

**MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

May 19, 2020

Teleconference Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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 February 18, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed – Cameron/Bill (motion/second), vote: unanimous. Meetings were not held in March and April of 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – April 1, 2020 .....	\$ 7,567.27
Receipts – April 1, 2020 – April 30, 2020 .....	<u>5,484.00</u>
	\$ 13,051.27
Expenditures – April 1, 2020 – April 30 2020 .....	<u>2,781.99</u>
Balance – April 30, 2020 .....	<b>\$ 10,269.28</b>

The detailed reports of expenditures for all accounts for the period of April 21, 2020 through May 19, 2020 were distributed. The Treasurers Report was approved as submitted – Cameron/Kris, vote unanimous.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office procedures relative to COVID-19 have not changed significantly since the last update sent to the Board via email.
- 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 no-till drill and lime spreader have been repaired and serviced, and are in operation. Discussion ensued regarding a \$1000 over-run for drill repair, due to unforeseen, necessary repairs. Smokey stated that the District needs to develop a protocol for managing cost-over-runs.
- The District phone number decals will be replaced on the drill and lime spreader when the work can be coordinated with the sign company.
- Dam inspections were completed on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Dam #2 needs the trash rack and the gate-valve stem repaired/replaced and all the dams (#2, #5, #7) will need to be mowed. The District will pause scheduling repairs and mowing to see if we receive an inspection report from Scott Bass.

- The District SAMS Account was updated for another year.
- A "Farming for Healthy Soils" Flyer was distributed to Board Members and to various media outlets.

Chad referenced the activities report for the time period since the February meeting. Chad provided an update on an item that appeared in the February meeting minutes. In February, RC&D grant employees were only to operate federal vehicles with personal insurance liability. In the weeks since the February meeting, the Western Maryland RC&D has been able to secure a vehicle insurance policy to cover contract employees. This ability to have insurance coverage to drive federal vehicles has been especially important to help cover construction projects. Chad stated that the Federal operation procedures were implemented with the priority of keeping construction projects underway, and to continue to provide customer service to complete scheduled practices and reimbursements. RC&D Technician Dakota Hamilton and NRCS Civil Engineering Technician Jeff Teets have been spending significant hours in Garrett County on pre-construction meetings and practice layout. Construction and practice reimbursement payments haven't been significantly delayed. Chad noted that most Farm Bill funding applications have a ranking deadline of June 5<sup>th</sup>. This will include applications for structural practices, grazing systems, and most habitat development applications. Chad noted that the first Garrett contract obligated for the year was for an RCPP-EQIP Cerulean Warbler project.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement – Smokey will sign the Agreement on behalf of the District and it will be submitted to NRCS.

Maryland SCD District Leadership Self-assessment – Roger will collect information pertinent to the Assessment, will distribute the information to the Board, and will contact the Board to schedule a conference call to discuss the Assessment.

Sara Carr was selected as the District Scholarship recipient - Kris/Cameron, vote unanimous.

Coloring Contest: Due to excellent work and difficulty in deciding a winner, three recipients were awarded \$15.00 each: Lastat Rohrbaugh, Malachi Rohrbaugh and Meyachele Rohrbaugh - Kris/Cameron, vote unanimous.

Carrie informed the Board that no-till drill and lime spreader rentals were going well.

A call by the Chairman for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.