

## **Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting**

**September 17, 2024**

### **Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room**

#### **Participants**

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

#### **Call to Order**

Smokey Stanton certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All Board members are present.

Smokey asked Seth if there are any changes to the agenda. Seth replied that Secretary of Agriculture, Kevin Atticks, and some of his staff will be visiting Garrett County on September 19, and Allegany County on September 20. If any Board member would like to go, they should let Seth or Jeannie know. Seth passed out the tour schedule.

#### **Approval/Correction of August 20, 2024 Minutes**

William Buckel made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. There were no objections. The minutes were approved.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Butch Helbig, the Board Treasurer, pointed out that revenue is up on the Brinker account. The District is still waiting for funds from the CBTF and the County. Butch turned the discussion over to Seth Metheny to detail the reports. The CBTF was being held until the District sent in the late Compilations. They have been sent in. Seth will ask them if anything else is holding up dispersal of the CBTF.

#### **Financial Report**

Seth went over the Financial Report. Smokey asked if there are any questions or comments on the statement.

Smokey asked if the District needs to get approval to use MDA carryover funds. Seth said that it does and explained the procedure.

Kristen Enlow made a motion to accept the FY25 MDA General Fund August Statement, the August Income Statement, and the Financial Report. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Brinker Statement

Seth went over the Brinker statement. To make it easier to read, Seth marked yields higher than 4% in green and those lower in red.

Butch suggested that the Board needs to break the accounts down and see which ones need to be transferred. He said that the District needs a professional opinion. William Buckel said that he feels that is exactly what is needed. William recommended that the District use Preston Sharps. He said the District should contact either Preston Sharps or John Rose.

William said that the Board should have gotten the paperwork done and gotten away from Brinker already. He said that the account has been losing money since before he joined the Board. Something has to be done.

William Buckel made a motion for the District to obtain Preston Sharps at First United Investments and initiate a transfer of all funds from Brinker, with Butch Helbig and Smokey Stanton to be listed on the new account. Additionally, Butch Helbig will work with Preston Sharps to get the funds transferred and get Preston Sharps set up as the manager of the funds. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **District Manager's Report**

Seth stated that the only thing he has for the DM Report is the farm tours with Secretary Atticks. He reiterated that Board members should let him know if they would like to attend.

## **Chairman's Report**

Smokey asked that in the next Staff Meeting Seth let all the employees in the District, including FSA know that the Board is requesting that they act responsibly if they contract Covid and use sick leave while they could be contagious. Kristen asked if the conference room can be used as an office. Seth stated that, technically, it cannot because it is a shared space between the District, NRCS, and FSA. Both the conference room and the copy room are shared. Seth said that during the Staff Meeting, Jeannie worked from home. Kristen asked if the conference room is an area where staff meets with producers. Seth replied that it is, as is the drafting area.

## **District Conservationist's Report**

Chad Bucklew said that some funds became available to the District because some of the allotted funds were turned down in other areas. Locally, 32 contracts have been funded. Two more are almost complete. The total for Garrett County for FY24 is \$1.8 million. Funded were:

- 1 Forestry
- 8 Energy Audits for Maple Syrup - \$17,000
- 2 Equipment Apparatus, Maple Syrup - \$94,000
- 14 High Tunnels - \$264.00
- 2 Grazing - \$240,000
- 4 Forestry
- 1 Livestock - \$450,000
- Irrigation - \$68,000

Combined Garrett and Allegany Counties received 7% of the state total of funding. Next year there will be \$45 million available, which is a bump up from last year.

## **New Business**

### Activity Report

Chad Bucklew presented the Activity Report. For NRCS, five of the 32 contracts are completed. Payment is also being processed on one more and will be complete in a few days. It has been a slower fall. Usually, construction is busy in the fall before winter.

### Area 1 Representative on SSCC

Seth Metheny let the Board know that there is an open position on the Western Area Region 1 SSCC committee. Frederick SCD is interested in nominating someone. If Garrett would like to nominate someone, it needs to be in by September 27. Seth said that they are looking for names or letters of support. The Board determined to send a letter of support for Diane Flickinger the Frederick SCD nomination.

### Farm Bureau Supervisor

William Buckel is the Farm Bureau representative on the GSCD Board. His term ends in October. Paul Custer with the Farm Bureau will need to submit three nominations. The Board let William know they appreciate his service for the past five years.

### Dam Mowing

The District had site visits yesterday for those interested in bidding for Dam Mowing. Three people came. Bids were due in by today at 4 pm.

William Buckel made a motion to approve the lowest bidder, provided that he can show a certificate of insurance. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

### Cooperator's Dinner

William Buckel made a motion to hold the Cooperator's Dinner on November 8, at the Bittinger Mennonite Gym, at whatever time could be worked out with them, with the charge per plate being \$12, and the cost to the District being \$18 per plate. A 50/50 raffle is to be held at the dinner to benefit the Scholarship. The back-up date is to be November 15. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Butch Helbig asked if the staff is doing okay since it is short-staffed. Seth replied that the job listing for one of the two vacant MDA technician positions was posted today.

William Buckel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. The meeting was adjourned.