

**Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
Soil Conservation District Office**

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

Associates in Attendance: S. Leatherman, R. Myers, M. Ahalt.

Guests in Attendance: District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. FCG Office of Agriculture Director, K. Stevens.

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:02am.

Meeting Minutes

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

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

Financial Reports

April 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.

Operating CD: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to withdraw interest and move to the operating account and re-enroll the principle. All in agreement.

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

Old Business:

1. MASCD: H. Hutchinson reported that K. McAfee submitted awards for Farm Credit District of the Year, Employee of the Year, Cooperator of the Year, Outstanding Communications, and Conservation Education District of the Year.
2. Envirothon: H. Hutchinson reported that the competition was held on April 22nd at Cunningham Falls State Park. 24 Teams participated. 1st place went to "Whopper Plopper" from Catoctin High School, 2nd place to "Picasso Moths" of Urbana High School, and 3rd place to "Cryptic Copperheads" of Urbana.
3. Ag Complex: H. Hutchinson reported that Paramount sprayed and fertilized the ground. A tree company came in to remove the Bradford pear trees around the well heads. M. Shafer reported that a company came to repair the well head, but they have not sent an invoice.
4. SSCC: D. Flickinger gave an update on SSCC that was held on 5/15.
 - a. New WIP Program has 4 goals
 - i. Living Resources- habitat/fisheries
 - ii. People- public access/environmental literacy

- iii. Lands- conservation/preservation
- iv. Water- water quality/toxins

New Business:

1. Phone System: H. Hutchinson reported that SADOS installed a new phone system.
 - a. New district number; (301)-383-8782
2. Property Disposal: H. Hutchinson reported that most furniture was able to be sold. Nutrient Management is interested in filing cabinets in the back of the office- since they were purchased with state carry over funds we will not be charging them.
3. MASCD Summer Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported that the MASCD Summer Meeting will be held on August 4-6th at Rocky Gap Resort. All meals will be buffet style.
 - a. J. Falkenstein- only staying Monday night
 - b. D. Flickinger- full registration
 - c. B. Sowers- only staying Monday night
 - d. M. Shafer- only staying Monday night
 - e. R. Myers- full registration
 - f. H. Hutchinson- full registration
 - g. K. McAfee- full registration
4. Scholarship: H. Hutchinson reported that the Scholarship Committee met after the last board meeting to review the applicants and present their recommendations at todays meeting. The committee recommends:
 - a. Luke Jolles- \$750
 - b. Megan Downing- \$750
 - c. Jackson Savage- \$500
 - d. Annalise Abruzesse- \$500
 - e. S. Leatherman would like to contribute May per-diem to the scholarship fund. D. Flickinger, J. Falkenstein, and R. Myers each to contribute \$100.00 to the scholarship fund and will bring to June Meeting.
 - f. B. Sowers and M. Shafer contributed their March per-diems to the scholarship fund.
 - g. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to grant scholarships to the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. All in agreement.
5. Soil Smart Farm Tour- H. Hutchinson reported that the Soil Smart Farm tour will be held on September 4th and will focus on the Walkersville area.
6. MOU's:
 - a. MDE: H. Hutchinson, B. Sowers, J. Falkenstein, D. Stonesifer, and M. Shafer met with MDE on May 15th to review the current MOU. MDE would like the SCD to continue completing the Frederick City E&S inspections.
 - b. Frederick County: H. Hutchinson reported that the proposed MOU reflects only the floodplain ordinance, but there needs to be a better way to present NRCS's ability to conduct soils investigations.
 - c. Montgomery County: H. Hutchinson included the MOU with Montgomery County for the use of their engineer to review small ponds. The amount is needed to know what we will be willing to pay for each per pond review.

- i. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by M. Shafer, to pay Montgomery County SCD \$600/per pond for the first submission and \$150/per pond resubmission fee. All in agreement.
7. Forest Clearing Work Group: H. Hutchinson included a letter developed by Lorretta Collins that summarizes the feedback from SCD District Managers and others involved in the meetings.
8. District Manager Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported on her attendance at the DM meeting. They discussed associates positions and which boards have written policy about the selection and expectations for attendance. Board member applications should be sent directly to SSCC and not to the SCD.
9. MDA Employees Meeting: H. Hutchinson and staff attended the MDA Employees Meeting on May 14th.
 - a. Hans Schmidt emphasized the importance of board members being involved in lobbying legislators. He would like to attend board meetings and visit construction sites while in the county. He noted that HB140 was withdrawn.
 - b. Per-diem has been capped at \$5,000. Directed that no bond insurance is needed. Annual review of accounts is not required by MDA, but is in legislation, and Districts should work with MASCD to change the language.
 - c. MDA employees will get a COLA and step increase next year, but this will take away funding from administrative staff in the district (HH and KM). MDA needs to start reducing contributions to the SCD's for salary support.
 - d. MACS office is reviewing older files that do not have a completed NOR.
 - e. Cover crop program has been scaled down due to reduced funding. Sign up in the district will be from June 23rd to July 17th.
10. MPRP: D. Flickinger reminds everyone to join the Facebook groups for MPRP to stay up to date with information.

Communications: No report.

Bylaws and Policy: J. Falkenstein, D. Flickinger, and S. Leatherman to serve on committee.

NRCS Report: B. Cammauf reports that a new reorganization plan will come out on May 26th and will tell any position that is being released. This plan will be in place by September 30th. A third and final deferred resignation will be offered from June 3rd to June 10th.

MDA Report: No Report.

Cooperating Agencies: K. Stevens reported that FCG Office of Ag has started to implement their strategic plan. A new "Homegrown Frederick" magazine will come out in June- copies will be dropped off at the SCD. Ag Preservation will open again on September 1st.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 9:00AM at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by D. Flickinger, to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:57am 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.