

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING

April 19, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel, and Katharine Dubansky were the other Supervisors present. Chad Bucklew, Butch Helbig, and Chris Herbert were also in attendance.

The minutes from the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting were approved as submitted without objection.

Monthly reports were not yet available from Boal and Associates, so Chris gave an update of the accounts per the March bank statements.

District Manager's report presented to the Board:

- Backbone Solar Design is still being worked on by the engineering firm and MDE. Chris and Randy had a zoom meeting with MDE. There is still a lot of work to do to get the permit.
- An update on the Drill and Spreader was provided. The spreader is out and being used. The drill still needed the maintenance work done by Bishoffs. Chuck will call them to speed them up because we have 5 cooperators waiting to use the drill. This was ratified without objection.
- Upon being appointed as the Acting District Manager, Chris mentioned some of his physical restrictions with the Board.
- The Coloring Contest photo/info was emailed to the Elementary Principals throughout the county. Bill suggested that Dry Run Mennonite School and Calvary Christian be added to the list.
- The District Scholarship info was provided to the high school counselors; as well as the counselors/financial aid departments at Garrett College, Frostburg State, and Potomac State.
- Chris spoke with Willie Lantz, Extension, about getting the vacant board member position filled as quickly as possible.

Chairman's Report from Smokey:

- A discussion was held on Alisha Mulkey's WIP Presentation on where the district is with the WIP Goals and what direction we need to head. A District Work Plan also needs to be developed.
- Smokey signed the Letter of Engagement with Boal's to do the accounting, but a signed copy can not be found in the office.
- Smokey mentioned an article where the Solar Industry can take up to 2 years for a new solar farm to be accepted into the grid. Butch Helbig agreed.
- Smokey made the Board aware that in the Legislative Session (January 2023), a bill will be introduced so that Sediment & Erosion Fees could now be addressed without the County's approval.

- Smokey provided the Board with District Manager position descriptions from 3 other counties in MD and 1 from PA. He believes that Roger's description was written just for Roger and Board could make amendments to the new DM's description.

Chad :

- The activity report provided showed the current work status of the current jobs.
- Garrett County has received 3 Local Work Group contracts for either the Gold Winged Warbler or Livestock.
- The County Envirothon will be held at Camp Hickory on April 28, 2022. There will be 4 competing teams with 2 from Northern and 2 from Southern.
- Chad also gave an update on the Indiana Bat. Fish & Wildlife thought about tough restrictions from April – June, but that has been lifted. A small portion from Grantsville to Finzel still falls within a zone of concern. 2 of our cooperators may be effected.

Old Business:

- The Board approved Chris Herbert as the Acting District Manager and gave him the authority to approve the Sediment & Erosion Plans on the District's behalf. Randy is still the first line of review for Single Family, Timber Harvest, and Commercial plans.
- The Board was notified of the upcoming Sexual Harassment Training in Cumberland.
- Two changes were made to Chris' Admin Assistant job posting. Sent to The Republican.
- The Final MOU between NRCS and the District was received.

New Business:

- Upcoming Phase III WIP Virtual Meeting April 29, 2022 from 9 am – 10 am. All Board members will be emailed the meeting link.
- MDA's FY'22 4th Quarter Payment will be coming by check.

Public Comment:

- The Board had a discussion with Butch Helbig about how projects are funded in the County with the "Flush Tax" and if the State of Maryland had any input on projects/grants for the watersheds that drain to the Gulf of Mexico.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm, so the Board could enter into an Executive Session.