

Garrett Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors Meeting

September 15, 2026

Participants

- Kristen Enlow, Chairman
- 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)
- Jeannie Frazee, Administrative Specialist
- Keith Potter, MDA Resource Conservation Regional Supervisor

Certification of Quorum and Call to Order

Kristen certified a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval/Correction of August 18, 2026 Minutes

Dorsey Guard made a motion to accept the August 18, 2026 minutes. Patrick Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Kristen, Butch, Seth, and Jeannie met on Wednesday, September 9th to go over the financial reports and agenda.

FY27 MDA General Fund August Statement

The District will now see a line for Earned Interest from interest generated from funds placed in the new money market.

Grant Expenditure Report

Seth contacted the Sustain Our Future Foundation (SOFF) to find out if the District could put remaining funds in a trust to seed scholarships. The District is looking at using \$15,000 to \$20,000 to establish the scholarship trust. Seth has not yet heard back from the foundation.

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

Chairman's Report

The District held a meeting regarding the dams on August 21 in the District conference room. Kristen, Butch, Seth, Chad, and Jeannie were in attendance. Details will be discussed in the District Manager's Report. Kristen also attended the Financial Meeting.

District Manager's Report

Grant Update

The District is utilizing SOFF grant funds to complete a water diversion project and public forest project at the 4-H Camp.

Both Oakland and Northern Garrett FFA's have requested funding for the FFA National Convention. Oakland is requesting \$3,239.21 for housing, registration, and travel expenses. Northern Garrett is requesting \$5,216.00 for housing.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to use the Sustain Our Future grant to provide \$3,239.21 to Southern High FFA and \$5,216.00 to Northern High FFA for the State FFA Convention as requested. Patrick Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PL-566 Dam Update

The District held a meeting on August 21. The Oakland mayor and Town Council, County Commissioners, County EMS, and County Administrator were invited. In attendance were Larry Tichnell (County Commissioner), Fred Gregg (Oakland Council President), Andrew Sauder (Oakland Mayor), Valerie Stemac (Oakland Town Administrator), Chad Fike (GC Planning and Zoning), Justin Orendorf (Director EMS), Kevin Null (County Administrator), Kristen Enlow (GSCD Board President), Butch Helbig (GSCD Treasurer), Seth Metheny (GSCD District Manager), Chad Bucklew (GSCD District Conservationist), and Jeannie Frazee (GSCD Administrative Specialist).

Seth Metheny gave a presentation to provide the group with information about the NRCS report that states that the dams are no longer in compliance with current regulations and they will need to be updated. There is significant cost associated with the upgrades. The District suggested

Larry Tichnell suggested that responsibility should fall to the State. However, with the current state economy it is not likely they will be interested in assisting with the dams since the value of them is mainly local to Garrett County.

Fred Gregg expressed that the County, the Town of Oakland, and the GSCD need to work together to find a solution.

The 50-year agreement for GSCD to maintain the dams has expired. Neither the County nor the Town of Oakland has been willing to provide any funding for several years now to pay for maintenance despite requests from GSCD. The Town of Oakland and the County did fund this years ago. The original agreement stated that the Town of Oakland and the County would split the cost of maintenance.

New Business

Cooperator's Dinner

The only date the Bittinger Mennonite Gymnasium has available is October 29. The cost is \$20 per person for two meats with one being roast beef. Last year, the District paid \$18 for adults, \$12 for children 6-12 and free under 5.

Dorsey Guard made a motion to hold the Cooperator's Dinner at the Bittinger Mennonite Gymnasium on October 29 and to keep ticket prices the same as last year. Board members and

staff and spouses of Board members and staff will be free. Dignitaries will be free. Patrick Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Dorsey Guard made a motion to approve the Annual Work Plan. Butch Helbig seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further comments, Nevin Sines made a motion to close the meeting. Patrick Sines seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.