

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

December 15, 2020

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. The Meeting was conducted via phone-in conference call. Other supervisors present on the call were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, and Roger Kitzmiller were also present via telephone.

Minutes for the November 17, 2020 Board Meeting were approved as submitted, without objection.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – December 1, 2020	\$ 12,742.43
Receipts – December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 12,742.43
Expenditures – December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020	<u>100.00</u>
Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$12,642.43

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of November 17, 2020 through December 15, 2020, was distributed. The Treasurers Report was accepted and approved as submitted, without objection.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: COVID-19. Office procedures and work schedules are basically unchanged. Chad is receiving a supply of gloves, masks, and disinfectant wipes through NRCS; additional personal protective equipment will be purchased by the District as needed.
- Interviews are set to be scheduled, for applicants who were qualified, for the previously-posted Soil Conservation Associate III (Technician) position. The Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (Planner) position for Garrett County will be advertised in the near future. The District will assist in distributing the advertisement to colleges/universities, newspapers, jobs bulletin boards, etc. in the tri-state area.
- The Trash Rack Replacement invoice (\$500 per contract) was submitted with a request for an additional \$100 for bolt replacement (the need to replace the bolts was not apparent until the existing trash rack was removed). The Board approved the additional \$100 payment - Bill/Kris: vote unanimous.
- Carrie presented totals for acres planted/tons spread, and income and expenditures for the no-till drill and lime spreader.
- NACD Dues were paid (\$501)

- Information regarding the MDA Buffer Program has been posted on the District Website and Facebook Page.
- The board approved selling Waste Storage Structure warning signs, at cost, to the Allegany County District if they wish to purchase from the Garrett District in lieu of placing their own order.

Chad mentioned that the operating status for the federal employees is at the gating phase, which is the same status the beginning of the pandemic. A minimal number of employees are allowed to be present in the office in the gating phase, so the staffing of the office is relatively unchanged. Customers are not allowed to be in the office. Chad noted that one NRCS employee and one regional partnership employee are under quarantine from potential Covid exposures Thanksgiving week. Neither employee has been in the office buildings after their potential exposure. There are discussions that NRCS will be supplying offices with additional PPE, including masks and wipes. The current Continuing Resolution is due to expire later in the week. No changes are expected in the foreseeable future, but operations could be affected if it is not renewed prior to expiration. Staff are working on Farm Bill contract updates to reschedule contracts that are behind schedule. Some participants are electing to cancel existing contracts. Some projects that have completed designs are losing funding resulting from contract cancellations. The FY 21 application deadline for EQIP and most other program applications, has been set for January 8th, 2021.

Bill reported observing soil slips at the culvert replacement site at the Genus Center. Roger will check with MDE to find out what the status of the project is relative to the E&S Plan for the site.

Smokey reported listening in on the RC&D Economic Adjustment Strategy meeting concerning the VERSO (Luke Paper Mill) closure. The way forward appears to still be in the formulative stages.

The Board approved advertising the open seat on the GSCD Board of Supervisors, per requirements of the State Soil Conservation Committee. The cost approved for advertising in the Republican was \$68.25 for one week, or cost. No questions, discussion or objections pursued.

A call for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.