

**Garrett Soil Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting January 20, 2026**

Participants

Kristen Enlow, Acting Chair, Via phone
Butch Helbig, Board Treasurer
Nevin Sines, Board Member
Dorsey Guard, Board Member
Patrick Sines, Board Member
Seth Metheny, District Manager (DM)
Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Specialist
Preston Sharps, First United Holdings, Guest

Certification of Quorum and Call to Order

Kristen Enlow, acting Board Chair, certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Patrick Sines has been sworn in and is in place as an official board member.

Introduction of Guests

Preston Sharps from First United Holdings came to discuss the District's investment account. It is bound by State of Maryland rules. Rates may go down. With the laddered portfolio it helps balance out lows. Nothing concerns Preston with the account. There are two bonds over 6%, with one being over 7%. Those will be kept as long as possible. Preston is available if needed and will return next year for another overview.

Approval/Correction of December 16, 2025, Minutes

Dorsey Guard made a motion to approve the December 16, 2025, minutes. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kristen and Butch met with Seth to go over the Treasurer's Report last week.

Sustain Our Future Grant

There is \$87,183.35 remaining. The District is in talks with FFA, 4-H, and Camp Hickory regarding needs they may have. There are no requests to approve tonight.

The MDA General Fund December statement and December income statement were reviewed. Patrick Sines made a motion to accept the financial reports. Dorsey Guard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

District Manager's Report

MASCD Winter Meeting

Chad and Seth will be attending the Winter MASCD meeting, February 9 & 10. Mike Mason is going to give an update on legislation affecting Soil Conservation Districts. Seth will bring to the next Board meeting any potential Bill information so that the Board can voice support or opposition.

Garrett County Budget Request

Scott Weeks has asked that the District make its FY27 budget request by close of business on February 20. A request to fund half of the administrative specialist position will be prepared for the February board meeting

District Conservationist's Report

There is no timeline for EQIP rankings yet. Looking at the Farm Bill this year, funding should remain level or have a small uptick. EQIP will stay the same. CSP will become more like EQIP this year, which may help smaller producers needing small projects. CSP should provide \$6 million across the state this year.

January 15 is the deadline for the first round for EQIP and CSP. The District has 60 applications right now in line for possible funding, of which 20-30 are carried over from last year.

There will likely be a second round later. Had the NRCS staff not been on furlough for so long, we could have had more applications completed and submitted for the first round. Staff did not have enough time to do all the work involved.

There is a lease at the current office building through the end of September. Previous work on a lease for another location has hit a roadblock but work on it is continuing.

New Business

Activity Report

There are 14 Conservation Plans in progress. One was completed and signed. There is ongoing work with 58 producers in the County. The District attended the Western Maryland RC&D Quarterly Board meeting and MDA Staff attended MDA Sexual Harassment Training. Progress is slow because the District has only 2 Technicians but does have some engineering help from regional NRCS staff.

Old Business

One of the developers that has a commercial plan that needed to be reviewed for E&S called to complain about the length of time it has taken his plan to be approved for a grading permit. With this plan, the District made suggestions for how to do the plan a year ago with comments to the Concept plan. Those were not incorporated into the plan when it was submitted. The problem with how long the permit is taking is mainly because the concept review comments and the revisions that were requested were not added to the plan.

Jeannie recommended that the District upgrade website malware security for all three websites. Of primary concern to the District is protection of personal information and credit card numbers, backdoors, and mining bots, in addition to malware that could potentially infect visitor browsers. Nevin Sines made a motion that the District purchases SiteLock Security for all three websites, Dorsey Guard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p