

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

September 18, 2018
District Office

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman George Bishoff. Other supervisors in attendance were Smokey Stanton, Katharine Dubansky and Kris Enlow. Also in attendance were Carrie Colebank, Chad Bucklew, and Shaun Sanders.

A motion to approve the August 18, 2018 minutes was made by Kris, seconded by Smokey.

The following report of state funds for the month of September 2018 was presented and approved:

Balance – August 1, 2018	\$4,360.58
Receipts – August 1, 2018 – August 31, 2018.....	0.00
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	\$ 4,360.58
Expenditures – August 1, 2018 – August 31, 2018.....	291.42
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Balance – August 31, 2018.....	\$ 4,069.16

The detailed reports of expenditures for all accounts for the period of August 21, 2018 to September 18, 2018 and Income vs Expenditures for the period of July 1, 2018 thru September 18, 2018 were distributed.

Shaun gave an update on the issue concerning liability insurance for districts, district supervisors, and employees. He reminded the board of the email from Montgomery SCD he forwarded to them on July 13, 2018. He offered to provide a copy of the letter Lindsay sent to Attorney General Frosh if anybody wanted one. One district has a D&O policy but is insured as a “non- profit” (503 (c)(3)) entity that might be an issue in the event they would need to use the policy. This led into a discussion about the Districts liability associated with the PL-566 Flood control Dams.

Shaun reported on an email received from MDE “directing” and “requiring” the District to retain the services of a qualified engineering consultant to conduct detailed dam safety evaluations of the three PL-566 Dams that the District is the local sponsor for. Shaun pointed out that the email was also addressed to NRCS engineers Alan Stahl and Jacob Dieguez in the state office. A question arose about the role of NRCS in responding to this issue since the dams were constructed through the PL-566 program.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the Districts legal responsibilities pertaining to the dams under Maryland law, easements that were recorded for the construction of the dams, and various agreements executed between the District and USDA under the PL-566 program. Shaun was directed to prepare a letter on behalf of the district to Alan Stahl requesting NRCS assistance in complying with MDEs request and another letter to Craig Nielson for clarification of the Districts responsibilities relating to the dams.

Chad presented the recommendations developed by the EQIP Local Work Group for NRCS program year 2019. Following discussion, a motion to approve them as presented was made by Smokey, seconded by Kriss.

Chad presented the Field Office Activities Report for the period of 8/21/18 through 9/18/18. Chad also stated that there are a few EQIP contracts that have yet to be finalized. The deadline to have these contracts obligated is Sept. 21st.

Chad reported that he and ASTC for Field Operations Rob McAfee met with Allen Wilhelm at his property on September 7th to discuss his contract options. Chad stated that he met Allen again on September 14th to deliver handouts regarding the Mediation and Appeal processes. Chad spoke with Mr. Wilhelm and ASTC Programs Jackie Byam earlier today. Chad and Jackie are preparing a letter for Mr. Wilhelm that will establish September 20th as the date that Mr. Wilhelm either accept the reimbursement offer, or have the contract be terminated by NRCS.

Shaun reported that he had not received a response to his August 27, 2018 email to Alan Stahl concerning proposed revisions to Maryland's Stormwater Regulations for construction of agricultural structures. Shaun pointed out two things:

1. Garrett County considers agricultural structures "exempt" from Stormwater Management requirements since they are also exempted from the requirement to obtain a county grading permit for agricultural buildings.
2. This may be a moot issue as the County has not shown interest in utilizing a standard SWM plan for ag structures and sees no need for it at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.