

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

**April 17, 2025**

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

#### **Participants**

- Smokey Stanton, Board Chair
- Kristen Enlow, Board Vice Chair
- Butch Helbig, Board Treasurer, arrived late
- Nevin Sines, Board Member
- Dorsey Guard, Board Member
- Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Assistant

#### **Call to Order**

Board Chairman, Smokey Stanton certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. All Board members were present.

#### **Approval/Correction of March 18, 2025 Minutes**

The Board read over the minutes from the March 18, 2025, GSCD Board of Supervisor's meeting. There were no objections. The minutes were approved.

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

Butch Helbig gave the Board an update that he and Smokey had met with Seth and Jeannie the previous week to go over the financial statements.

#### **FY25 MDA General Fund March Statement**

The Board asked if MDA will provide less funding for FY26 if not all funds are spent in FY25. Seth answered that if the District can provide justification for expense requests, they may be considered even if they were not used this year.

Butch asked how this request from MDA compares to previous years. Seth said that it is on par. The District has carryover nearly every year.

## March Income Statement and Expense Report

Dorsey Guard asked what constitutes the District tax. Seth replied that it is the tax paid for Jeannie's payroll. Half is from the District and half is paid by Jeannie.

## Financial Report

The District is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through the year. Income should be at 75% or above. Expenses should be at or below 75%. Total Income YTD is \$167,400.64. Total Expenses were \$98,289.60.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to approve the financial statements. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

Smokey asked Seth to talk to Preston and bring information about opening a new Money Market back to the Board. Nevin said that it would be nice to have two options that allow for withdrawal with no penalty.

## **District Manager's Report**

### FY26 MDA General Fund Request

FY25 Board Support was \$7,500. They are capping it to \$5,000 for FY26. Seth presented the supervisors with a proposed Budget Request. The proposed request asks for \$24,606.

Smokey asked Seth if there is a downside to asking for more money to save from using other funds. Seth answered that he would think, based on the memorandum, if the District requested a lot more money, they would be less likely to take any justifications seriously.

### WIP Progress Report

Seth sent an email out to the Supervisors about the WIP goals meeting. Goals are based on a five-year plan. The meeting is April 23, at 9 am at the District office. Board member can come to the office or join online.

## **District Conservationist's Report**

NRCS funding for the year is close to being exhausted. \$11 million has been spent statewide. The State has requested and received \$5 million that was originally allocated to other states but not used. From those extra funds Garrett was able to contract a Forest Stewardship plan and a Golden Warbler plan.

The local NRCS office is down to half of its staff. We may be able to get one back based on the priority of the agency. Some staff may be moved around to cover losses.

The lease is still on pause. Connie checked with the GSA person last week.

## **New Business**

### Activity Report

New Business Activity Report Seth went over the Activity Report for the Board. There are 19 Conservation Plans in progress. For E&S there were 5 single family plans approved, 5 timber harvests, and 2 commercial. 2 concept plans were also reviewed. For MDA and NRCS funding, there are a number of projects that will be breaking ground in a couple weeks and also a couple tree plantings coming up.

### Rental Equipment Maintenance

Seth and Jarrod Sisler did some work on the No-Till Drill. Tires have been replaced. A mechanic came last week to look at it. He provided a list of repairs that are needed. The cost would be around \$900 for the replacement parts not counting shipping.

In the past the District traded in old equipment for new. The District has had this drill for longer than any of the others in the past.

Butch Helbig made a motion that the District institute a \$350 cleaning and maintenance fee if the drill is not returned in the same condition as it was when it was picked up, effective immediately, to be paid via credit card number presented by the producer and placed on file at the time of pick-up. In order to rent the drill, producers will need to sign a form allowing the card to be charged both for the costs of the acreage use and any cleaning and maintenance fee that needs to be charged. Credit card numbers will be handled according to guidelines for PII and will be stored securely. Dorsey Guard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

It was determined that cleaning would include not only the outside of the drill but the seed box as well.

### PL-566 Flood Control Dams

There are six flood control dams in the Little Yough Watershed. The District sponsors three of them, doing mowing and maintenance. Those three dams are the 219 dam (behind the Chinese restaurant), the Deer Park dam, and the Wonderly dam. Each year, the District updates the emergency plan. In the original agreement the District was to do the maintenance, but the County and Town of Oakland were to pay the costs of the maintenance. Each year, the District request funding from both the County and the Town of Oakland, and they ignore those requests. They do not pay anything on the maintenance of the dams. Seth expressed that he thinks they are afraid of paying the annual maintenance because they are afraid it will make them liable for larger expenses associated with the dams.

Chad Bucklew explained that the service life of the dams was 50 years. Most, if not all, of that time has passed. There is no clear definition of who is responsible.

After some discussion, it was determined that it is in the best interest of the District and future health of the dams to refrain from maintenance and completing the Emergency Plan this year in an effort to push MDE and NRCS to act on a new agreement.

Smokey requested that the Board members go on a field trip to the dams so they can see them and get the history of each dam.

## **Old Business**

### Annual Work Plan

Seth stated that as requested by the Board in last month's meeting, he had met with staff to garner suggestions for the Annual Work Plan. Seth asked the Board members to look over the newly proposed plan and send any suggestions to him by May 9. Also, he asked that the Supervisors look over the preposed budget and send those comments and suggestions as well. The Board will go over both and any comments and suggestions proposed by Supervisors at the May Board meeting. They both need to be finalized in June.

### Garrett SCD Apparel

At the last Board meeting, the District Manager had requested to be able to purchase apparel for the staff which would contain the District logo. The intention is to bring recognition to the District. The current budgeted line item for field supplies still has the full \$2000 in it, and it is not expected that the District will use any of it in FY25. This money could be used to purchase the apparel.

There are 10 employees. Seth asked that the District move to purchase two clothing items for each employee and more in FY26.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to purchase apparel for all ten employees at a cost of \$1000.00 total. In FY26, a line items should be added for this expense. Additionally, each Board Supervisor should receive a hat. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Kristen Enlow made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 pm. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.