

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

October 15, 2024

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

Participants

- Smokey Stanton, Board Chair
- Kristen Enlow, Board Vice Chair
- William Buckel, Expiring Board Member (final meeting)
- Butch Helbig, Board Member, Treasurer
- Nevin Sines, Board Member
- Seth Metheny, District Manager (DM)
- Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Assistant
- Dorsey Guard, Board Nomination from Farm Bureau - GUEST
- Alisha Mulkey, SSCC, Manager Program Planning & Evaluation - GUEST
- Loretta Collens, SSCC, Executive Secretary - GUEST
- Keith Potter, MDA, Conservation District Operations Western Region - GUEST
- Garrett County Citizen - GUEST

Call to Order

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

Approval/Correction of September 17, 2024 Minutes

William Buckel said that at the meeting he had referred to Preston Sharps as "Sharps", but he would like the minutes to reflect his first name as well. Butch Helbig made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

FY25 MDA General Fund September Statement

Seth Metheny went over the FY25 MDA General Fund September Statement & William Buckel made a motion to approve it. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

District Operations Spending Report

Nevin Sines made a motion to pass the Operations Spending Report. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

September Monthly Income Statement

Total Revenue is at 182.99% for the month and 19.93% YTD. Total Expenditures are at 66.72% for the month. The total Net Surplus is \$13,587.95.

Financial Quarterly Report and YTD

Seth explained that the District wants Income at or above 25% and Expenses at or below 25% because this is now the end of the first quarter.

As a whole, income is at 27% and expenses are at 15%. Total Income was \$59,385.03. Total Expenses were \$33,662.81.

Kris Enlow made a motion to approve the September Monthly Income Statement and the Financial Quarterly Report and YTD. William Buckel seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brinker

Butch Helbig explained that the Supervisors have looked at the Brinker account heavily. In the past it has not generated a good revenue, and the Supervisors have been researching options. The past couple of months it has performed. The Board had different investment groups come in to speak, and out of that, the Board decided to present the account to Preston Sharps of First United Financial Group. A motion was passed to do so.

Smokey Stanton said that at the Financial Committee meeting in October, it had been discussed that it needs to be handled in steps. Step 1 is to complete the Resolution to get the proper names on the account. Smokey said that he brought the Resolution to the Board meeting with him this evening. Step 2 is to adopt the resolution to pull the money out of Brinker and invest it with someone else. In order to do that, the District needs to have a meeting with Preston Sharps to get answers to necessary questions. Then the Board can call a special meeting to pull the trigger. Smokey said that it didn't make sense to do it when one Board member is leaving and another coming. William stated that he thinks the Chairman and the Treasurer should be the ones on the account.

Alisha Mulkey commended that the District Managers in many of the Districts are often signatories. Seth added that it makes it much easier for the District to do the legwork.

Kristen Enlow expressed a concern that the account needs to have two signatories to withdraw or transfer funds. Smokey said that the rules are different because this is an investment account rather than a bank account.

William Buckel made a motion that the names that should be on the Brinker account are Smokey Stanton as the Chairman, Butch Helbig, as the Treasurer, and Seth Metheny as the District Manager, and that the Board should make those changes immediately, and in addition, the account should be updated ongoingly so that the names represented on the account are always the current Chairman, the current Treasurer, and the current District Manager, and furthermore, the account must be set up so that two signatories are required to access the funds. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Guests

Guests were introduced. And representatives from MDA and SSCC were asked to speak.

Keith Potter, MDA, Conservation District Operations Western Region

Keith Potter said that MDA has a position in Garrett County that is open. There are 20 across the State. Interviews will be mid-November. They are hoping to have the new hires in place before the holidays. It will take a while to get them trained afterward.

The MACS program expanded on October 1, so that producers now can have animal units between one and 14 to qualify for pro-rated cost share. This initiative started with the Equine Task Force going out to Equine farms that had not worked with MDA funding much in the past. But the change is not just for Equine, it can also be for cows, goats, sheep, etc.

Enrollment has also been extended for the Conservation Buffer Initiative. Producers can now make hay off of it.

Alisha Mulkey, SSCC, Manager Program Planning & Evaluation

Alisha Mulkey stated that one thing she wants to do is have information about the SSCC meetings available for District board meetings.

Loretta Collins, SSCC, Executive Secretary

Loretta said that her intent in coming to the meeting is to meet the Staff and Supervisors. She is hoping to make it to District meetings periodically. She would like to go over processes and protocol.

Dorsey Guard, Farm Bureau Nominee for the GSCD Board

William Buckel said that he is glad to see Dorsey Guard at the meeting.

Chairman's Report

Diane Flickinger has been elected to the State Soil Conservation Committee as the Western Maryland representative.

The MASCD Summer meeting will be held at Rocky Gap this year in early August.

District Manager's Report

MACS Update

Keith Potter covered this earlier. Changes include:

- Operations with less than 8 animal units are now eligible on a prorated basis
- Cost-effectiveness factor doubled from \$25 year to \$50 year
- Cost-effectiveness factor for Waste Storage doubled from \$50 year to \$100 year
- Eligible BMP's are listed

Soil Conservation Associate II

Information about the job position of Soil Conservation Associate II is in the Board packet

Seth said that Diane Flickinger had contacted him and let him know that if any Board of Supervisors member would like to share something at the SSCC meeting to let her know.

District Conservationist's Report

A Continuing Resolution was passed through December 20. NRCS also has IRA funds as a back-up. The Farm Bill has technically not been extended, and some programs have ended. We cannot take CREP/CEP at this time. However, if we get a new Farm Bill it is possible it could be reinstated. We have been on the 2018 Farm Bill, which is one of the longest stretches for a Farm Bill. Usually, it is renewed every 4 to 6 years.

There are 34 applications on the federal side and a half dozen or more that have not been entered yet. Some were carried over from last year. The figures given in the last Board meeting haven't changed much.

New Business

Activity Report

Seth Metheny went over the Activity Report. Chad Bucklew went over Practice Applications. There are two big projects that are taking a lot of time. The Techs are not in the office very much because of them, so designs are not getting worked on.

Lorretta Collins asked how things were going with Nutrient Management plans. Seth told her that there were extensive problems with collecting and getting back soil and manure samples from labs. The District also has had to delay work on some plans because the Nutrient Management Specialist says the producers have not returned things needed for the plans and the producers says the Nutrient Management Specialist has simply not completed their plans.

FFA Donation

Seth Metheny said that he has had requests for assistance from both FFA advisors. The Southern High School FFA Coordinator is asking for two Munsell Soil Color Books/Charts at a cost of \$300.00 each, and the Northern High School FFA Coordinator is asking for 5 Garmin gps units so that each student would have one in the contest. The cost on these would be \$750 plus taxes and shipping.

The cost would be around \$1300.00 for both requests.

Lime Spreader

Last month the Lime Spreader broke down and the District had to have the Gear Box welded by Allegany Welding. The cost was \$825.00. Last year, the Spreader only generated \$1790.00. There are many Lime Spreaders available for rent in the County. Seth said that he is looking for the Board's recommendation as to whether it should be sold or put on a maintenance schedule. If the Board needs any additional information to make a decision, they should let Seth know.

Old Business

Cooperator's Dinner

The Cooperator's Dinner will be in one month, on November 15. Smokey said that he would like to just give a welcome.

MASCD Endowment Grant

Seth said that he has been working on the MASCD Endowment grant. There is a copy of what has been completed so far in the information packet. Seth has been working with the local

Envirothon Coordinators to set up an Envirothon field trip in April, which will use the rest of the funds after the National Envirothon dues are paid to MASCD.

Dam Inspections

Chad Bucklew let the group know that Dam Inspections will be tomorrow through Thursday. If any Supervisor is interested in going, they start at 9:00 a.m. Smokey asked if anyone can attend. Seth said that the District's dams have been mowed and the work inspected by the District. Kristen Enlow asked if the person who did the dam mowing did a good job. Seth replied that he did and the District saved \$1000.

Kristen Enlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.