

**MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

August 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Kris Enlow and Bill Buckel; Cameron Crawford was present via telephone. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, Butch Helbig, Jacob Metcalf, Jessica and Harper Kitzmiller (MASCD Coloring Contest Winner) and Roger Kitzmiller were also present.

Smokey presented Harper Kitzmiller with the MASCD 1st place coloring contest ribbon and cash award. Jacob Metcalf introduced himself as the new USDA-NRCS Soil Conservationist in the Garrett Office.

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

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – July 1, 2021	\$7,180.35
Receipts – July 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021.....	<u>15,277.00</u>
	\$ 22,457.35
Expenditures – July 1, 2021 – July 31, 2021.....	<u>270.25</u>
Balance – July 31, 2021.....	\$22,187.10

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of July 20 through August 17, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed – Kris/Bill (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

In other discussion, the Board decided to move \$5,000 from the No-Till Drill Account and \$7,000 from the Local Account to the First United Money Market.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: (COVID-19) Federal employees continue working a combination of teleworking and office visits. MDA is essentially open for business with a recommendation that anyone who has not been vaccinated wear a mask and maintain social distancing. NRCS is open by appointment only with a requirement that anyone who has not been vaccinated wear a mask and maintain social distancing. NRCS also restricts the number of office staff present to 50% of the total employees (6). The stricter of the guidelines are followed by all staff. Schedules are arranged to include field work and other outdoor activities in an attempt to keep the number of in-office employees at 50% or lower.
- Roger is continuing to correspond with consultants, developers, engineers, MDE, the county permits office, etc. concerning the development of the E&S Control Plan for the

Backbone Mountain solar site. A site visit/tour for the Board is planned in conjunction with the September 21st meeting.

- Announced: Smokey, Bill, Carrie and Roger attended the MASCD Meeting in Cambridge, MD (August 1st through 3rd). A re-cap of the MASCD meeting included: Options for District's to obtain 378 Small Pond Review were discussed (and are on-going); Service Pins were awarded to Smokey and Katharine for their service on the Board (Smokey – 10 Years; Katharine – 5 Years); A Supervisor Training video was presented at MASCD – the video may be presented to the Garrett SCD Board at a future meeting; A project to plant 5 million trees in Maryland was announced – Bill suggested planting Red Spruce; The current MASCD Grant for administrative work will end 12/31/2021, or when funds are exhausted.
- Annual Funds were received from the County as requested (\$19,706 funded and \$2,373.31 in-kind credit for the District employee's workspace.
- Pictures of the winning conservation exhibit at the Garrett County Fair and the winning MASCD coloring contest entry were included in the meeting packet.

Chad mentioned that Jacob Metcalf started in early July, and noted how helpful he has been in working with producers thus far. Chad also mentioned that Jessica Aronhalt will be leaving her position as Soil Conservationist in the Garrett office for a promotion to an Area Resource Conservationist position based in Morgantown, WV. Chad described Jessica's new role in WV as being similar to the role that Brad Michael provides for us in MD. Jessica will begin her new assignment on September 27th.

Chad presented a summary of the FY 2021 Farm Bill contracts approved to date. Participant names were not included in the contract summary in respect to maintaining the privacy of contract participants. Chad noted that the Garrett Local Work Group slightly exceeded \$100,000 for the year. For FY 2021, an overage of up to \$5000 was allowed if it would fund an additional contract. Total contract obligations are slightly more than \$400,000 for FY 2021

Chad also reviewed the list of practice applications for the following month. Chad noted that several of the Prescribed Grazing practices were the final contract items, and resulted in completed contracts.

- A meeting for the finance committee/Board to discuss the FY22 District Budget was scheduled for September 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM
- Roger is still working through the process of getting help with grading permit review (i.e. Agreement with Randy Storey; Funding assistance through MDA; Fee Schedule submission to County Commissioners).
- Ideas to facilitate community outreach were discussed: Soil Health Field Day; a video of the Rainfall Simulator in operation being placed on the District website.
- Purchase of a new No-Till Drill was discussed (information concerning the trade-in value of the current drill, purchase price of a new drill and availability of a new drill will be collected for consideration at future meetings).
- A thank-you letter was presented to the Board from MASCD for the \$100 contribution in lieu of an auction item.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.