



**Catoctin Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 20, 2022- 10:00 AM
Burkittsville Ruritan**

In attendance: Supervisors: B. Sowers, J. Falkenstein, J. Orłowski, E. Arnold. Associates: W. Shafer, R. Grossnickle. District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. Additional Guests: Frederick County Office of Economic Development, Becca Tucker and Katie Stevens. Frederick County Ag Agent Associate, Mark Townsend. NRCS, Brent Cammauf.

Meeting called to order by B. Sowers at 10:09AM.

Minutes approved as presented by motion: J. Falkenstein, second by E. Arnold. All in agreement.

Treasurer's Report approved as presented by motion: E. Arnold, second by J. Orłowski. All in agreement.

Expenses for the month approved as presented by motion: J. Falkenstein, second by E. Arnold. All in agreement.

1. **Bank Account Reconciliation-** H. Hutchinson will continue to email financials. J. Orłowski will review before each meeting. Motion to accept the Bank Account Reconciliation report as is by J. Falkenstein, second by E. Arnold.

Old Business:

- 1) H. Hutchinson reported on the ongoing petition to merge the boards. There are currently eight signatures for Frederick and six signatures for Catoctin. Each board member was given their own blank copy of the petition to solicit signatures.
 - i) W. Shafer and R. Grossnickle reported feedback from petition.
 - ii) H. Hutchinson gave the definition for a 'land occupier' as provided Justin Hayes, Office of the Attorney General at MDA - any person holding title to or possessing any lands lying within a district, whether as owner, lessee, tenant, or otherwise.
 - iii) H. Hutchinson explained that once all signatures are collected, the State Soil Conservation Committee will handle the arrangements for a referendum.
- 2) H. Hutchinson reported that the State Soil Conservation Committee have tabled further discussion on the flat rate structure until their March meeting. The flat rate 30% COVID increase will continue until a decision is made by SCCC.

Current Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported that she has not heard back from Frederick County in regards to the Urban Technician reclassification.
2. The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation District winter meeting will be held in Annapolis at the Graduate Hotel on February 9-10, 2023. Please give H. Hutchinson your need for hotel reservations by 01/19/2023.
 - i. 2/9 starting at 10:30AM is the Business Meeting and 4:00PM starts the legislative meeting.
 - ii. 2/10 there is an opportunity to meet with legislators from 8-10AM.



3. H. Hutchinson reported that K. McAfee applied for a \$3000 grant from the MASCD to support the “Digging Deeper into Soil Health” workshop, but have not yet heard back.
4. Connie Phillips Insurance will be attending the Frederick board meeting on January 28, 2023. H. Hutchinson asked for the Catoctin Board to join at 10AM.
5. H. Hutchinson forwarded an email to the Board from Frederick County Farm Bureau which lists the topics identified in their December 15 meeting for discussion at the legislative meeting to be held on February 10, 2023.
 - i. K. Stevens advised that the Frederick County Health Department’s refusal to allow dry manure storage within 100 ft of an ag well is based on State regulations and would need to be addressed at the State level.
6. H. Hutchinson read a request from the Catoctin FFA Land Judging Team for support to their trip to Oklahoma City for Competition.
 - i. J. Orłowski made motion to give Catoctin FFA Land Judging Team \$500 towards their trip, seconded by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.
7. H. Hutchinson read a request for funds from the Maryland Ag Education Foundation (MAEF).
 - i. J. Orłowski made a motion to give MAEF \$500, seconded by J. Falkenstein.
8. H. Hutchinson read invitation to attend the Taste of Maryland on February 2, 2023 at MD Live! Casino. It is \$100/pp to attend.
 - i. J. Orłowski made a motion to send Heather Hutchinson to the event on behalf of the Catoctin Board with \$50 towards her ticket as Frederick will pay the additional \$50, seconded by J. Falkenstein.
9. Discussion for the meeting reimbursement policy was tabled until next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **RC&D:** No Report.
- **Info/Education:** No Report.
- **Awards:** No Report
- **Legislative:** No Report.
- **Ag Complex:** No Report.

Communications: No Report.

Conservation Plans: B. Cammauf reviewed plans on handout. Program sign up deadline will be 01/20/2023. Projects that include concrete and steel have significant cost increases.

Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension):

1. M. Townsend reported on upcoming meetings-
 - i) Central MD Forage Conference, January 19, 2023 at New Midway Fire Hall.
 - ii) Central MD Agronomy Meeting, February 22, 2023 at Urbana Fire Hall.
 - iii) Grain Marketing Update, January 6, 2023 as a virtual meeting.
2. M. Townsend made a request for monetary support towards the Central MD Forage Conference and the Central MD Agronomy Meeting.



- i) J. Orłowski moved to give \$100 each to Central MD Forage Conference and Central MD Agronomy Meeting, seconded by J. Falkenstein.
3. K. Stevens reported on the feasibility study being conducted by the Frederick County Office of Economic Development and that it is still ongoing.
4. K. Stevens stated that a meeting to discuss the Ag Complex will be held in late January or early February, 2023. Phase 2 of the project will determine the building location.
5. The new Frederick County Executive, Jessica Fitzwater, has created a transition team as reported by K. Stevens. The Economic Development team contains three farmers; Denny Remsburg, Tom Barse, and Emily Snyder.

Urban Report: Handout provided.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment: Motion made by J. Falkenstein and second by E. Arnold to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:31AM. All in agreement.

Minutes recorded by Kendra McAfee