

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING

December 21, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel and Cameron Crawford. Chad Bucklew, Butch Helbig and Roger Kitzmiller were also present.

Minutes for the November 16, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as submitted – Without Objection

The following report of state funds was presented and approved: N/A

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A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of November 16 through December 21, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed – Kris/Bill (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: (COVID-19) Federal employees continue working a combination of teleworking and office visits. MDA is essentially open for business with a recommendation that anyone who has not been vaccinated wear a mask and maintain social distancing. NRCS is open by appointment only with a requirement that all persons wear a mask and maintain social distancing. NRCS also restricts the number of office staff present to 50% of the total employees (6). The stricter of the guidelines are followed by all staff. Schedules are arranged to include field work and other outdoor activities in an attempt to keep the number of in-office employees at 50% or lower. A sign-in sheet has been placed at the front counter in order to keep track of visitors.
- Roger informed the Board that the drill is at Bishoff's; they are still planning on using the drill. After they are finished, they will let Roger know and the district will advertise for interested parties the perform a repair assessment and submit a bid to perform the repairs.
- Roger informed the Board that Carrie Colebank has accepted another job and has submitted her resignation to Smokey and Roger.
- Smokey asked Roger to update the Board on the Backbone Mountain Solar project – Roger informed the Board that MDE has a pool of Engineering Companies that MDE has approved to perform Expedited Erosion and Sediment Control Plan reviews. The developer (Competitive Power Ventures) has engaged a firm to do an expedited review. Discussion ensued regarding the integrity of the process and the potential for a less than adequate review. There were also concerns about assuming the process may be questionable. Concerns were resolved and there were no recommendations by the Board.

Chad summarized the MASCD agreement and its role in reimbursing the District for clerical and program assistance with USDA programs. Chad noted that the current agreement is funded through December 2022. Chad also discussed the upcoming reimbursable agreement with the Western Maryland RC&D for PSS duties. The agreement with the RC&D could potentially fund 16 hours per week for assistance with USDA program support.

Chad and Roger discussed the activity report. Chad noted that the project at Cove-Run was coordinated by Chuck and involved the Partners for Wildlife fencing crew from California U. of PA.

Chad presented the application deadlines planned for FY 22, and briefly discussed the planned timelines for application selection for funding and contract obligations.

Chad discussed the Local Work Group guidelines for FY 2022. The Board elected to email past attendees, Farm Bureau, and Extension for comments to be submitted by January 7th. Chad and Roger will follow up with the Board Members by email prior to submitting the results.

- The Board voted to proceed with a request for funds from MDA to cover the cost of Erosion and Sediment Control Permit review by an outside source. The District will request funds to cover an 18 - month period (\$28,991.25 - based on a one-year projection included in the November Board Meeting packet) Cameron/Kris (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- The board approved paying \$501 NACD Dues - Kris/Bill (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- The Board approved paying \$625 to support Maryland Public Television – Bill/Kris (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- A Supervisors Travel/Reimbursement Policy was presented to and accepted by the Board – Bill/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous. Roger told the Board that with restrictions on how state money can be spent, the Policy would be subject to review and approval according to MDA budget guidelines.
- A special meeting to discuss filling the vacating Administrative Assistant Position was set for December 29th at 7:00 PM.
- The Board discussed the up-coming Sexual Harassment Prevention Training. The consensus was that members would not travel to Hagerstown to attend the training and that Smokey would try to schedule something closer.

At 8:30 PM, a motion was made by Cameron, seconded by Kris, to go into executive session, pursuant to statutory authority to close 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. The motion passed unanimously. All attendees vacated the room with the exception of the four (4) Board Members.