

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

December 17, 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)
- 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, except Dorsey Guard, are present. Chad Bucklew is out sick.

Approval/Correction of November 19, 2024, Minutes

Kristen Enlow made a motion to accept the GSCD Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes for November 19, 2024. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Butch Helbig gave an overview. He met with Seth and Jeannie this month to go over the financial report. Seth went over the November MDA General Fund Statement, the November Income Statement, and the Quarterly and YTD Financial Report.

Butch Helbig made a motion to accept the FY25 MDA General Fund November Statement, the November Income Statement, and the Financial Report Quarterly and YTD. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Smokey let everyone know that the State of Maryland is having a budget problem. He asked the Board to consider what it would do if the same money does not come in for FY26 as was received for FY25.

Nevin asked if Smokey thinks that cuts will come down to the local level. Smokey said that he does. Smokey feels that the talk about the cuts is much more urgent than it was a few years ago when many employees were put on Furlow.

Smokey let the Board know that Dorsey Guard has been sworn in as a Board member.

District Manager's Report

Interviews for the open technician position with MDA at the Garrett office have been completed. There are currently two vacancies in the office for MDA.

District Conservationist's Report

The processing of applications for Farm Bill programs is delayed. Several ranking tools are being revised, and ranking is delayed until these tools are available. As of this morning, there was some indication that ranking is becoming available on some practices.

New Business

Activity Report

Seth went over the November Activity Report.

FY26 Garrett County Budget Request

Seth received an email from Scott Weeks, Director of Finance for Garrett County. They are asking outside agencies to submit any requests for funding by email by Friday, February 21.

Butch Helbig made a motion that the District request from the County the same amount, (level funding), for FY26 as it did for FY25, and that the District also request funding from the Town of Oakland for dam maintenance again. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Lime Spreader

The Spreader is now in storage. The District can have someone look at it in the spring.

District Scholarship

Last month, Seth had given the Board a copy of the scholarship rules and rubric and asked members to look them over and bring any changes back for this meeting. Smokey said that he is concerned about the rubric. Seth has already gotten emails from guidance counselors at the schools asking about the scholarship. It is a good idea to advertise it earlier, as there may be more applicants.

Smokey asked Seth to send the rules and rubric out to all the Board members again with specific questions so that Dorsey can get caught up on what is going on with it and participate as well. Smokey asked Seth to give a guideline as to when Board members must respond so that a decision can be made at the January Board meeting.

Smokey suggested adding Veterinary medicine to the list of covered majors. Butch added that it should be Large Animal Veterinary medicine specifically. Jeannie suggested that for marketing purposes the different majors should be stated specifically because students reading the rules may not realize their major applies if it is too vague.

Kristen said that she feels the announcement for the scholarships need to go out as soon as possible. Seth gave Nevin a physical copy and ask him to have it back by the first week of January since he does not have email.

Brinker

Butch reminded the Board that Preston needs to know the amount that the District wants to put aside for liquid funds. It is possible that Preston will also give the District some guidance in getting the other funds outside of the Brinker account into interest bearing accounts.

There are two steps that the District would like to take with Preston. Step 1 is to allow Preston to figure out what to sell and what to keep. Step 2 is to have Preston help the District get other cash into higher interest accounts.

Smokey asked the Board if they are ready to tell Preston tomorrow to transfer the funds from Brinker to First United Investment group. Butch said that it is imperative that the Board do it. Nevin commented that he thinks the Board needs to emphasize to Preston Sharps that the District needs direction regarding placing other funds in interest bearing accounts. Butch answered that those are two separate entities. There are going to be liquid funds with the Brinker account investments. Placement of the other monies is separate. Butch wants the District to set up an online account so that Seth can fill the Board in on the fund monthly.

Nevin commented that he was happy that Preston did not hesitate with he was asked if he would come in and talk to the Board if there are questions.

Butch Helbig made a motion to contact Preston Sharps tomorrow (Wednesday, December 18), and have him transfer the funds in Mass Mutual, Brinker, Glen Meade to the First United Investment Group. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

MASCD Winter Meeting

The MASCD Winter Meeting is on February 3, 2025. It is a good opportunity for Supervisors to meet other Supervisors from across the State. Any Supervisor interested in going should let Seth or Jeannie know before January 17.

FY25 Budget Proposed Amendment

Seth requested an amendment to the budget for FY25 to add fundraising income, reduce the budgeted expense for dam mowing and the Cooperator's Dinner, and add in a donations expense line item.

Butch made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Kristen. It was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.