

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

February 18, 2020

District Office

Meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Smokey Stanton. Other supervisors present were Cameron Crawford, Bill Buckel, and Katharine Dubansky. Also in attendance were Chad Bucklew, Carrie Colebank, and Roger Kitzmiller.

Minutes for the January 21, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed – Katharine/Cameron (motion/second), vote: unanimous.

The following report of state funds was presented and approved:

Balance – January 1, 2020 .....	\$ 5,416.86
Receipts – January 1, 2020 – January 31, 2020 .....	<u>5,485.00</u>
	\$ 10,901.86
Expenditures – January 1, 2020 – January 31 2020 .....	<u>2,863.19</u>
Balance – January 31, 2020 .....	<b>\$ 8,038.67</b>

The detailed reports of expenditures for all accounts for the period of January 22, 2020 through February 18, 2020 were distributed. The Treasurers Report was approved as submitted - unanimous consent, no vote.

Information presented to the Board:

- The Agricultural Resource Conservation Specialist (Planner) position for Garrett County has not yet been re-advertised.
- The Soil Conservation Associate III (Technician) position has been advertised and will close on March 2, 2020
- A re-cap of the Winter MASCD Meeting was presented: 53 full-time positions were included in Governor Hogan’s Budget (to convert 30 existing grant positions to permanent state positions; 3 verifiers; 20 planners, technicians and engineering personnel). The budget also included \$8 million for MACS; \$22.45 million for Cover Crop; \$48.5 million for MALPF (Ag-Land Preservation).
- Letters, signed by Chairman Stanton, were mailed to two cooperators who have delinquent no-till drill accounts, asking them to pay their bills.
- The District did not receive a NACD Grant (\$2500) for which we applied.
- Information pertaining to the District Scholarship will be mailed upon Board approval (see below).
- A letter was drafted and sent to the DCL Watershed Foundation in response to their November 16, 2019 letter. A copy of the response letter was presented to the Board.
- A client requested that the district review a stormwater pond for new construction at the Garrett County Airport. The plans were placed on the NRCS Sharepoint for review.

Chad reviewed the Activities Report for January to date. Chad mentioned that the EQIP application deadline for FY 2020 was likely to be March 20, but that it hadn't been publicly confirmed yet. Chad discussed the various meetings and trainings that staff have participating recently. Chad mentioned that all planning staff had been training on the Conservation Desktop software system that will replace Toolkit this spring.

Chad also briefed the Board on the issue of federal vehicle usage by partner staff. At MASCD, there was discussion about liability coverage of partners who drive federal vehicles. This discussion was in the context of the Unfunded Cooperative Agreements. Partner staff are permitted to drive federal vehicles for program delivery, but NRCS does not cover liability. In summary, this issue will not affect most staff activities in the Garrett office. The greatest impact is to the RC&D agreement employees that assist with Garrett workload. Discussions are underway to find solutions to the issue.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement – no comments or concerns regarding the agreement. Heather Hutchinson confirmed that MDA employees are covered by MDA insurance while driving (except in cases of gross negligence) or riding in federal vehicles.

The Board approved the following expenditures:

- Based on an anticipated cost of \$1500 for drill repair (\$464 for 15 opener disks; \$400 for 2 tires; \$25 per hour for labor, the Board decided to engage necessary George Bishoff to make repairs to the no-till – Katharine/Bill, vote unanimous.
- 2020 Scholarship – The Board agreed to fund the scholarship perpetually unless or until a motion is made to discontinue funding.
- Western Maryland RC&D Dues (\$200) – Katharine/Cameron, vote unanimous.

No motion was presented to donate to the University of Maryland Soil Judging Team.

The Board decided to leave the rental rate for the no-till drill at the current rate of \$10 per acre.

The Board decided that a deposit will not be required prior to renting the no-till drill to persons who currently have delinquent accounts, however, the accounts must be paid in full prior to future renting.

Upon a motion to adjourn by Cameron, and full agreement by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.