

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

May 18, 2021

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. The Meeting was conducted via phone-in conference call. Other supervisors present on the call were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel, Katharine Dubansky and Cameron Crawford. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, Heather Hutchinson, Jerrod Sisler, Cody Myers and Roger Kitzmiller were also present via telephone.

Minutes for the April 20, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as submitted – Kris/Katharine (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – April 1, 2020	\$15,148.88
Receipts – April 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 15,148.88
Expenditures – April 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020	<u>2,856.99</u>
Balance – April 30, 2020	\$12,291.89

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of April 20, 2021 through May 18, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurers Report was approved as distributed – Bill/Katharine (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

There was discussion regarding transferring money from the no-till drill account to the local account - Cameron and Carrie will transfer money from the no-till drill account and the local account, at their discretion, in order to cover a short-term potential low balance.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: COVID-19. Office procedures and work schedules are basically unchanged. MDA Employees continue to telework with weekly office visits; Chad, Carrie and Roger are teleworking with office visits as needed.
- Chad, Bill and Roger participated in the annual dam inspections – at a minimum, mowing and tree removal will be required. The inspection report has not yet been received from Scott Bass (MDE)
- Carrie gave a report on no-till drill and spreader activity: 248 acres planted/ 211 tons spread.
- Roger was informed today that the General (MDA) and Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (CBTF) Budget requests would be forthcoming. The budget requests will have to be returned before the next Board meeting, therefore, Roger suggested that the Board pre-approve the budgets providing there are no significant changes in the budgets from prior years; in that case, the Board would receive a report at the following meeting. If there are significant changes, the budget requests would go back to the Board for approval before submission – approved - Bill/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

Currently, there are three Garrett Local Work Group contracts that have been formally approved as Farm Bill contracts. More contracts are in the process of review and approval.

On the subject of staffing, Chad noted that we have an established starting date of 7/6/2021 for Jacob Metcalf as the NRCS Soil Conservationist. Chad noted that Shannon Farrell will be leaving the conservation partnership for the private sector at the end of the month. Presently, the timeline for onboarding the NRCS Forester is unknown.

Chad reported that there will be some acting roles on the Maryland NRCS Leadership Team for the coming months. Dr. Hillsman has accepted an acting assignment at NHQ. Rob McAfee and Ramon Ortiz will be acting as State Conservationist during Dr. Hillsman's detail. Chad also mentioned that ASTC for Programs Jackie Byam has accepted a position with NRCS in Illinois, and will be leaving in about a month.

The cost of building materials and its effect on project completion has been a point of discussion for several months. At this point, there is not a viable option available to increase payment rates in new and existing Farm Bill contracts. National guidance has asked Programs staff to provide additional flexibility to contract participants to reschedule contract items and to extend contract periods. Additional options to address cost differentials are being discussed, but are not available options at this time. Smokey asked if this issue was a major impediment to Garrett producers. Chad's response was that it hasn't had a major effect on project implementation to this point.

The District and Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) have agreed to do a joint review of the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for the Backbone Mountain Solar Project. There will be no charge to the District for the review.

Roger is working on developing a fee schedule for Erosion and Sediment Control Plan review and will report back to the Board at the June Meeting.

The Board selected Roger to represent the District on the RC&D Regional Board.

A discussion took place regarding whether to accept a late application for the District Scholarship. Another applicant was selected, which negated the late application issue. Jillian Wood was selected to receive the 2021 District Scholarship - Bill/Katharine (motion/second), vote: majority.

The Coloring Contest winners were:

Class A 1st Harper Kitzmiller; 2nd Reed Haggerty; 3rd Carsyn Knox

Class B 1st Eleanor Burow; 2nd Ryan Pyska; 3rd Kinsley Rumer

Class C 1st Kasi Ouellette; 2nd Violet Taylor; 3rd Nevaeh Guida- Smith

Approved - Kris/Katharine (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

Following a discussion regarding Associate Board Members, three questions were asked: 1) How many Associate Board Members are allowed? 2) What is the application process? 3) Who is interested in becoming an Associate Board Member? Roger will get answers to these questions

A call for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.