

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

November 17, 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 Kris Enlow, Bill Buckel, Cameron Crawford, and Katharine Dubansky. Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, Heather Hutchinson, Josh Smith and Roger Kitzmiller were also present via telephone.

Josh Smith – RC&D: Josh presented information on employees who worked with RC&D and later transitioned to NRCS or other agencies; RC&D is sponsoring a Mountain Maryland Hemp Alliance study related to a Hemp Processing Facility; RC&D has obtained a grant to develop an Economic Adjustment Strategy related to the Verso/Luke Papermill shutdown.

Minutes for the October 20, 2020 Board Meeting were approved without objection.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – November1, 2020 .....	\$ 12,956.71
Receipts – November1, 2020 – November 30, 2020 .....	<u>0.00</u>
	\$ 12,956.71
Expenditures – November1, 2020 – November 30, 2020 .....	<u>214.28</u>
Balance – November 30, 2020.....	<b>\$12,742.43</b>

Detailed reports of expenditures for all accounts for the period of October 20, 2020 through November 17, 2020 were distributed. The Treasurers Report was accepted and approved as submitted without objection; A Checkbook Register and a separate Financial Statement were presented in addition to the Treasurer's Report. The Board was informed that the Brinker Account has been updated to reflect current Board Members.

Information presented to the Board:

- Office Update: COVID-19. Office procedures and work schedules are basically unchanged with the exception of one employee who tested positive for COVID-19 and is working exclusively from home. There was no close-contact with other employees. The Board takes a proactive approach to keeping a supply of COVID-related personal protective equipment at the office and advocates obtaining supplies (gloves, N95 masks, disinfectant wipes, etc.) either as provided by partner agencies or as purchased by the District.
- The Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (Planner) position for Garrett County is set to be 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. Smokey presented a draft letter to be submitted to Secretary Bartenfelder (MDA) to solicit help with advertising the positions beyond the

usual job announcement website (i.e. colleges, universities, newspapers, etc. within the tri-state area). The Board had no objections to submitting the letter; the letter will be submitted via email and US Mail.

- A lime spreader maintenance/repair policy has been implemented using parallel language from the no-till drill policy.
- The Trash Rack Replacement Contract has been signed by all parties and the replacement is planned by the end of November.
- The Genus Center Erosion and Sediment Control Plan was approved with disclaimer notes for the District and recommendations from MDE made part of the Plan.

Chad mentioned that Will Gindlesberger officially started as the NRCS Soil Conservation Technician in the office on the week of Columbus Day. Chad noted that the Garrett Local Work Group worksheet was submitted prior to the deadline. He also stated that there is an upcoming signup deadline for the Cerulean Warbler RCPP program on November 20<sup>th</sup>. This program signup will be in advance of the regular EQIP signup, which is expected to be in January. Staff have been working to get a couple new applicants enrolled in time for the Cerulean deadline. Staff continue to work on updating contracts and rescheduling contracts that have fallen behind schedule. Construction is wrapping up, but staff are also working on wrapping up construction documentation to get practice payments made for completed practices.

The Board approved the purchase of 24 Waste Storage Structure warning signs that will be given to cooperators upon completion of said facilities. It is required that the warning signs be displayed on the structures and the signs will be given to cooperators free of charge – Kris/Katharine: no objections from Board Members.

The Board approved payment of \$501 to NACD for annual dues – Katharine/Kris: no objections from Board Members

A call for further business brought no response and the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.