

Frederick Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 28, 2023- 09:00 AM
Soil Conservation District Office

In attendance: Supervisors: D. Flickinger, R. Myers, S. Hipkins, R. Black, B. Burch (by phone joining at 11:09am). District Manager H. Hutchinson, Soil Conservation Coordinator K. McAfee. Guest: W. Shafer, J. Falkenstein, B. Sowers, Patrick Heizer.

Meeting called to order by S. Hipkins at 9:04AM.

Minutes approved as presented by motion: D. Flickinger, second by R. Myers. All in agreement.

Closed minutes approved as presented by motion: R. Myers, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Treasurer's Report approved as presented by motion: D. Flickinger, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Financial Report Statements approved as presented by motion: R. Myers, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Expenses for the month approved as presented by motion: R. Myers, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported on the SSCC meeting that was held on 11/16/2023 in Annapolis and the following was discussed:
 - a. Agriculture is responsible for 4% of methane emissions.
 - b. John Roche spoke about dam removal. There will be new guidance coming out soon that will streamline the process. There are 18k small ponds in MD.
 - c. John Murphy spoke about the state law requiring the sod used for stabilization must be MD Certified.
 - d. NRCS is funded through January 19th, 2024.
2. H. Hutchinson reported on the board merger and that we are waiting on the application to the Secretary of State. Once received, the new board will sign, and then submit.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that the Annual Cooperators Banquet was held on November 16th at the New Midway Volunteer Fire Company. There were 142 people in attendance and received nice comments about the photo books for the award winners.
4. H. Hutchinson reported that she, Bill Rawlings, and Mark Freese attended Sabillasville Harvest Days where they used the rainfall simulator to show how cover crops help keep the soil in place during a rainfall event.

Current Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported that Jim George completed the annual financial review and everything went well. Each board member received a packet for review at the last meeting for discussion today. No discussion.
 - a. R. Myers motioned, second by R. Black, to accept the annual financial review as presented. All in agreement.
2. H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Winter Meeting will be returning to Annapolis on January 23rd with networking with legislators. Hotel rooms must be reserved by December 22nd and registration closes on January 1st. Tabled until the next board meeting so supervisors can decide if they are attending.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that Katie Stevens has scheduled a meeting for January 24th at 10am at 30 N. Market Street as a quarterly meeting. The meeting will include the director of Debbie Carpenter, Gary Hessong, Anne Bradley, Economic Development, NRCS, Ag Business Council, and Farm Bureau to discuss the pertinent permitting and zoning concerns. The chairmen are encouraged to attend.
4. H. Hutchinson reported that she received an invite for the boards to attend the Taste of MD event at MD Live Casino on February 1st. Each ticket is \$100 and reservations are due by January 12th.
 - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by R. Myers, to purchase two tickets to the Taste of MD event. All in agreement.

5. H. Hutchinson provided a letter from NACDE requesting a donation in support of sending their staff to the regional conference. No discussion.
6. H. Hutchinson reported that she received a letter requesting a donation from MD FFA Foundation to support their annual school activities.
 - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by R. Myers, to give \$500 to the MD FFA Foundation. All in agreement.
7. H. Hutchinson reported that the National Envirothon is set to be held in MD in 2027. The committee is requesting annual dues in installments of \$1500 for four years.
 - a. R. Myers motioned. Second by D. Flickinger, to table paying Envirothon dues until the new board is in place. All in agreement.
8. H. Hutchinson reported on a mailing from Crow Holdings Renewables expressing their interest in the ag complex land for a solar array. No discussion.
9. H. Hutchinson reported that the MD Farm Bureau dues have been requested for the upcoming year. The total is \$70 for membership and a \$5 lobbying fee. The board may not pay the lobbying fee.
 - a. R. Myers motioned, second by R. Black, to pay \$70 towards the MD Farm Bureau dues. All in agreement.
10. H. Hutchinson reported that there will be a solar summit held at MDA on November 29th from 10am-2pm. There is a virtual option available.
11. H. Hutchinson reported that the staff would like to hold another Soil Health Day event. The Null Building has been reserved for February 28th. Dale Strickler will be the presenter. H. Hutchinson needs to meet with staff to discuss details, but would like to move forward with a budget for the event.
 - a. R. Myers motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to set a budget for \$7500 for the Soil Health Event on February 28th, 2024. All in agreement.
12. H. Hutchinson reported that Denny Remsburg reached out from Farm Bureau for the next Legislative Day. Farm Bureau would like to schedule a meeting the week of December 11th at Horizon Farm Credit.
13. H. Hutchinson reported that the staff would like to have a holiday party.
 - a. B. Sowers mentions to look into hosting at the Jefferson Ruritan. K. McAfee will follow up.
 - b. H. Hutchinson to meet with staff for recommendations of meal and venue.
 - c. R. Myers motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to host a holiday party. All in agreement.

Committee Reports:

1. **Awards:** No Report.
2. **Legislative:** No Report.
3. **Info/Education:** No Report.
4. **Ag. Complex:** No Report.
5. **RC&D:** Will hold a virtual meeting on 12/14.

Communications: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies (MDA, Extension, Frederick County Economic Development): No Report.

Urban Report: Handout provided by David Stonesifer.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 9 AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: D. Flickinger motioned, seconded by R. Myers, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:40am and that the board meet in special 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