

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING

June 21, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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 May 17, 2022 Board Meeting were approved as read.

Boal and Associates provided Profit & Loss Packets for Cash and Accrual Basis. Both were in a Year To Date format and not necessarily a monthly breakdown and then the year to date versus the budget. The transaction list by vendor was included. We will be looking for a End of Year Report from Boal and Associates. The extension of Boal and Associates was discussed, but no further action was taken.

There was a notification on the Brinker Account that Core Fund will be changed into a FCASH interest bearing cash product for non-retirement accounts. Bill made a motion to not change anything at this time. Kris seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

District Manager's report presented to the Board:

- The annual dues were paid to the Western MD RC&D and MD State Envirothon.
- Chris mentioned to the Board how the 30% COVID-Related Material Price Adjustment works for MACS and that it has been extended through the end of the calendar year.

Chairman's Report from Smokey:

- Admin Assistant Budget Modification needs to read, For Salary and on Items the Board sees fit.
- He wants Chris to provide, in an email, the Board with the Employee Agreement.

Chad :

- The activity report provided showed the current work status of the current jobs.
- Chad announced that Diane Gray started on May 23 as the Acting State Conservationist for MD. Ms. Gray is currently the Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy in Michigan. Rob McAfee is now back in his regular assignment as ASTC for Field Operations.
- Chad updated the board on EQIP obligations to date. Currently, 9 applications have been approved as contracts. The value of the approved is slightly more than \$200,000. Two applications with a cumulative value of \$450,000 are currently under obligation review. Five additional forestry/wildlife habitat projects, with a value of about \$136,000 have also been preapproved for contract development. The second round of general EQIP applications were recently ranked, and preapprovals are expected soon. There is the potential for a couple more applications to be preapproved. The value of these would be an additional amount of

approximately \$260,000. At least one of the pending Round 2 approvals would be a structural (Ag Waste Storage Structure) project. There is also one Conservation Stewardship Program application that staff are working on presently for FY 2022.

- Chad and Chris summarized the activities report for the last month. It was noted that both EQIP and MACS funded projects are included in the design list.
- Chad and Chris also reported on their attendance MD Dam Safety tabletop exercise. The event was held on June 16th at the former armory building in Oakland. Chad noted that several staff from FEMA, as well as local agency and water board staff from the MD and WV region were present. The NRCS State Engineer for MD, J'Que Jones, was present with Area Engineer Warren Johnson and Civil Engineering Tech Jeff Teets. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a walkthrough of roles and actions for a hypothetical weather event and the resulting effects on PL-566 watershed dams, Jennings Randolph Dam, Savage River Dam, and local infrastructure.
- Chad also reported on a meeting held on June 17th at the Appalachian Lab at Frostburg, with staff of NRCS, MD DNR Natural Heritage, and Jeff Larkin from American Bird Conservancy/ Indiana U of PA. The meeting was split between powerpoint presentations in the morning and two forest site visits in the afternoon. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the Golden Winged Warbler program approach that NRCS has taken, as well as to discuss potential programmatic changes for the future. Steve Strano, the MD NRCS State Resource Conservationist, and Julie Devers, the MD NRCS State Biologist presented at the meeting. Jacob Metcalf, Garrett NRCS Soil Conservationist, Slater Hafer, Allegany NRCS Soil Conservationist, and Dylan Kesner, MD NRCS Forester, were all a key part of the presentation as well.

Old Business:

- The State Envirothon Dues was ratified at this meeting after being agreed upon in a last minute email. Katharine presented the motion and Kris seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Bill made a motion, seconded by Kris, to readvertise for the Admin Assistant in The Republican, Times-News, MD Job Service, FSU, WVU, Garrett College, UMD, Facebook, Indeed, Monster, etc stating a salary range of \$40k-\$50k a year based on experience.
- The Board asked Chris to contact Jennifer Thorn Bentlejewski about the Extension Board Member Appointment.

New Business

- The Board unanimously decided not to pay annual dues to Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees since it was not in the budget.
- The Board had nothing to add to the Western MD MASCD Meeting or the venue for next year's event.
- Chad suggested that the dams just be mowed and not worry about the brush cutting at this time. The Board agreed without opposition.

Public Comment:

- There was no Public Comment this month.

The public meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm