

# Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

February 17, 2026

## Garrett Soil Conservation District Board Room

### Participants

- Kristen Enlow, Acting Chair, Via phone
- Butch Helbig, Board Treasurer
- Nevin Sines, Board Member
- Dorsey Guard, Board Member
- Patrick Sines, Board Member
- Kevin Corbin, Associate Board Member
- Seth Metheny, District Manager (DM)
- Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist (DC)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Specialist

### Certification of Quorum and Call to Order

Kristen Enlow, acting Board President, certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Kevin Corbin has joined the Board as an Associate Member.

### Approval/Correction of January 20, 2026, Minutes

Dorsey Guard made a motion to accept the January 20, 2026 minutes. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Treasurer's Report

Butch and Dorsey met with Seth and Jeannie on February 12, to discuss the financial reports and agenda.

### FY26 MDA General Fund January Statement

Kristen Enlow asked if the carryover could be applied to the malware purchase for the websites. Seth said that it can with authorization for the regular website. Outreach funds from the General Account could also be used.

### First United Holdings Statement

The First United Holdings Investment took a loss in January.

### Grant Expenditure Report

There were no expenditures for the Sustain Our Future Grant in January.

Patrick Sines made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Dorsey Guard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### District Manager's Report

The District had an open position that was originally supposed to be advertised in January. MDA pulled the pin and placed it in another district. MDA is still planning to hire a Technician for Garrett, but it will be advertised locally instead of statewide.

## Grant Spending Request

Seth met with Garrett County 4H staff in December to ask if they have any needs for equipment or supplies for 4-H. Seth presented the Board with a list that was given to him by the 4-H. He also emailed the organization overseeing the grant to get their approval. He has not yet heard back. In addition, Seth suggested the District also purchase a rainfall simulator nozzle which will provide control of the amount of water sprayed and a tank and pump so that the simulator can be used in places where there is no water source.

One of the items on the 4-H Request list is an orchard to be planted at the 4-H camp to be utilized as a food source for both those visiting the camp and wildlife. The cost is approximately \$3000. Costs include purchase of the trees, tree tubes, and a demo site for rainwater collection to water the trees. Jeannie requested that the Board pre-approve this request so that trees for the orchard can be taken from the District's Fruit Tree & Bush sale as soon as it is approved by the grant organization. This will allow the District to better manage tree stock so close to the end of the sale.

Butch Helbig made a motion that the District use the Sustain Our Future Grant money to pay for the "Food Forest Installation at the MD 4-H Camping Center" which includes purchase of 100 fruit trees of differing kinds obtained from the GSCD Fruit Tree & Bush sale, ripening at various times throughout the summer; tree tubes; and a demo site for rainwater collection, at a cost of approximately \$3000.00. Trees will be planted by District staff and 4-H staff and students. Dorsey Guard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to use Sustain Our Future Grant money to pay for a Nozzle Tower at a cost of \$1,299.00 and a Field Day Unit for \$1,799.00 both are for the rainfall simulator. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members requested to have a demonstration of the simulator with its new equipment when all Board members can be present. They would also like to see demonstrations of any other equipment purchased.

## **District Conservationist's Report**

Not much has changed with NRCS since the last Board of Supervisors meeting. There are no ranking questions yet. Originally, applications were to have been ranked by Friday, February 13. They have not given an official revised deadline for rankings and applications, but it may be March 6 for applications and March 13 for ranking. There will be a second round later in the year. It is important for Garrett to have applications ready for the second round ahead as there may be funds left from other states that can be filtered to Garrett. Chad is hoping to know more by the next Board of Supervisors meeting.

The lease plan that NRCS has been working on for Garrett for the past three years has been discontinued due to technicality. The District has a lease here in the same building until September 27. Negotiations for a new space are starting at the beginning.

There are 70 applications through Garrett NRCS. 48-50 are through EQIP and 25-30 are CSP. 2 are Syrup Energy Evaluations, 21 high tunnel, 13 fencing, 11 forestry, 21 grazing, 2 hedgerow/pollinator, 5 HUA, and 25 water. Some applications have more than one practice. John Grose has been extremely busy calling producers and going out to farms to have applicants sign eligibility documents.

## **New Business**

### Activity Report

There are 7 E & S plans under review, 8 plans that were reviewed and require revisions, and 6 plans that were reviewed and approved in January. The two Garrett SCD planners attended the Hay and Pasture Conference.

## **Old Business**

### Garrett County Budget Request

The County has asked that the District have its request for FY27 funding submitted by February 20, but Scott Weeks is saying he can take it until Sunday if necessary. Seth presented the Board with a proposed letter requesting funding. He set the amount the same as last year at \$27,707.00. Dorsey Guard made a motion to increase the amount of the District's request to Garrett County for payment toward the Administrative Assistant's salary by 6% from last year. Nevin Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### Annual Work Plan

The Annual Work Plan should be approved at the same time as the new budget. The new budget should be approved before July 1. Seth included last year's work plan in the Supervisor packet for reference. Seth asked Board members to read through last year's work plan and find suggestions for things to keep and things that need to be changed.

### District Bylaws

Seth presented the Board with two examples of SCD Bylaws. One is for St Mary's County, which is short and concise. The other is for Dorchester County and is detailed and extensive. Seth asked that the Board read both before next month and come with an idea of what the Garrett District wants from its Bylaws.

### No-Till Drill

The new No-Till Drill was delivered this morning. Butch Helbig brought his tractor to help unload it. They took the old Drill with them back to the shop and said they will give us an invoice for the amount owed after they evaluate the old Drill. The original quote was \$29,000.00 for the old Drill, but they are now saying it could go up or down based on their final assessment.

Nevin Sines made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Patrick Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.