

Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Soil Conservation District Office

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

Associates in Attendance: S. Leatherman, R. Myers, M. Ahalt, S. Hipkins (arrives at 10:32am)

Guests in Attendance: District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. B. Cammauf, NRCS, District Conservationist (arrives at 10:54am).

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:14am.

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Financial Reports

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

Bank Account Reconciliation Report approved as filed by motion: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer. All in agreement.

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

1. Sandy Spring Endowment: The endowment CD matures on 4/11/2025. There is also a balance still in the ACNB endowment account.
 - a. D. Flickinger motioned, second by M. Shafer, to close the ACNB endowment account and move the remaining balance to the operating account for the scholarship. All in agreement.
 - b. D. Flickinger motioned, second by M. Shafer, to take interest from Sandy Spring Endowment and move it to the operating account for the scholarship, then re-enroll the Sandy Spring Endowment CD. All in agreement.

Old Business:

1. Soil Health Day: H. Hutchinson reported that there was a great turnout of 119 people in attendance. K. McAfee presented the feedback of survey information.
 - a. M. Ahalt reports that it would be nice to have a panel discussion. Suggests Steve Ernst.
 - b. Suggestions for panel participants include Dave Burrier, Steve Ernst and Dave Hoola.
2. Hood Climate Summit: H. Hutchinson reported that she had booth traffic mostly on Friday and limited on Saturday.
3. Sabillasville STEAM Day: E. Doney and W. Rawlings attended Sabillasville STEAM Day and taught a lesson on seeds that included identification and how plants grow.

4. SSCC Meeting: The SSCC meeting was held on February 20th.
 - a. H. Hutchinson reported that Rachel Jones gave a legislative update. Highlights include:
 - i. HB140/SB176 passed in the senate. This bill requires SCDs to provide conservation plans to MDA for enforcement purposes. Rachel stressed that it is only for nutrient management purposes and only nutrient management will be able to request them.
 - ii. HB386/SB345 seeks to ban PFA's in pesticides beginning June 1, 2028.
 - iii. HB909/SB732 would ban the application of sewage sludge permits or applications of products like Bloom because of the PFA content exceeds the tolerable limit.
 - iv. HB1175/SB898 restricts fertilizer application near water with a 100ft buffer required. MDA will be required to fund the setback.
 - v. The complete list of bills was included in the board packet.
 - b. Lorretta Collins gave a quick overview of the Open Meetings Act. Associates are not to attend closed session. A member of the board must be trained in Open Meetings Act., preferably the chair.
 - c. There was a presentation on the Bay Friendly Farming program.
5. Scholarship: H. Hutchinson reported that the George A. Nicholson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship has been posted. K. McAfee reported that she released it to FCPS through PeachJar and it was sent to over 20k emails- there is currently one applicant.
6. Ag Complex: H. Hutchinson reported that the person farming the ground has been notified via certified letter. J. Falkenstein reported that soil samples were taken, and the ground needs lime.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by R. Black, to have H&H fix the well cap. All in agreement.
 - b. W. Shafer motioned, second by R. Black, to have lime spread at 2 Ton/Ac as soon as possible. All in agreement.

New Business:

1. Farm Safety Camp: H. Hutchinson reported that a solicitation to sponsor the Farm Safety Camp was received.
 - a. R. Black motioned, second by J. Falkenstein to sponsor the event in the amount of \$500.00. All in agreement.
2. SSCC Meeting: The meeting will be held on March 20th at the Washington County Extension Office.
3. MASCD Meeting: The MASCD meeting will be held on March 25th in person in Annapolis. H. Hutchinson reported that she is unable to attend due to having a prior commitment at the Fair Grounds for the Office of Ag event. H. Hutchinson prepared letters for the legislators in regard to cutting critical conservation funding.
4. MASCD Summer Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Summer Meeting will be held on August 4-6 at Rocky Gap Resort. There will be no live auction this year and they will need a silent auction item from the district or to give a donation for the endowment fund.
5. WIP Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that Elizabeth will hold a meeting with each district. The FCSCD meeting is scheduled for April 10th at 11:00AM. H. Hutchinson will forward the meeting link when she receives it.

6. Envirothon: H. Hutchinson reported that the training day is set for March 25, and the competition is set for April 22. K. McAfee reported that she has received five donations for Envirothon.
 - a. R. Myers brings check from the New Market District Lions and reports that 120 students are set to compete with one team from every school except Tuscarora.
7. Small Pond Review: H. Hutchinson reported that she spoke with John Zawitoski, District Manager of Montgomery County SCD, regarding potential of them assisting in small pond review. MDE confirmed that they would not need to be party to an MOU between the SCDs since it is an agreement between SCDs rather than a third party (outside) reviewer. An agreement between the SCDs will need to be developed.
8. WMRC&D- H. Hutchinson reported that she spoke with Josh Smith. He has resigned from WMRC&D and is moving to a private company close to his home. The district has no representative at the WMRC&D meetings.
 - a. S. Leatherman noted that he is working with WMRC&D to reforest his woods area after emerald ash boar destroyed it.
9. Forest Clearing Workgroup: H. Hutchinson provided minutes in the board packets.
10. MPRP: D. Flickinger reports that if you would like to keep up with the happenings of MPRP there is a community Facebook group that you can ask questions and see new information.
11. Policy Updates: H. Hutchinson reports that there are policies that need to be updated due to accounts changing and fee updates.
 - a. M. Shafer motioned, second by R. Black, to give H. Hutchinson signature authority of up to \$1000 for the Frederick County operating account. All in agreement.
 - b. D. Flickinger motioned, second by R. Black, to update the Red Line Policy to include a \$130/per acre final bill and a \$800 per pond/basin fee. All in agreement.

Communications: No report.

NRCS Report: B. Cammauf reports that all leasing across the country is on hold and all GSA leasing has been terminated. All federal workspace numbers were required to be reported which includes those in our office that are occupied by state and district employees. As of 3/18, all farm bill allocated money has been unfrozen, but IRA funding is still paused and under review.

MDA Report: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies: No Report.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: R. Black motioned, seconded by D. Flickinger, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:21am 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.