

**Frederick County SCD Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, February 20, 2024**  
**Soil Conservation District Office**

**In attendance:** D. Flickinger, R. Black (arrived at 10:06am), J. Falkenstein, B. Sowers, M. Shafer. District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. Guests: R. Myers and S. Hipkins.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:08am.

**Minutes approved after correction from February Session Two by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

**Catoctin January Treasurers Report approved by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by M. Shafer. All in agreement.

**Frederick January Treasurers Report approved by motion:** J. Falkenstein, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

**Reconciliation Report approved by motion:** D. Flickinger, second by M. Shafer. All in agreement.

- I. J. Falkenstein would like the interest rates for CD's shown on the reconciliation report.

**Expenses for the month approved by motion:** M. Shafer, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

**Old Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson notes that each board member was sent a copy of the proposed bylaws via email and also in the board member packets. H. Hutchinson suggests adding committees into the bylaws and explaining their role.
  - a. B. Sowers asks each board member to review the bylaws, make notes, and bring them to the March meeting to make final decisions.
  - b. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to hold monthly board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month. All in agreement.
2. H. Hutchinson reiterates the policies that were left undiscussed at the last board meeting. B. Sowers asks each board member to review the policies, make notes or corrections, and bring them to the March meeting to finalize.
  - a. Meeting Reimbursement Policy
    - i. Add county quarterly meetings, Soil Health Day, and Soil Smart Farm Tour to approved meetings list.
  - b. Per Diem Allowance Policy
    - i. Needs to capture telephone meeting rate that was voted on in the 02/06/2024 meeting.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that the new logo did not obtain a motion.
  - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by W. Shafer to approved the Frederick County SCD logo that contains a single piece of wheat behind the district name. All in agreement.

4. H. Hutchinson reported on Taste of MD Agriculture dinner and awards on February 1, 2024. She, B. Sweeney and S. Hipkins attended. Was a nice evening with great conversation.
5. H. Hutchinson reported that she and B. Sowers were invited to attend the Southern States Board Meeting on February 6, 2024 at Mountain Gate Restaurant to speak on the Ag Property.
  - a. The property is currently zoned agriculture and would need to be zoned industrial for Southern States to use for fertilizer, propane, and other business.
  - b. H. Hutchinson to send an email to Attorney General to see if the SCD must obtain bids for the ag property or if it can be sold privately.
  - c. H. Hutchinson and K. McAfee to reach out to County to see if the perk is active for the property.
  - d. D. Flickinger asks for property map, address, and directions for folks to go view the property before the next board meeting.
  - e. H. Hutchinson to communicate that the board needs additional time for research.
6. H. Hutchinson reported of the Legislative Day held on February 10, 2024 at New Midway Fire Hall. A great turnout from local and state legislators.
7. H. Hutchinson reported that the SSCC met on February 15, 2024 as follows:
  - a. Mike Mason reviewed bills of interest.
    - i. Small Pond bill (HB1465/SB0196) passed in the senate 44 to 0.
    - ii. MD Agricultural BMP Best in Show Program (HB1042/SB932) was discussed. This bill encourages the implementation of at least five BMP's, from a select list, at the same time. Targeting landowners with multiple issues to get more "bang for the buck".
    - iii. Industrial Sludge Utilization Permit (HB991/SB1074) is a bill aimed at DAF material. Carroll County is supporting the bill as well as the shore. More info to come.
  - b. Jim George from MDE made sure everyone was aware that air emission permits are required for morbidity incineration of poultry and large animals, as there is currently an issue on the shore for not having said permits.
  - c. There is a bill to change the cover crop allocation from the Bay Restoration Fund from 40% of the fund to an amount equivalent to what was used in FY24.
8. H. Hutchinson noted that at the November Frederick SCD meeting the board motioned to set a budget for \$7500 for the soil health event on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by R. Black, to set a budget of \$7000 for the Soil Health day on February 28. All in agreement.

#### **New Business:**

1. H. Hutchinson reported that she emailed a budget populated with anticipated expenses. Fee increases for the district will help with some of the district costs. To raise the district fees, we need to go to the county council in April.
  - a. Board members would like to see fees for other counties to compare for the next meeting.

2. H. Hutchinson reported that the IRS mileage reimbursement rate has increased to \$0.67/mile.
  - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to follow the 2024 IRS mileage reimbursement rate for board supervisors, associates, and district staff. All in agreement.
3. H. Hutchinson reported that B. Cammauf mentioned that past district manager had signature authority to sign CREP re-enrollment applications and succession applications if they were time sensitive.
  - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to give signature authority to Heather Hutchinson, district manager, to sign CREP re-enrollment and succession plans when determined by the District Conservationist to be time sensitive. All in agreement.
4. H. Hutchinson presented the 2024 Envirothon budget that was submitted via email by Barry Burch. The budget is included in the board packet. Event insurance needs to be included.
  - a. The board questioned the \$720 increase in cost of the T-Shirts and questioned the reason for this and if there was an increase in the number being purchased.
  - b. B. Sowers asked what role the SCD plays in the Envirothon.
  - c. H. Hutchinson tasked to ask MASCD what role the SCD has in Envirothon.
5. H. Hutchinson reported that the Great Frederick Fair reached out to let the SCD know that the sound system is unavailable for use during our event. K. McAfee reached out to the recommended company from GFF and they quoted \$3600 for the event. D. Stonesifer offered to reach out to the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company to use their sound system- they agreed.
  - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by M. Shafer, to donate \$250 to the Rocky Ridge Volunteer Fire Company for the use of their sound system. All in agreement.
6. H. Hutchinson reported that it is time to advertise the George A. Nicholson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship that was created by the Frederick SCD Board.
  - a. Board agrees to continue with scholarship.

**Communications:** H. Hutchinson reported that she received a 'Thank You' letter from Maryland Ag Education Foundation for the donation made by Frederick SCD and Catocin SCD.

**Next Meeting:** scheduled for March 19, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

**Adjournment:** R. Black motioned, seconded by J. Falkenstein, to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:12am 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.