

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

October 19, 2021

The meeting was conducted via telephone (due to recent, potential COVID exposures at the office) and was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel, Katharine Dubansky and Cameron Crawford. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank and Roger Kitzmiller were also present.

Minutes for the September 21, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as submitted – Kris/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – September 1, 2021	\$19,716.38
Receipts – September 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 19,716.38
Expenditures – September 1, 2021 – September 30, 2021	<u>828.00</u>
Balance – September 30, 2021.....	\$18,888.38

A detailed Treasurers Report of balances and expenditures for all accounts, for the period of September 21 through October 19, 2021, was distributed. The Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed – Kris/Katharine (motion/second), vote: unanimous. Note – A decision regarding payment of NACD Dues will be decided at a later meeting.

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 received purchase prices/trade-in value quotes regarding the purchase of a new no-till drill. Quotes received from West Central Equipment, Somerset, PA and from Middletown Tractor Sales, Uniontown, PA were presented to the Board.
- Discussions between MASCD, conservation districts, MDE and NRCS are on-going in anticipation of NRCS no longer providing small pond design review and approval as of December 31, 2021.
- Roger is looking at using a contract between the District and a former engineering contractor as a template to develop an agreement between the District and Randy Storey, to assist with Erosion and Sediment Control/Timber Harvest Plan review.

- Smokey and Cameron reported on the District Budget Meeting that took place on September 28, 2021. Budget development is still in process.

Chad shared the obituary for MDA planner Jamie Snider and noted the organizations that the family had chosen for memorials. Jamie passed away in a vehicle accident the day of the last Board Meeting. Based on discussion in the preliminary meeting, Chad presented this to the board for individual choice rather than as an action item for the GSCD.

Katharine asked about the date that Jessica Aronhalt had left for her new position. Chad stated that Jessica began her new job as the Area Resource Conservationist in Morgantown on Sept. 26. Katharine also asked if the Garrett Soil Conservationist position would be backfilled. Chad responded that NRCS intends to fill the position, but that it may be as many as three to six months before interviews would be conducted.

Chad mentioned that the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 began on October 1. He briefly covered some of the practice reimbursements that were issued prior to the end of September. Also mentioned were some of the projects that are in planning and design phase. Federal program payment activity was suspended from October 1 until October 12 for the transition to the new FY.

Chad also mentioned that Farm Bill budget projections for FY 2022 seem to be similar to last year's. Given the state of current events, Chad felt that this was encouraging news.

- Roger and Chad are reviewing the revised Cooperative Agreement (between the District and NRCS) and will report back to the Board after the review is complete. The revised Cooperative Agreement was included in the packet provided to the Supervisor's for September meeting.
- The Board approved the Annual Review of District Accounts presented by Boal and Associates contingent upon Cameron's review and concurrence – Cameron/Kris (motion/second), vote: unanimous.
- The Board made an official recommendation that Kris be re-appointed to the Garrett SCD Board of Supervisors. Katharine/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous. Roger will email a recommendation letter to the SSCC following this meeting.
- A follow-up budget meeting was set for October 27, 2021
- A Local Work Group meeting will be scheduled after additional guidelines for the program are received.

Without objection, the meeting dismissed at 8:17 p.m.