

Joint Meeting of the Catocotin and Frederick Soil Conservation District Boards
Thursday, December 21, 2023 - 11:00 AM
Jefferson Ruritan

In attendance: Catocotin Supervisors: B. Sowers, E. Arnold, J. Falkenstein, A. Holter. Associates: R. Grossnickle, W. Shafer, Frederick Supervisors: S. Hipkins, D. Flickinger, R. Myers, R. Black and District Manager, H. Hutchinson.

Meeting called to order by B. Sowers at 11:07 AM.

Old Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported that the new board members have been appointed as follows: Diane Flickinger (At-Large), Robert Black (At-Large), Wes Shafer (Extension), John Falkenstein (Farm Bureau), and Ben Sowers (Frederick County Council). Waiting on articles of incorporation. The application to the Secretary of State has been signed by new FCSCD Board members. Current boards continue to exist until the articles of incorporation are obtained and the old boards are dissolved. COMAR also needs to be changed to remove the Catocotin SCD and Frederick SCD and add the Frederick County SCD. MDA did not include the changes in their Legislative Packet. Mike Mason will advise us on how to get the COMAR changed either by inclusion in a Frederick County Delegation Packet or by asking a delegate to sponsor a bill. Mike Mason will meet with the Frederick County Delegation and H Hutchinson to discuss the issue. It was suggested that both Board Chairmen attend this meeting as well. It was also suggested that we contact the MFB Legislative person for guidance and suggestions.

Current Business:

1. H. Hutchinson reported that B. Sowers, D. Flickinger, R. Black, W. Shafer and J. Falkenstein met with Brian Marchuck, CPA from Brown Schultz Sheridan & Fritz, Camp Hill PA on December 11 at noon. Marchuck discussed the services that they could offer the FCSCD Board and made suggestions on how the financial merger could take place. Marchuck mentioned that the financial merger may be easier if done on the July 1, 2024 date. He also suggested that we may want to use the Class system in the Quick Books Accounting Software program. The Joint Boards requested that H. Hutchinson contact BSSF and let them know that we would still be interested, however we do not know the timeline for the merger and will need to wait to combine accounts until after that occurs.
2. H. Hutchinson reported that the County has developed a report to track payment for minor grading and logging permits. In reviewing the report it was discovered that the county has waived the SCD review fee on all county projects. This was not approved by the SCD boards. This issue will be addressed at the County Quarterly Meeting that Katie Stevens has scheduled for January 24th at 10am at 30 N. Market Street. The meeting will include the director of Permitting, Debbie Carpenter, Gary Hessong, Anne Bradley, Economic Development, NRCS, Ag Business Council, and Farm Bureau to discuss the pertinent permitting and zoning concerns.
3. 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.
4. H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Winter Meeting will be held in Annapolis on January 22- 23 with networking with legislators on the second day. Hotel rooms must be reserved by December 22nd and registration closes on January 1st. At this time there are no hotel rooms available in the reserved block. Hutchinson is to make reservations for the MASCD business meeting for the following: CSCD – W. Shafer, J. Falkenstein, B. Sowers and R. Grossnickle. FSCD – S. Hipkins and D. Flickinger. Hutchinson will provide transportation as she is taking the SCD vehicle.
5. H. Hutchinson reported the Climate Summit is to be held at Hood College on February 2 and 3. The Districts were invited to have a booth during the conference. There was a discussion about the pro and cons of having a booth and it was decided that we would not have a booth. Both Boards asked H. Hutchinson to attend the event on Friday, to see exactly what was being presented.

6. H. Hutchinson reported on the MD Manure Transport Program. There are issues with the reporting dates of transport and the planting of cover crops in the MD Cover Crop Program. If manure is spread after cover crop is planted, those fields receiving manure must be removed from the cover crop program. Both Boards directed H. Hutchinson to draft a letter to Secretary Atticks regarding their concerns about manure transport/cover crop and also about the proposed changes to MACS funding for manure structures and related practices.
7. J. Falkenstein presented a letter of intent from the Frederick Southern States Cooperative, signed by Larry Remsberg, indicating interest in purchasing the Ag. Complex property. D. Flickinger had also been contacted by the same group concerning the property. A. Holter motioned, seconded by R. Black that we accept the letter and respond accordingly. H. Hutchinson is to check to see who the SCD lawyer is or if he is retired to recommend someone that can work with us.

Adjournment: J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by R. Myers, that the group adjourn the joint meeting at 12:07 pm.

Minutes recorded by Diane Flickinger