

Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 14, 2024
Soil Conservation District Office

Supervisors in Attendance: B. Sowers, M. Shafer, D. Flickinger, J. Falkenstein, R. Black (Phoned-in).

Associates in Attendance: S. Leatherman.

Guests in Attendance: District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. B. Cammauf, NRCS District Conservationist. Eric Hines, NRCS. Alisha Mulkey, MDA. Lorretta Collins, MDA. Patrick Heizer.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:04am.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved from September Meeting by motion: D. Flickinger motioned, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

Minutes approved from September Closed Session by motion: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

Financial Reports

September Treasurers Report approved as filed by motion: M. Shafer motioned, second by J. Falkenstein. All in agreement.

Bank Account Reconciliation Report approved by motion: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger. All in agreement.

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

1. Sandy Spring Bank CD: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to renew the current Sandy Spring Urban CD and Ag Complex CD (including interest earned) at 3.85% for a 17-month term. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. WM RC&D: H. Hutchinson reported that there was a quick overview of all the projects that WM RC&D completed in the past year. The RC&D National Director was present and said that WM RC&D is one of the most active in the country and praised them for their good work.
2. IT: H. Hutchinson reported that she signed the contract with SADOS and has purchased all of the equipment needed. Staff will use Office 365 and SharePoint for file sharing and will be able to share outside of our organization.
3. Urban District Technician: H. Hutchinson reported that herself, D. Flickinger, B. Sowers, and S. Leatherman conducted interviews of two candidates on Monday, October 7th. A selection was made and the onboarding process has been started. H. Hutchinson will continue the hiring

process but is delayed due to not having all of the correct permissions in NeoGov. She is waiting on HR to correct this.

4. Office Lease: H. Hutchinson reported that she has not heard back from Rusty McCabe about the space inquiry.
5. Cooperator of the Year: Staff provided names of two nominees. H. Hutchinson provided a report on one nominee and B. Cammauf spoke on the other.
 - a. M. Shafer motioned, second by J. Falkenstein, to recognize Josh Stewart as FCSCD 2024 Cooperator of the Year. All in agreement.
6. CBF Grant: H. Hutchinson reported that the SCD had approved partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Fund on a grant to provide two soil health winter workshops and two on-farm field days. The Chairman's signature is needed on the agreement.

New Business:

1. Expense Reports: S. Leatherman participated in interviewing candidates for the District Urban Technician position. M. Shafer motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to approve S. Leatherman expense report to include the District Urban Technician interview on October 7th. All in agreement.
2. Financial Review: H. Hutchinson reported that Jim George corrected the Frederick County SCD Financial review for a report started on January 26, 2024 rather than the full year. B. Sowers asked how Jim George depreciates the SCD Vehicle.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to accept the Frederick County SCD annual financial review. All in agreement.
3. Banquet Menu: H. Hutchinson provided the menu from Big Boys BBQ.
 - a. Brisket, Grilled Chicken Thighs, Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, and Broccoli-Grape Salad was selected for the meal. B. Sowers is to provide ice cream for dessert.
 - b. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger, for the SCD to pay for staff and one guest, tickets will be for sale at \$20.00 per person for adults and children over 10 years old, \$10.00 per child between 5-10 years old, and Children under 5 years old are free. All in agreement.
4. Regenerative Farm Tour: Mobilize Frederick will host a Regenerative Farm Tour on Friday, October 18th. You must register for lunch and to ride the bus, but you can drive separately and bring your own lunch if you miss the sign up. The tour will visit Holterholm and Open Book Farm. Grace Garst will be speaking on Federal programs and our future soil health events.
5. Maryland FFA Foundation: H. Hutchinson reported that she received a request from the MD FFA Foundation for a donation.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to donate \$1000.00 to the MD FFA Foundation. All in agreement.
6. MASCD BOD Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD BOD Meeting will be held on October 22nd. This meeting will have a virtual option or in person at the Baltimore County Ag Center.
7. LEEF Program: H. Hutchinson reported that Secretary Atticks introduced a new program- Leaders in Environmentally Engaged Farming (LEEF). The slides were forwarded to board

members and associates. The program seems to be modeled after the building industry LEED program. The program will provide a certification to your farm showing that you are environmentally friendly, implement BMP's, serve on community boards, donate to your local food banks, etc. Proposed benefits could include tax breaks, preference for school lunch contracts, etc. A survey link was provided that gives the opportunity to provide suggestions regarding certification criteria and desired benefits.

8. Carbon Study: K. McAfee provided a handout from Team Ag Inc. and B. Sowers on a carbon study to access four different dairy farms in Frederick County for greenhouse gas emissions and then suggest "climate smart" practices to implement to reduce the farms carbon footprint. It would focus on one large conventional dairy, one small conventional dairy, one organic dairy, and one all-grass dairy.
 - a. The proposed study estimates the cost of \$29,980.00 to complete the study and publish the data.
 - b. There are grants available such as the SARE growers grant that Team Ag would apply for, but they would charge \$2100.00 to complete the grant for us.
 - c. A. Mulkey suggests possibly applying for the Healthy Soil Competitive Fund when that opens again in January of 2025.
 - d. D. Flickinger suggests to think on it and come back next meeting for further discussion.
9. Leave: H. Hutchinson will be on leave from November 22st to November 27th.
10. Fee Increase: H. Hutchinson submitted the SCD Fee Increase to Joyce Grossnickle. It will go to County Council, but unsure of the timeline of when that will be.

Communications: H. Hutchinson received an invitation to the Garrett County SCD Banquet on November 15th, if you would like to attend please RSVP by October 31st.

NRCS Report: E. Hines provided an update on the move process looking to happen in spring of 2025. Still in talks about the future of the phone system. B. Cammauf noted that QAR happened between September 16th to the 20th and he should receive a report within 30 days- he has not received it as of yet.

MDA Report: A. Mulkey reported that there are two continuing recruitments open through MDA for a Soil Conservation Technician and a Soil Conservation Planner. Mycotoxin Testing is available at no cost to farmers for corn, wheat, rye, and other grains. The SSCC Meeting on Thursday, October 17th, will be all virtual.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: D. Flickinger motioned, seconded by M. Shafer, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:43am 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.