August 26th stating they needed to get together about this position either at MASCD or after they returned. Chris responded that either at MACD or that Thursday or Friday would work because he had hoped to meet with Brian Boal one of those 2 days. Chris could only assume that the Board was emailing/talking about the negotiation process.
- The Board asked Chris at the meeting to draft a letter to send to both applicants telling them that the Board is getting closer to selecting an administrative assistant. The Board said that they do not want to be the ones to make a health insurance selection for their employee. Bill suggested that maybe the employee signs a health release waiver. They discussed the salary of the previous employee of 10 years and based it off the FY'22 and FY'23 MOUs with the State. The discussion was either \$42,500 or \$45,000. Smokey said the employee agreement still needed work.

Chairman's Report from Smokey:

- Basically, everything was out in the open within the DM's Report.

DC's Report :

- The activity report provided showed the current work status of the current jobs.
- Chad mentioned to potential funding for forestry contracts and carbon sequestration. There could be potential money to try to complete some of the backlogs in EQIP applications. He hasn't heard anything on the Local Work Group yet. Chad also mentioned that the office lease will be up here at the end of the month, but all of that is being handled by GSA.

Old Business:

- Chris told the Board that he received the signed copy of the MOU Mod #1 FY22 from MDA.

New Business

- The Board was presented with the FY23 Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund MOU. The Board wants to review it more in depth before accepting or making modifications to it. Chris told them that none of the money was to be returned from the FY22 MOU, but the FY23 states that any unused money will be returned to the State. The 1st Quarterly Report is due by October 10, 2022.
- Chris provided the MASCD Dues Invoice and told the Board that the dues were raised at the Summer Board of Director's Meeting. The Board said that they had budgeted \$2,250 and that is the amount that they would pay; even though, the increased rate is \$2,750.
- Katharine made a motion to donate the requested \$625 per district to the MD Farm & Harvest Program. Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Chris asked the Board how they wanted to handle anonymous complaints. The District received a packet in the mail on August 17 about animals and sediment entering a stream. The packet included pictures, gps coordinates, and a writeup, but no signature. The District is currently working with that cooperater, so that isn't a huge problem because it will be addressed shortly. The Board made it known that if it's someone that we are not working with, we will not enter the property, unless the complaint is signed. Normally, we would contact Nutrient Management first, so we could go on site together.

Public Comment:

- Butch Helbig did interact with the discussion on how the administrative assistant's job posting was listed without benefits. He also agreed that when it comes to complaints, that they should not be anonymous.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm by motion from Kris and seconded by Katharine.