

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

January 23, 2024

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

Notes: The December 2023 meeting, scheduled for December 19, was cancelled due to inclement weather. The January meeting, originally scheduled for January 16, 2024, was postponed until January 23, due to inclement weather.

Prior to the beginning of the January 23, 2024, Board of Supervisor's Meeting, all Board members met for a Supervisor Training at 6:30 pm. The training was conducted by Board Chairman, Smokey Stanton.

Participants

- Smokey Stanton, Board Chair
- Kristen Enlow, Board Vice Chair, Treasurer
- William Buckel, Board Member
- Butch Helbig, Board Member
- Nevin Sines, Board Member
- Seth Metheny, District Manager (DM), Joining Online
- Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Assistant

Meeting Topics

- Certification of Quorum
- Call to Order
- Approval/Correction of November 21, 2023, Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- District Manager's Report
- District Conservationist's Report
- New Business
- Old Business
- Public Comment

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm, by Supervisor Chair, Smokey Stanton, after certifying a quorum. All Board members were present.

Approval/Correction of November 21, 2023, Minutes

There were no corrections to the November 21 minutes. Butch Helbig made a motion to pass the minutes as written. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. There were no objections, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Seth explained the Monthly and YTD Financial Report.

Proposed Budget Strategy

The Board elected to skip ahead of the agenda to the Proposed Budget Strategy because it is easier to see the changes when compared to the Monthly & YTD Financial Report. Smokey Stanton explained that in December, he; Kristen Enlow; Butch Helbig; Seth Metheny; and Jeannie Frazee had gotten together to look at ways to balance the budget by cutting expenses or raising income.

A discussion on the projected E & S income took place. It was agreed that the expected income should be achieved based on the permits from the previous two years.

It was noted that the retired employee health insurance has gone up as well as financial services provided by Boals & Associates.

William Buckel made a motion to accept the Proposed Budget with the addition of a line for donations for the scholarship fund, and with increasing the scholarship from \$500 to \$1000 and reducing Contingency by \$500. The motion passed unanimously.

District Operations November & December Spending Reports

Seth Metheny went over the November and December Spending Reports.

William Buckel made a motion to approve the District Operations November and December Spending Reports. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A discussion about rental equipment and late fees took place. It was noted that the District does impose late fees that are stated on the rental agreement and that the equipment is not rented to producers that have an outstanding bill.

Monthly Income Statement

Seth when over the Monthly Income Statements for November and December for the Board.

FY24 MDA General Fund November and December Statement

Seth Metheny presented the FY24 MDA General Fund November and December statements to the Board.

Chairman's Report

MASCD

The Board elected not to send representatives to the Winter MASCD meeting due to lack of funds. However, both Seth and Chad attended from the District.

Assistant Treasurer

Smokey Stanton said that he has asked Butch Helbig to be the Assistant Treasurer while Kristen Enlow is in Florida, and Butch has agreed.

District Manager's Report

Garrett County FY2025 Budget

Seth Metheny stated that he has received an email from Scott Weeks requesting the budget proposals be in by Friday, February 23.

A discussion about the budget proposal took place but it was decided to table the discussion until next month.

2023 Garrett Soil Conservation District Highlights

Seth presented the Board with a flyer outlining accomplishments of the District for 2023. Of particular note is that the office is now fully staffed.

Yough River Advisory Committee

Seth Metheny said that two members of the GSCD sit on the Yough River Advisory Board, which are appointed by the Commissioners. The members are Seth and Willie Lantz. The board expressed concerns that the District's representatives are not approved by the board.

District Conservationist's Report

Lease Update

Chad Bucklew stated that there is no update on the lease. On February 15, there will be an updated proposal. He may have more information at that time.

RC&D Hiring

RC&D has hired a new Forestry Tech, who will be stationed at Allegany County SCD.

RC&D is also hiring a Program Support Specialist, which will be housed in the Garrett SCD office.

Continuing Resolution

There is another Continuing Resolution. NRCS will now be funded through March 1.

Projects

The NRCS has 7 projects pre-approved for funding using Act Now. Chad Bucklew said he is hoping to have several of the projects listed on the Activity Report ready to go for EQIP, MACS, or both.

First Amendment Activists

Chad Bucklew stated that he has been talking with staff about First Amendment videographers. The District is now required to post signs indicating "No Access" areas.

Activity Report

The Activity Report was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Old Business

Both the Tree Sale Update and the E&S Control Plan Fee System Update were discussed earlier in the meeting.

Smokey Stanton asked if there were any additional comments. William Buckel asked if the District plans to get back to the Commissioners about their letter regarding the E&S Fees. Seth Metheny answered that the District can do whatever the Board suggests.

William Buckel again commented that he is fine with the fees that we have in the proposed fee schedule, but that he is skeptical they are high enough.

A discussion about an E & S presentation for the Garrett County Commissioners took place. The DM will send the series of events that took place between the District and the County that resulted in the County no longer funding the District's E & S reviewer.

The board agreed that a presentation should be made to the County Commissioners by February 1 but no motion was made.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM