

Frederick SCD Board Meeting
May 25, 2022

APPROVED

In attendance: Supervisors – D. Flickinger, B. Black, B. Burch, R. Myers, S. Hipkins. Associates: B. Sweeney. District Manager – H. Hutchinson, NRCS – Brent Cammauf.

Minutes approved by motion: Burch/Myers – to approve April 2022 meeting minutes – All in agreement.

Treasurer's Report approved by motion: Flickinger/Burch – All in agreement.

Financial Report Statements approved by motion: Burch/Myers – All in agreement.

Expenses to be paid for the month approved by motion: Flickinger/Black – All in agreement.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. District Vehicle Purchase – Motion to have Catoctin SCD take the lead to purchase a vehicle for the 2 districts: Burch/Myers – All in agreement.
2. 2022 MASCD Auction items – Catoctin SCD is providing 2 framed Photographs taken by Ralph Adkins. Frederick SCD will provide a basket by Catoctin Mt. Orchard and local wines.
3. The 2022 Great Frederick Fair display – The theme will be Healthy Soils. A rainfall simulator is on order and Hutchinson received soil health coloring books from NRCS and is asking MDA to use their large standup displays to be placed at the fair in September 2022.
4. Hutchinson is purchasing the following items (using MDA trust money) for the SCD office: 1) Soil Penetrometer 2) Slake Test 3) Rainfall Simulator
5. Catoctin & Frederick SCD District Technician – Position announcement is currently posted on the Frederick County Government website and closes on July 9th.
6. Administrative Assistant Position – Job description to be finalized soon. Frederick County Government Human Resources to assign a 'classification & pay scale.'
7. Engineering Position – Roger Thomas is working 5 – 10 hours per week currently; possibly looking into having him placed on as a Fredrick County government employee for worker's compensation purposes.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Agriculture Exemption Policy –
 - a. Discussed the status of the Stuart Property on Dr. Perry Road. Based on Maryland Department of the Environment, Frederick County Government, & Catoctin/Frederick SCD criteria, the property is not allowed an Agricultural Exemption for the current filling of 8 acres on the property. A site visit by SCD staff and supervisors is to be determined.
 - b. Discussed the McLaughlin Ag Exemption – On the Valentine property, there is now an increase over 1 acre of disturbance that requires a NOI letter.
2. Maryland Department of Agriculture staff meeting – a meeting was to held at Sandy Point State Park. Discussions included – 1) struggles with the new NRCS computer tools 2) District Manager's shared concerns about assigning MDA Planners monthly goals rather than 6 month or annual goals 3) New position descriptions will coming soon for MDA Employees.

#1

3. The SSCC meeting focused on NRCS Planning challenges. The cumbersome nature of Conservation Desktop (CD) slows the planning process making it difficult to plan enough acres to meet WIP goals. NRCS has made improvements to the tool. To speed the process they will allow planners to use the existing 52, the decisions on file, and existing information in CD to update plans that are expired (older than 10 years) when there have not been changes to the operation.
4. MASCD Western MD Area meeting – July 14th 10:00 am Location TBD.
5. Hutchison to purchase 2 new laptops – 1) District Manager & (new) District Technician; to purchase an LCD projector for the office.
6. Hutchinson gave plan submittal forms to the county for the creation of electronic submission forms to be used when the SCD migrates to the electronic plan review tool “DigiPlan”. There will be some cost associated with this. Plan review Fees will be collected by the county when the SCD migrates to “DigiPlan” for electronic plan review.
7. New Frederick County Agricultural Extension Agent – Mark Townsend
8. Hutchinson to send letters to Nicholson Scholarship winners inviting them to the June 2022 Frederick SCD meeting. Flickinger suggested that we promote the Scholarships and the winners at the Banquet in November. This could inspire other cooperators to send donations to the scholarship fund.
9. NACD Northeast Region meeting – this will take place in conjunction of with the MD Association of Soil Conservation District’s meeting in August 2022 in Cambridge, MD. Motion to send \$75.00 to the promote the Northeast Region meeting – Myers/Burch – All in agreement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. RC & D – Sabillasville Charter (Elementary) School - Environmental/Agricultural School program will be receiving items from the Western MD RC & D that had been used previously in the Cumberland, MD area. These items include tools and equipment for their greenhouses. Next RC & D Meeting re-scheduled for June 21, 2022.
2. Info/Education – Scholarship winners at the next meeting; Highlighters purchased for the Maryland Envirothon Goody Bags. Maryland Envirothon will be June 22, 2022.
3. Awards – Livestock Pasture Walk David Swain’s June 16th on Stonesifer Road.
4. Ag Complex – None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

CONSERVATION PLANS: Motion to accept Conservation Plans provided by Cammauf – Black/Burch - All in agreement.

Chestnut Hill Farms, Jennifer Sidler, Susie Knapp, David Klein, John Moxley, Jason Storm, Jared Burall.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn Myers/Black – All in agreement.

Next Meeting: June 29th, 2022 9:00 am Thurmont Grange Hall.

Minutes recorded by: Barron Burch

Closed Session: Held May 25, 2022 at 3:45 P.M. at the Thurmont Grange Hall and attended by S. Hipkins, B. Burch, R. Black, R. Myers, D. Flickinger, and H. Hutchinson to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction and to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business.

#2