

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS' MEETING

February 21, 2017
District Office

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman George Bishoff. Supervisors in attendance were Smokey Stanton, Katharine Dubansky, and Kris Enlow. Also in attendance were Dwight Dotterer, Carrie Colebank, Chad Bucklew, and Shaun Sanders.

The minutes of the December 20, 2016 minutes were approved as distributed.

The following report of state funds for December 2016 and January 2017 was presented and approved:

Balance – December 1, 2016	\$ 4,223.98
Receipts – December 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	0.00
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	\$ 4,223.98
Expenditures – December 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016	3,953.90
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Balance – December 31, 2016	\$ 270.08
Balance – January 1, 2017	\$ 270.08
Receipts – January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2017.....	4227.00
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	\$ 4,497.08
Expenditures – January 1, 2017 – January 31, 2017.....	270.00
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Balance – January 31, 2017	\$ 4227.08

The detailed report of expenditures for all accounts for the period December 20, 2016 through February 21, 2017, and the Income Versus Expenditures report for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 and January 1, 2017 thru February 21, 2017 were distributed.

Dwight Dotterer talked about the manure injection cost share program and MDAs desire to promote increased injection across the state including in Garrett County. He said there were three custom applicators who were interested in coming to Garrett County to inject manure. Dwight reported that they charged between \$120 to \$140 per hour and he felt the \$55.00 per acre cost share provided by MDA practically covered the cost for injection. He also provided the following information based on his experience and knowledge:

- ~ assume 1 load/acre – 3 loads/hr to inject = 3 ac/hr
- ~ 6000 gals/ac – 6000 gal spreader requires 300hp tractor
- ~ some injectors 30” apart, inject 8” deep with “minimal disturbance”

Dwight felt that a million or more gallons would be sufficient to interest a custom applicator to travel to Garrett County. Dwight encouraged the District to contact landowners with liquid manure storage facilities to see how many would be interested in participating in the manure injection cost share program.

Shaun said he thought it would make sense to utilize the data base of manure storage facilities that MDA already has for the county as a contact list. It was decided to contact 10 or 12 landowners with larger facilities to see how much interest there is in injecting manure in the county. If there is enough interest and large enough volume, Shaun will work with Dwight on follow up.

Chad presented the field office activities report for the period of 12/20/16 through 2/21/17. Chad brought the existing Federal Hiring Freeze to the attention of the Supervisors. He mentioned that the hiring freeze would not have any effect on the Garrett office at this point in time. Chad also mentioned that NRCS has been advised to be prepared for a budget cut that could be in the 10 to 20 percent range. Chad pointed out that the EQIP funds for Maryland currently are nearly \$9 million, and that he wasn't sure what effect a budget cut might have on the availability of program funds. Chad mentioned that there has been recent discussion about changing Maryland NRCS planning policy for livestock HUAs. In recent years, these buildings have been sized at 100 square feet per animal unit. Recent communications with Programs and Engineering staff have indicated that, in the future, this size could be reduced if livestock have access to well-buffered pastures or exercise lots. Chad mentioned that the Area Engineering staff are now making regular visits to the county for site investigations and design consultations. Chad also mentioned that the office recently received a new GSA-leased Ford Explorer to replace the Durango.

Shaun read an email from the Garrett County Director of Finance concerning budget request. The email advised that amounts approved for 2018 budget request will most likely be the same or less than the approved fiscal year 2017 amount and cautioned about being "too ambitious" in FY 18 budget request. Shaun presented a draft email request which included the salary and benefit work sheet Carrie prepared for 2018 FY. A motion was made by Smokey, second by Katharine to not include the worksheet in the email as the total request is used for salary. Also it was noted that the Districts FY 2018 request is \$588.00 less than the approved amount for 2017.

George, Smokey, Chad, and Shaun reviewed numerous topics that were discussed at the February 2017 MASCD Board of Directors meeting and reported on the legislative visits and luncheon. It was noted that only a few bills of interest to MASCD have been filed. No major legislation directly affecting districts had been introduced as of 2/7/1017. The most important pending issue at the time of the meeting was MASCD & MDAs efforts to get 8 million dollars of MACS funding included in the capital budget. Shaun forwarded a MASCD Action Alert to supervisors on 2/17/17 concerning a recommendation that the funding be reduced from 8M to 6M. With a 4M dollar backlog of MACS projects to fund due to the lack of any 2017 funding; only 2M would be available for new MACS projects in FY 2018. Also Hans reported that MDAs regular or operation budget was flat for FY 2018.

MASCD voted to oppose SB440/HB557 and HB863, see attached.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m.