

MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING

June 16, 2020

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. The Meeting was conducted via phone-in conference call. Other supervisors present on the call were Cameron Crawford, Bill Buckel and Kris Enlow. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, Heather Hutchinson and Roger Kitzmiller were also present via telephone.

Minutes for the May 19, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed – Kris/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – May 1, 2020	\$ 10,269.28
Receipts – May 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020	0.00
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	\$ 10,269.28
Expenditures – May 1, 2020 – May 31 2020	254.33
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Balance – May 31, 2020	\$ 10,014.95

Detailed reports of expenditures for all accounts for the period of May 20, 2020 through June 16, 2020 were distributed. The Treasurers Report was approved as submitted – Kris/Bill, vote unanimous.

The Board approved spending \$1611.00 remaining in the State Budget Account to purchase a Rainfall Simulator. Based on an anticipated purchase price of \$1772, an additional \$161 would be required to purchase the simulator. \$161 plus an additional 15% (\$185.15) was approved by the Board - Cameron/Bill, vote unanimous.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: COVID-19: There may be a trend for some employees to return to the office to work, as well as receiving visitors in the office. In preparation for these new procedures, the Board approved spending up to \$150 to purchase plexiglass and materials to construct “sneeze guards”.
- The Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (Planner) position for Garrett County has not yet been re-advertised.
- Applications for the Soil Conservation Associate III (Technician) position have been ranked for qualification; no interviews have been scheduled to fill the position.
- The District received three-quarters (9 months) of the MDA FY 21 Budget.
- Received payment-in-full from delinquent drill renter.
- Reported that Cover Crop signup will occur July 1 thru July 17. MDA will mail applications to last years’ participants; completed applications will be mailed to the District office. An article regarding Cover Crop signup will be included in the forth-coming

Newsletter; information will also be posted on social media site and sent to Farm Bureau.

- Carrie will complete and mail a District Newsletter.
- MASCD Summer Meeting is canceled.

Chad mentioned that the NRCS Soil Conservation Technician position had been advertised and closed earlier this week. This was an encouraging sign that the vacancy was moving through the process of being filled. Chad mentioned that there had been some recent changes in operating status for a few other USDA offices in the state to allow more employees to be present in the offices. As of yet, Garrett's USDA operations status hasn't changed compared to the last three months. Chad mentioned that construction has been progressing on a couple larger projects in the county. One High Tunnel application has been pre-approved for funding recently. The bulk of EQIP applications have had their ranking deadline pushed back to June 17th, and Chad expects to have more applications approved for funding by the next meeting.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement –Submitted to NRCS.

Maryland SCD District Leadership Self-assessment – Roger and staff will complete the assessment and distribute it to the Board via email. A conference call will be scheduled next week to complete the assessment with the Board.

Drill/Spreader Maintenance – A draft Drill Repair and Maintenance Plan was presented to the Board. The Routine Maintenance and Lubrication portion of the plan was approved as presented. Discussion took place regarding how to handle Major Repairs; guidance / decisions from the discussion will be incorporated into a written Major Repair Plan and will be presented at the July Meeting for review and/or approval by the Board.

Dam Inspections/Mowing – Bids will be developed and advertised for the following services: Mowing Dam #2, Dam #5, Dam #7; Replace Trash Rack on riser at Dam #2; Replace Gate Valve Stem on Dam #2.

SSCC Per Diem – Discussion took place regarding the Per Diem amount for the Garrett SCD. The current Per Diem amount is \$25; resetting the amount to \$75 was suggested. The Board will re-visit the topic at a later meeting to consider the impact to the budget.

A call by the Chairman for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.