

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

September 21, 2021

The Board participated in an on-site tour of the Backbone Solar Project prior to the meeting. The tour was facilitated by Ryan Lockhart of Competitive Power Ventures (CPV). The meeting was called to order at 7:23 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel and Cameron Crawford. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank and Roger Kitzmiller were also present.

Minutes for the August 17, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as submitted – (no objections)

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – August 1, 2021	\$22,187.10
Receipts – August 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021 (void check added back in)	<u>30.60</u>
	\$ 22,217.70
Expenditures – August 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021	<u>2,501.32</u>
Balance – August 31, 2021	\$19,716.38

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of August 17 through September 21, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed – Bill/Kris (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

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 all persons 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. A sign-in sheet will be developed in order to keep track of visitors.
- Roger is soliciting purchase prices/trade-in value quotes regarding the purchase of a new no-till drill. A quote received from West Central Equipment, Somerset, PA was presented to the Board.
- Discussions between MASCD, conservation districts, MDE and NRCS are on-going in anticipation of NRCS no longer providing small pond design review and approval as of December 31, 2021.
- Roger is looking at using a contract between the District and a former engineering contractor as a template to develop an agreement between the District and Randy Storey, to assist with Erosion and Sediment Control/Timber Harvest Plan review.
- MACS Update: Cost share has been increased to provide up to 100% of the current Flat Rate on certain practices; Following a meeting in Annapolis (August 26th), districts were

offered two options in order to address construction prices that are inflated as a result of COVID 19. Districts could revise Flat Rates to reflect current prices or add 30% to applications/claims for payment developed using existing Flat Rates. Due to the instability and rapidly changing prices in the construction industry, management opted for the 30% across-the-board ad-on. These changes will be advertised in the forthcoming District Newsletter and through various media outlets.

Chad mentioned that Jessica Aronhalt's last day with the Garrett office would be this Friday. He mentioned that we will have a staff meeting and going away lunch this Thursday. Chad mentioned that there was one fiscal year end change to the contract list that was presented to the board last month. The Conservation Stewardship Program contract that was listed at the bottom of the contract summary page will not be going through to contract in FY 2021. Chad said that we will try to get this application improved for FY22, and attempt to fund it next FY.

There is one project in the county that is eligible for the Coronavirus Agricultural Relief Program (CARP) payment. This is a significant additional payment to address the costs of materials for the Roof and Cover practice, primarily. The process is underway, and we hope to get the payment issued prior to the end of FY21.

Chad mentioned that Local Work Group meetings had been discussed lately, but that a memo to announce the meetings hasn't come out yet. Chad estimated that the LWG meeting will likely be held in November.

- A meeting for the finance committee/Board to discuss the FY22 District Budget will take place September 28, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the District Office.
- Roger and Chad are reviewing the revised Cooperative Agreement (between the District and NRCS) and will report back to the Board after the review is complete. The revised Cooperative Agreement was included in the packet provided to the Supervisor's for this meeting.
- The Board approved a quote from Boal and Associates (\$550) to complete an Annual Review of District Accounts – Kris/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- Kris's term on the Board will be expiring in October. The Board offered encouragement and support for Kris to re-apply for the position.
- Smokey will email a Survey on Climate Change that can be completed as appropriate/desired.

Without objection, the meeting dismissed at 8:23 p.m.