

**Catoctin Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 17, 2023- 9:00 AM**  
**Burkittsville Ruritan**

**In attendance:** Supervisors: B. Sowers, E. Arnold, J. Falkenstein, J. Orłowski, A. Holter. Associates: R. Grossnickle, B. Brennan, W. Shafer. District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. Frederick County Economic Development, B. Tucker.

Meeting called to order by B. Sowers at 9:06 AM.

**Last Month Minutes approved as presented by motion:** A. Holter, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

**September Closed Minutes approved as presented by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by A. Holter. All in agreement.

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

**Expenses for the month approved as presented by motion:** E. Arnold, second by A. Holter. All in agreement.

1. **Bank Account Reconciliation** Motion to accept the Bank Account Reconciliation report as is by A. Holter, second by E. Arnold. All in agreement.

**Old Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson reported that the SSCC met on September 21<sup>st</sup> and voted that the merger is administratively feasible. Letters were mailed to all board members, extension, and farm bureau. Advertising for Board Members started the following day and applications for the SSCC closed on October 10, 2023. The new board members will be appointed the SSCC meeting on October 19, 2023.
2. H. Hutchinson reported on the SSCC meeting on September 21<sup>st</sup>.
  - a. Jason Kepler presented from the MACS program. He presented changes to the MACS funding- proposing to raise the cap for non-ag waste practices from \$75k to \$150k. The cap on ag waste will remain at \$200k. Increasing these caps will require regulatory change via AELR.
    - i. Ag waste and related practices will remain capped at \$300k.
    - ii. Proposed that all active and inherited projects are considered in the farm cap. The cap applies to the entity or person.
3. H. Hutchinson reported on the Soil Smart Farm Tour that was held in partnership with Farm Bureau and Horizon Farm Credit. There were roughly 45 people in attendance. All of the featured farmers did a wonderful job of representing agriculture.
  - a. During the tour H. Hutchinson spoke with the County Executive regarding charging for small pond reviews and that Provident Strategies will be submitting an amendment to the agricultural article to allow for districts to charge for small pond reviews. H. Hutchinson followed up with a letter to the County Executive.
4. H. Hutchinson reported that she spoke with Barry Burch regarding the Envirothon Trunks. Barry said that Frederick County Public Schools provides funds for teachers to purchase classroom materials and that teachers have what they need.

**Current Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson reported that SSCC will meet on October 19, 2023 at 9:00AM and that she emailed the agenda and meeting link to all board members. They will appoint new board members at this meeting. On the agenda is also a further discussion for the MACS funding caps that were discussed at the last meeting.
2. MASCD Board will meet on October 24, 2023 and the agenda was emailed to all board members. There is a virtual option or in person.
  - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by A. Holter, to have H. Hutchinson write a letter requesting the proposed MACS caps be put on the MASCD agenda. All in agreement.

3. H. Hutchinson reported that she received a request for NACD dues. The yearly dues are \$700. MDA provides \$700 toward NACD dues.
  - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by A. Holter, to pay the NACD dues. All in agreement.
4. H. Hutchinson reported that the invites for the banquets have been sent out.
  - a. The banquet will be held on November 16<sup>th</sup> at the New Midway Fire Company serving turkey, ham, and fried shrimp.
  - b. H. Hutchinson listed distinguished guests that she has already invited, but Missy Donnelly has not been previously invited, H. Hutchinson asked if she should be invited. Board agreed, but to check with Frederick Board.
  - c. J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by A. Holter, to pay for supervisors/associates + 1 guest for the banquet. All in agreement.
5. H. Hutchinson reported that Jim George completed the annual financial review. Everything went well and he was please with the book keeping.
6. H. Hutchinson reported that Dr. Ray Ediger was nominated for the Governors Ag Hall of Fame and that she provided information about his service as a supervisor for the nomination packet.

**Committee Reports:**

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

**Communications:** H. Hutchinson reported she received invites directed to the Board/ District Manager to attend the Anne Arundel Banquet on October 18<sup>th</sup> and Farm Bureau Banquet on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension, Economic Development):** Mark Townsend provided a handout before the meeting of upcoming training opportunities. B. Tucker reported that the Frederick County Economic Development opened the next cycle for the Ag Innovation Grant- applications close on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Urban Report:** Included in board packets.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM held at the Burkittsville Ruritan.

**Adjournment:** A. Holter motioned, seconded by J. Falkenstein, that the board adjourn the regular meeting at 10:18am and meet in closed session to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter as authorized by General Provisions Article Section 3-305(b)(13). The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Kendra McAfee