

Garrett Soil Conservation District Supervisor's Meeting

July 17, 2025

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

Participants

- Smokey Stanton, Board Chair
- Kristen Enlow, Board Vice Chair
- Butch Helbig, Board Treasurer
- Nevin Sines, Board Member
- Dorsey Guard, Board Member
- Seth Metheny, District Manager (DM)
- Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Specialist
- Keith Potter, Area Coordinator MDA, Western MD, Guest
- Cristy Enlow, Scholarship Winner, Guest
- Benjamin Nazelrod, Scholarship Winner, Guest
- Loretta Collins, MDA, Guest

Call to Order

Board Chairman, Smokey Stanton certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All Board members were present. Smokey greeted guests and introductions were conducted.

Scholarship Presentation

Scholarship winners, Cristy Enlow and Benjamin Nazelrod were recognized and presented with a certificate and \$1000 scholarship checks. Photos were taken.

Approval/Correction of June 26, 2025 Minutes

Kristen Enlow asked that the minutes be corrected to read that she recused herself and left the building during the scholarship discussion rather than just that she left the room. Dorsey Guard made a motion to accept the June 26, 2025, Minutes as corrected. Kristen Enlow seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion by Keith Potter

The District Operations MOU has been completed and was delivered to the District.

Questions were raised about the reduction in Cover Crop funding. Previously, the State was using carryover to fund Cover Crop. That has been depleted. The payout amount had to be cut to stay on budget.

Presentation by Loretta Collins

Loretta's job is to assist the State Committee. The State Committee is a partnership. It does not just support the opinions of MDA. Loretta reminded Smokey that his term is up in October and that he should think about whether he wants to apply again.

Treasurer's Report

Butch said that everything is operating within the budget. He has asked Seth to ask First United some questions regarding the Holdings investment and bring the information back to the Board.

FY25 Financial Report

Seth let the Board know that carryover can be put into the Money Market. It is still accessible because seven transactions per month are allowed.

Much of the Carryover is restricted to its use, however unrestricted funds can be used at the Board's discretion. MDA funds can only be used for line items associated with approved MDA expenses.

Kristen Enlow made a motion to accept the FY25 MDA General Fund June Statement, the June Income Statement & Expenses Report, the June First United Holdings Report, and the FY25 Financial Report. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. No one was opposed. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report

District Manager's Report

MASCD Annual Meeting

Late sign up for the meeting is now over. Dorsey Guard is the only supervisor who has signed up. Dorsey asked that his wife be added for a dinner ticket. Seth, Chad, and Jeannie are also attending.

District Conservationist's Report

The lease is frozen and there is nothing new to report. Reorganization is being held up in the courts. They are shuffling people to cover vacancies. Some are temporary reassignments. Nationwide part of the reason for reassignments is that there is 26% to 28% less staff from 2024.

There will be a new federal person in the Garrett office due to the "Return to Office" policy. He is from Rural Development. His name is Logan Mongold, and he will be here starting August 4th. We have no idea how long he will be here. We will be providing keys, supplies, and a printer. We will not be supervising him. His work is independent of the District.

The Local Workgroup information came out Monday. September 26 is the deadline to have a Local Workgroup meeting. Comments need to be in by October 10. This year, it will be County by County. There is no Local Workgroup funding, so it is being utilized as a public comment to gain information toward the Farm Bill rather than to select guidelines for projects for funding.

Dorsey asked for an explanation of the Workgroup. Members of community groups can join in the meeting. They need to write a letter as to why they feel they are qualified to be in the

Workgroup. Some of the agencies that have been involved are Forestry, DNR Fisheries, Farm Bureau, Extension, etc. Sometimes there are members of the public. The meetings are open to the public. It was asked that Jeannie advertise the Workgroup at least 14 days prior to the meeting. The meeting is to be held an hour prior to the next Board meeting on August 19. Jeannie is to reserve the Extension Board room for the Workgroup and Board meeting. Comments generated by the Workgroup will be reviewed in the September Board meeting.

New Business

Activity Report

There are 66 Producers that the District is working with actively for projects or plans. EQIP has 87 applications. Seth attended the Management Excellence for Conservation Partners Conference, which was June 10-12. Maryland State Envirothon was held in Garrett County June 11-12. The FFA State Convention was June 23.

Erosion & Sediment Control Update

Seth suggested that there needs to be a change to the Revision fee amount. Currently, the District charges a flat fee of \$200 for the review of any plan submitted that needs to have revisions. Single Family plans only pay \$150 for 30,000 sq ft for the first review. Commercial plans pay \$300 for the first acre and \$200 per additional acre. The flat \$200 Revision Review fee is hurting single families. Seth suggested changing the flat fee to a fee of 50% of the original Review fee. Butch Helbig commented that this is a fair formula.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to change the Revision Review fee amount from a flat \$200 to a fee that would equal 50% of the original Review fee for the specific plan. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FY26 CBTF MOU

It outlines what the State wants us to do with the funding and how much they will pay to do it. Smokey will need to sign the MOU. There were no objections.

FY26 MDA General Fund MOU

All the MDA General funds have been received for this FY and are in the bank.

Old Business

FY26 Budget and the Annual Work Plan were postponed by the Board due to the time.

A discussion on how high-intensity storms is affecting erosion and sediment control plans, especially solar plans. There have been a few intense rain events that have caused localized flooding off a solar site.

Smokey asked if the County could adopt stricter requirements. Garrett County standards are for a two-year storm. The District can push for an increase to a 10-year, 20-year, or 50-year storm. Nevin agreed with the concern.

There were no objections to adjourning the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.