

## **MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

May 17, 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 April 19, 2022 Board Meeting were approved; with 1 correction. The legislative bill that Smokey mentioned will be introduced in January 2023 and not in effect at that date.

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

District Manager's report presented to the Board:

- The Coloring Contest winners were selected and will be contacted.
- 2 resumes were received for the Administrative Assistant Position. The Board would like to re-advertise the position once the Employee Agreement is ironed out. Both applicants were notified that they will be interviewed after the next ad is placed.
- The District Scholarship received no applications. We will try again in August/September.
- Chris spoke with Willie Lantz, Extension, about getting the vacant board member position filled as quickly as possible.

Chairman's Report from Smokey:

- A District Work Plan still needs to be developed.
- The District's Mission and Vision Statements were reviewed.
- No backlog with S&E Plans on the District's end, but backlog for Ag Land Preservation Plans/Updates.
- The Board discussed to proper route to inquire with MDA on how to receive personnel/funding to carry out yearly planning goals, WIP Goals, and planning backlog with the County's Ag Land Preservation Plans. A letter should be drafted to MDA and local legislators.

Chad :

- The activity report provided showed the current work status of the current jobs.
- Envirothon consisted of 4 teams. Two from Southern Garrett and 2 from Northern.
- Will Gindlesberger will start as a NRCS Soil Con on May 22. Chad and Rachel Yeatman were in communication about filling Will's old USDA NRCS Technician's position.
- Preapprovals were released for EQIP Round 1 for 9 additional contracts. 5 were Gold Winged Warbler habitat contracts. One application was for Forestry, 1 for Forest Stewardship, and 2 for livestock applications. Both livestock applications included

Roofed Heavy Use Area Protection and Ag Waste Storage Structures. One of those applications was slightly less than \$400k. The other application reached the \$450k Payment Limitation Amounts for the 2018 Farm Bill.

- No contracts have yet been approved to date. The Garrett Local Work Group projects are under review at the present. One applicant who was preapproved declined the contract offer.
- There has been another update for the policy relating to the Indiana Bat Management. Julie Devers sent an email with updated guidance on May 5<sup>th</sup>. For most of the County, Golden Winged Warbler and Forestry activities are determined to not be detrimental to IN Bat and may proceed. However; for projects within a 5 mile radius hibernacula area in the NE part of the County, some restrictions will be in place. In the 5 mile radius, species-specific cutting restrictions or a no harvest period from May through July will be required. An additional meeting with NRCS, MD DNR Forestry, and USFWS is upcoming.

#### Old Business:

- The Board was notified of the upcoming Sexual Harassment Training in Cumberland.
- The Board gave Chris permission to follow up with Willie on the UMD Extension Replacement and to run the ad, if need be.

#### New Business:

- The MASCD Annual Meeting Info was provided to the Board. Reservations are due to Chris before July 31, so he can meet the August 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- The Draft Agenda for the Western Area MASCD Meeting for July 14<sup>th</sup> was provided.

#### Public Comment:

- There was no Public Comment this month.

The public meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm