

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

March 15, 2022  
7:00 PM

The in-person meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Kris Enlow (via telephone) and Bill Buckel. Chad Bucklew, Butch Helbig and Roger Kitzmiller were also present.

Minutes from the February 15, 2022, Board Meeting were approved as submitted, without objection.

Monthly financial reports in the form of checking (3), money market and Brinker account balances, from Boal and Associates were presented (included in the Meeting Packet).

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: (COVID-19) Federal employees continue working a combination of teleworking and office visits. Visitors are not allowed in the office. Employees continue to wear masks and maintain social distancing. NRCS restricts the number of office staff present to 25% of the total employees (4). The stricter of the guidelines for each agency are followed by all staff. Schedules are arranged to include field work and other outdoor activities in an effort to keep the number of in-office employees at 25% or lower.
- The arrangement with the contractual grading permit reviewer is working well.
- The State and Local checkbooks were delivered to Boal and Associates; checks will be distributed from that office.
- FYI – County Envirothon Training will be held April 13<sup>th</sup>; the County Envirothon Competition will be held April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Minutes from the winter MASCD Meeting were included in this Meeting Packet.
- Roger informed the Board that an E&SC Plan submittal for the Backbone Solar Project was received last week by the county; Stormwater Management was not included and the Plan is not ready for final review and approval.

Chad started by announcing that the interview process for the NRCS Soil Conservationist position has been completed. An applicant has been selected, and the tentative offer has been accepted. The timeline of when the employee will be brought on board is not known at this time. Chad highlighted some of the ongoing projects in the Activities Report. Chad noted that the Garrett Local Work Group approvals should be known within the next week or so. Statewide competition applications, such as Livestock and Grazing, will be ranked by early April, and approvals should be known by mid-April. Statewide, applications are down a bit this year. So, there is hope that Garrett applicants may be more competitive this year for funding. Chad mentioned that there have been ongoing discussions between field staff and the Resources staff regarding wildlife and forestry practices and the potential impacts on the Indiana Bat. Communications have been ongoing with MD State Resources Conservationist Steve Strano, NRCS State Biologist Julie Devers, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to determine what may be necessary to ensure that Golden Winged Warbler and general forestry practices do not harm

the Indiana Bats or their habitats. Seasonal forest cutting restrictions may be instituted to protect the species. Chad also announced that the Garrett Quality Review that had been scheduled for next week has been postponed. Staff turnover was a factor in delaying the review.

- A report will be developed and presented to the board showing each employee who works in the office and the current projects they are working on.
- Regarding filling the vacant Administrative Assistant/Secretary position, Smokey is in contact with Byron Petrauskas to discuss, among other items: filling the position with a full-time State Employee; the salary the state will contribute to the position.
- The schedule for supervisors to receive Sexual Harassment Prevention Training includes a new venue for Garrett and Allegany County Supervisors and was included in the Meeting Packet. The new venue is for March 22, 2022 at the South Cumberland Library, 12:00 to 2:00 PM
- The vacant GSCD Board of Supervisors position will be filled through the Extension Office. Roger will contact Willie Lantz and try to help facilitate filling the position.
- The final paycheck for the former Administrative Assistant was discussed in Executive Session.
- One bid was received from Gap Run Farm/William Bishoff for repairs to the No-Till Drill. The bid from Gap Run Farm and the Contract with Gap Run Farm were approved with a contingency that if necessary parts are not available, extra time will be granted to complete the repairs – Kris/Bill (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- Transitioning to a new District Manager was discussed in Executive Session.

At 9:00 PM, the Board went into Executive Session (per the Agenda), pursuant to statutory authority to closed session General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b), to discuss personnel matters, specifically: the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. All attendees vacated the room with the exception of the three (3) Board Members (Kris Enlow - via telephone), the District Conservationist and the District Manager.