

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING

February 20, 2018
District Office

Meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman George Bishoff. Other supervisors in attendance were Smokey Stanton, Kris Enlow, and Katharine Dubansky. Also in attendance were Cameron Crawford, Carrie Colebank, Chad Bucklew, and Shaun Sanders.

A motion to approve the December 19, 2017 minutes was made by Smokey, seconded by Katharine.

The following report of state funds for the month of January 2018 were presented and approved:

Balance – January 1, 2018	\$ 4,123.53
Receipts – January 1, 2018 – January 31, 2018.....	<u>4,225.00</u>
	\$ 8,348.53
Expenditures – January 1, 2018 – January 31, 2018.....	<u>3,495.33</u>
Balance – January 31, 2018	\$ 4,853.20

The detailed report of expenditures for all accounts for the period of December 19, 2017 thru February 20, 2018 and the Income Versus Expenditures report for the period of July 1, 2017 thru February 20, 2018 were distributed.

George, Smokey, Carrie, Chad and Shaun reported on the winter MASCD meeting in Annapolis. No legislation of major interest to Districts has been introduced so far. The two main issues were to encourage the legislature to fully fund the staff and operations budget for the Soil Conservation Districts and to fully fund the MACS Program for FY 2018.

Shaun presented a notice from the county Director of Finance, Scott Weeks, for submitting FY 2019 county budget request. Scott stated that “the message is a repeat of last year” and advised that the county needs to operate under a flat budget where and when possible. A discussion took place concerning the effectiveness of meeting with county government in the past to discuss SCD needs and or concerns. It was decided to submit the FY 2019 at the same level as FY2018 but to be prepared to meet with them for the next budget cycle to discuss our request.

Shaun presented the updated Employment Agreement & Schedule A, and Position Description for the Administrative Assistant position for Georges' signature. (It was missed at the December meeting and there was no meeting in January.) Shaun reminded the board that a response was still needed concerning Carries proposal made at the November meeting pertaining to the MASCD/NRCS agreement for administrative support. It was decided to table the discussion till the March meeting to allow board members to think about it.

Discussion took place on the notice about responsible personnel training for Forest Harvest Operations that was sent out for board members to review on February 2, 2018. Shaun asked the boards input on whether it should go out under the Chairman's signature or as an unsigned document. Smokey expressed his view that he thought the notice was vague. He volunteered to rewrite it to address his concerns. Also, Katharine expressed her view, which the board concurred with, that applicants should provide a photo copy of their certification with the E & S application.

Shaun brought up the issue of losses incurring in the Brinker account and suggested that the District may want to consider reviewing it. He reported that he and Carrie had been in contact with John Rose (Edward Jones Investments) about reviewing the account to see if they could offer something more favorable. Mr. Rose said he was willing to review the account and meet with the board. Cameron pointed out that First United Bank & Trust provided a similar service for these types of accounts. It was decided to meet with both parties to review the performance of the Brinker Account.

Smokey and Shaun reported on the 2/15/2018 State Soil Conservation Committee meeting. Craig Nielsen, Assistant Attorney General with MDA, gave an overview of his offices legal support to conservation districts. Elmer Weibley, District Manger Washington SCD, reported on Washington SCDs experience with a lawsuit over with a stream restoration project and also discussed the importance of having a written manual for managing Human Resources issues within the District office.

Chad presented the field office activities report for the period of 12/20/17 to 2/20/18. Chad briefly discussed the recent federal furloughs, and their effects on the office operations. Effects of the furloughs on partner agencies and the potential effects on rental agreements were also discussed. Chad presented a brief summary of Garrett Local Work Group and Golden Winged Warbler preapprovals. A summary report was provided for the preapproved applications. Chad also provided a summary of the recent visit to Maryland eastern shore offices by USDA NHQ official Sam Clovis.

Carrie presented a draft of a newsletter she put together and briefed the board on cost associated with a USPS Bulk Permit and mailing cost.

Shaun reported that Hans and Dwight talked to him at the state committee meeting and decided to do the manure injection demonstration field day in Garrett County on April 17, 2018.

Shaun reported he had met with Jerry Kestner of Kestner Computer Sales & Repairs about converting some of the 135 mm slides and VCR tapes to digital format. The cost of converting the tapes is \$5.00/tape and the slides are 40 cents each for the first 100 and 35 cents for the next 100. A motion to convert about 10 or 12 VCR tapes and \$100.00 worth of slides was made by Katharine, seconded by Smokey.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00 p.m.