

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

July 16, 2024

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

Participants

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

Meeting Topics

- Certification of Quorum
- Call to Order
- Approval/Correction of June 18, 2024, Minutes
- Treasurer's Report
- Chairman's Report
- District Manager's Report
- District Conservationist's Report
- New Business
- Old Business
- Public Comment

Call to Order

Smokey Stanton, Board Chairman, certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm. All Board members were present.

Approval/Correction of June 18, 2024, Minutes

Board members looked over the minutes from the previous meeting. There were no suggested comments or changes. Kristen Enlow made a motion to accept the minutes as written. William Buckel seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Treasurer's Report

Butch Helbig met with Seth and Jeannie on July 11 to go over financial reports. At that time, the reports were discussed in detail. Butch stated that Seth also gave him a detailed explanation regarding the year-end financials. Butch turned the discussion over to Seth to outline the reports.

Smokey Stanton asked about Income vs. Expenses. Seth answered that the Income for FY24 was \$152,058.01 and the Expenses for FY24 were \$112,188.27.

FY24 Income was at 128%. 94% was spent over all for the year for expected expenses.

Butch Helbig made a motion to approve all of the Financial Reports. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objections.

Chairman's Report

Smokey Stanton announced that Kristen Enlow received her 20-year pin at MASCD.

Smokey told the Board that Alisha Mulkey had sent an email telling the Board that it did not follow proper procedure when it had held a closed meeting in May.

For an update on Turnbull. Smokey stated that he thought the District had an arrangement with them, but they have had personnel changes at the firm.

Smokey commented that from the communication with Turnbull, the District has learned that it can tailor its financial review to what the District wants. It does not have to be a full audit.

Smokey asked if there are any questions. There were none.

District Manager's Report

Seth Metheny presented two invoices to the Board for their approval.

1. Garrett County Commissioners for Wanda Foley's Insurance for July 2024 through December 2024 in the amount of \$2,101.98. There will be another invoice that will come in January. This expense is in the proposed budget.
2. MASCD Dues. These are also in the proposed budget. \$1,800.00 will come from the General Fund and \$950 from local funds.

Smokey commented that Wanda worked for the District for 25 to 30 years. Kristen stated that she thinks it was around 30. Butch asked if the MASCD annual dues are the same as last FY. Seth said that they have gone up. They were \$2,600 last year.

Kristen Enlow made a motion to pay the invoices to the Garrett County Commissioners for Wanda Foley's insurance and to MASCD for dues. William Buckel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Nevin Sines asked about the Teacher Awards for MASCD. (The MASCD invoice lists a \$50 fee for Teacher Awards contribution). Seth replied that he is unsure if the winner gets money or just a plaque, but at the MASCD Summer meeting they give an award to a teacher for excellence in working with students on Agriculture and Conservation. A Garrett County teacher won three to four years ago. An Allegany County teacher won this year.

District Conservationist's Report

Chad Bucklew stated that there is no new news on the lease. Everything is in progress.

NRCS is ranking our remaining applications. There was a batch submitted on June 24 for EQIP and IRA. However, Chad learned at the MASCD meeting that all funds have been spent. There was originally \$30 million. Most of what was submitted from Garrett County for June 24 was not funded.

There were 23 contracts earlier this year in Garrett County. Three have been completed and reimbursed. For FY 24, Garrett County has spent \$425,000. Those contracts were for: Energy

Audits for maple syrup productions, 11 High Tunnels, 1 Forestry Stewardship plan, 1 Invasive Species, 1 smaller Grazing System, and two Energy Improvements.

Smokey asked if there are any of our farmers that the District can help be more competitive. Chad replied that the designs need to go in more promptly.

Nevin Sines asked how many producers are denied because of not having a current Nutrient Management plan.

Chad said that as long as a producer is working with the District, they will suspend them from being cited. But some producers are hot and cold. (They act like they are going to work with the District, but do not go through with it.) Seth said that producers should not be able to jump ahead of everyone automatically because they are cited for Nutrient Management.

Smokey asked if there is anything the Board can do to provide more resources to aid in getting producers in the district funded more quickly. Chad replied that staffing is an issue. There needs to be some staffing at Engineering level. Butch asked if the problem is only down state then. Chad stated that it is both. There is a lot of new local staff. There are problems across the board.

New Business

2024 MASCD Annual Meeting

Seth let the Board know that the MASCD Endowment Grant is available to districts. The grant amount is \$2,000. The application is due by December 15, but it can be turned in sooner. At the MASCD Summer Meeting, they said it can also be used for local Envirothon needs and the \$1,500 dues for the National Envirothon.

William Buckel commented on the MASCD summer meeting. He said that he hopes there will be a video made available of the guest speaker's presentation. Chad, Bill, and Jeannie agreed that the speaker's presentation was of value. It was regarding the behaviors of different generations based on the influence of societal beliefs and technology during their formidable years and how that affects various individuals in the workforce.

William announced that Alisha Mulkey is leaving her position. Her replacement does not have a lot of experience in this area. It will take her awhile to catch up to what is happening in each district.

William also stated that he had asked Jen Nelson to compile a list of current per diems for each district. Jen said that it has been five years since they have done so. Smokey added that Jen is in Delaware, so that does affect some priorities.

There was some discussion about MASCD's investments. Jeannie Frazee said that she understood that MASCD wants to switch to a managed account run by a fiduciary. Chad Bucklew added that the MASCD has more latitude to invest than what the Soil Conservation District has because the District is working with public funds. Smokey said that MASCD is a 501C3, not a government entity

Old Business

FY25 Garrett SCD Budget

It was decided to bump the FY25 Garrett SCD Budget to a special meeting.

Scholarship

Kristen Enlow said that the WVU students need to pay their college bills by August 1. So, the scholarship winner needs to be determined. Butch Helbig said that he agrees. Scholarship rubrics were passed out to each Board member in the previous meeting. They were to have brought their results to this meeting.

Butch Helbig said that the rubric was very helpful. He said that he had brought his scored rubric this evening.

William commented that he found the rubric to be very useful. It makes the system fair. He said that the District can add to it if they choose. He uses that rubric for the Forestry Board and Rotary as well.

Smokey asked about the status of changing the names on the checking accounts. A time was set up to change signature authority from Kristen and Seth to Butch and Smokey.

A Budget meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 12 at 6:30 pm. Smokey asked Jeannie to send out a reminder. The Board is to discuss the Brinker account at the August 12 meeting. Smokey reminded the Board that they will need to sign the resolution at the regular Board meeting in August.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.