

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

November 19, 2024

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

Participants

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

Call to Order

Smokey Stanton, the Board Chairman, certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. All current Board members are present. William Buckel's term expired last month. The new Farm Bureau representative has not yet been appointed.

Approval/Correction of October 15, 2024, Minutes

Chad Bucklew noted that the last line is missing from the District Manager's Report. Jeannie stated that the last sentence should read, "The figures stated in last month's Board meeting haven't changed much." With there being no objections, the minutes were approved with the last sentence included.

Treasurer's Report

Butch Helbig told the Board that he had met with Seth yesterday to go over the financial reports. The percentages have been staying within acceptable parameters as explained by Seth Metheny at the previous Board meeting.

Lime Spreader Maintenance

Nevin Sines asked if Allegany Welding had given Seth a detailed list of expenses from their invoice to fix the Lime Spreader. Six bearings in the gear box were replaced and 8 service hours. Chad Bucklew stated that the gear box has been problematic from the start.

Chad said that the Lime Spreader was purchased in 2008. Kristen Enlow said that this is the original Lime Spreader. The Board was going to replace it every so often, but they didn't. Smokey noted that the income raised from it is down. Our current rates are a good service to

producers, but it is not enough to pay for the upkeep. Nevin stated that Danny's Lime Spreader is \$4 a ton as compared to ours at \$3 ton.

Seth said that the Board has three options: 1. Repair the Spreader. 2. Sell the Spreader and replace it with a new one. 3. Sell the Spreader. Seth told the Board that if they want more specifics to let him know and he will research it and get the information back to them.

Kristen Enlow made a motion to accept the FY25 MDA General Fund October Statement, the District Operational Spending Report, and the Financial Report Quarterly and YTD. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Brinker

Smokey said that he and Butch had not yet met with Preston Sharps. Smokey did not feel comfortable approaching him without a vote by the Board. He sent out an email, but no one responded.

Kristen Enlow made a motion that Smokey Stanton and Butch Helbig proceed in withdrawing the money from Brinker by meeting with Preston Sharps and asking for his advice and that he provide the Board with a presentation. In addition, he should be told that the Board could possibly ask for a second opinion elsewhere. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. Seth Metheny is to send Preston Sharps and the Board the October Brinker Statement and a copy of COMAR in regards to SCD's investments prior to Smokey and Butch's meeting with him. Smokey and Butch are to meet with Preston this week or the beginning of next week.

FY24 Receipts and Disbursements

This is Brian Boal's Compilation for FY24. Seth went over the report. This report needs to go to the State. The Board needs to approve it before it can be sent to the State. Butch Helbig made a motion to approve the FY24 Receipts and Disbursements. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Chairman's Report

Dorsey Guard is nominated as the Farm Bureau's representative to the Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors. The State Soil Conservation Committee meeting to make the appointment is on Thursday. Smokey will be in attendance. Seth sent a letter of recommendation from the Board and the Garrett County Farm Bureau did as well.

District Manager's Report

Jeannie Frazee had written a request of the Board to use her medical fund to pay for reimbursements for gym membership and necessary hotel stays for medical needs. The Board asked if they could table the request until the following month. Jeannie said that they could but asked that they would consider one item this evening, which is that the fund be used for gym

membership for her daughter, as it is more urgent due to medical issues. Butch Helbig made a motion to allow the fund to pay for gym membership for Jeannie's daughter for the months of November through April, while the weather is not favorable for outdoor activity, at \$30 per month. Nevin Sines second the motion. There were no objections. The motion was approved.

District Conservationist's Report

There has been an increase in applications. The deadline to apply for a high tunnel was on November 15, but there may be another application period later. For other practices, the deadline is December 20. There are 65 to 70 applications now, and they are increasing rapidly.

There is a mandatory NRCS training December 10-11. All District NRCS staff will be going.

The Continuing Resolution is December 20. Suzy Daubert's message at the GSCD Cooperator's Dinner dealt with financial uncertainty considering the coming new administration.

Smokey asked about the Cooperator's Dinner. Butch replied that it was very nice. Everyone was at ease, and the food was good. The only delegate that came was Senator Mike McKay. It was a poor response from local government. Butch said he is proud of the staff for their work with the dinner. Nevin stated that it was nicely decorated. Smokey said to thank the staff on behalf of the Board. Kristen commented that Seth and Chad did a good job speaking.

New Business

Activity Report

Seth went over the Activity Report. Chad explained that a lot of the Technicians' time has been being spent on two very large projects. They are close to being caught up on those and will be able to divert more time to other projects.

District Scholarship

Seth told the Board that last year there were questions about eligibility. He presented the Board with the current eligibility guidelines and the rubric and asked that the Board members look over them and bring to the next Board meeting any questions or changes.

Kristen said that she talked to Rebecca from Farm Credit. Rebecca told her their funds are a lot tighter this year, but that if Kristen gets the request in in December it will go in with requests at the beginning of the year to give a better chance for approval.

MASCD Winter Meeting

The MASCD Winter Meeting will be on February 3 and 4 in Annapolis. If there are any Board members that would like to go, they should let Seth or Jeannie know.

Old Business

Lime Spreader

Seth asked if anyone knows where it can be repaired as this is not something Allegany Welding can do. Nevin suggested the Welding Rod. Butch suggested that Seth check with Agway and see who repairs their equipment. Nevin recommended Ronnie Junkins with RJ Tractor Repair. Their number is 301-616-9952. Seth said he will reach out to them all and get an estimate.

FFA Donation Requests

Seth requested that the Board approve the purchase of GPS units for Northern High School's FFA.

Smokey asked Seth to reach out to her to find out if there is a deadline.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.