

Frederick County SCD Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2026
SCD Office

Supervisors in Attendance: D. Flickinger (arrives at 9:12am), J. Falkenstein, M. Shafer, R. Black, B. Sowers.

Associates in Attendance: R. Myers (arrives at 9:09am), S. Hipkins (leaves at 11:06am), S. Leatherman (arrives at 9:06am), P. Heizer.

Guests in Attendance: District Manager, H. Hutchinson. Soil Conservation Coordinator, K. McAfee. District Conservationist, B. Cammauf (arrives at 10:51am). Director of Frederick County Office of Agriculture, K. Stevens (arrives at 9:15am). K. Potter, MDA Resource Conservation District Operations (arrives at 10:39am).

Meeting called to order by Chairman, B. Sowers at 9:00am.

Meeting Minutes

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

Minutes approved from February Closed Session by motion: J. Falkenstein motioned, second by R. Black. All in agreement.

Financial Reports

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

Bank Account Reconciliation Report approved as filed by motion: R. Black motioned, second by J. Falkenstein, to approve the bank account reconciliation report. All in agreement.

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

Old Business:

1. Soil Health Day: H. Hutchinson reported that a successful soil health day was held on February 25th. K. McAfee provided the board with an event cost analysis. M. Ahalt suggests future speaker Ken Seckler.
2. Hood Climate Summit: D. Flickinger reported on the Mobilize Frederick Climate Summit held at Hood College on February 27th and 28th.

New Business:

1. Expense Reports: H. Hutchinson provided Supervisors with paystubs. B. Sowers notes that he still needs to set up Paychex. H. Hutchinson to contact Paychex to resend B. Sowers account set-up information.
2. Zoning Change for Ag Complex: H. Hutchinson provided a letter and maps from Frederick County Government of a proposed zoning change for the ag property located on Hormans Lane. There is a public hearing at 9:00am tomorrow, March 18th. The proposed change affecting the Ag Complex and surrounding areas is a conversion from Agricultural zoning to limited industrial.

3. CD Renewal: H. Hutchinson noted that three CD's will mature in the month of March. H. Hutchinson provided the board with current rates of CD's at local banking institutions noting that lower rates are given for public funds.
 - a. M. Shafer motioned, second by J. Falkenstein, to move AUB 5634 CD, AUB 5635 CD, and AUB 5636 CD to checking account to prevent rollover. All in agreement.
 - b. R. Black motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to give Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer the authority to decide where to move the maturing CD's to. All in agreement.
4. FCPS Science & Engineering Fair: H. Hutchinson made the \$250 donation on behalf of the board. Judges will be contacted after March 20th. The specialty awards can be cash, certificates, scholarships, or swag.
5. Envirothon: H. Hutchinson reported that Envirothon training day is on March 24th. Staff have been busy preparing materials for the 5th issue. K. McAfee reported that she has received donations from Wolfsville Ruritan, Burkittsville Ruritan, Johnsville Ruritan, and Frederick Pomona Grange.
6. Catoctin FFA Land Judging: H. Hutchinson received an email from Catoctin FFA Land Judging requesting donations to support their trip to the national contest in Oklahoma.
 - a. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to give \$500 to Catoctin FFA Land Judging in support of their trip to Oklahoma. All in agreement.
7. MASCD BOD Meeting: H. Hutchinson reported the next MASCD Board of Directors meeting will be held on March 24th at MDA Headquarters. There is a hybrid option for call-in.
8. Scholarship: H. Hutchinson reported that K. McAfee posted the application to the district website and to PeachJar. The scholarship was posted under H. Hutchinson advisement as she was awaiting ADA compliance deadline information and was concerned the website would need to be taken down by April 26th. Current guidance allows the website to stay up but needs to be updated by April of 2027.
 - a. R. Myers notes that he spoke with Annalise Abruzzee regarding her scholarship being returned by Kansas State. She is now attending Oregon State online. H. Hutchinson to send a letter to Annalise to see if she needs the remaining funds and give a hard deadline for response. If there is no response the money will be added to this years scholarship.
 - b. H. Hutchinson notes the funds available for the scholarship this year.
 - i. J. Falkenstein motioned, second by D. Flickinger, to solicit for donations to support the George A. Nicholson, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. All in agreement.
9. CPR/AED Training: H. Hutchinson reported that we have 23 people signed up to take the training and waiting to hear back to schedule individual sign up. There will be two classes of twelve students.
10. ADA Compliance: H. Hutchinson reported that there was discussion at the District Managers meeting. The OAG notes that SCDs are considered specialty districts and have an extra year to comply. It is a big job to comply. SSCC advised the SCDs to minimize content of the current website. B. Sowers suggests getting quotes to build a new website to meet ADA compliance requirements.
11. MDA Employee Meeting: The MDA Employee Meeting will be held on May 19th which is the date of the board meeting. After discussion the board meeting date will not be moved.
 - a. D. Flickinger notes she will not be at the April board meeting.

Communications: H. Hutchinson presents a 'thank you' from the MD Agricultural Education Foundation.

Committee Assignments:

- a. Info/Education: No report.
- b. Policy/Outreach: D. Flickinger gives report on the committees last meeting. Ideas for outreach include: Setting up at farmers markets, a cover crop sign up lottery, inviting middle school students to Envirothon, signs for implementation of BMP's, and cover crop signs.
- c. Legislative: No report.

NRCS Report: B. Cammauf notes that Suzy Daubert is now the acting State Conservationist for MD and DE. USDA has closed the south building and now they will be receiving relocation notices. The project ranking deadline was last week. \$6 million was received for the EQIP program and \$2 million for CSP, but payment rates and pricing has dropped.

MDA Report: K. Potter reported that the state budget was released and \$19.5 million was designated to cover crop, \$8 million to the MACS program, \$26.7 million to land preservation, and \$900 K to LEEF. HPAI is confirmed in Cecil County in a pullet farm. A cover crop TAC meeting will be held on March 26th and any comments can be directed to H. Hutchinson. The Nutrient Management Annual Implementation Report due date is extended until April 1st.

Cooperating Agencies: K. Stevens notes that the MALPF application deadline is April 1st. They have scheduled office hours for application assistance. They will be releasing a new signage program focusing on preserved properties in Frederick County starting in April.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for April 21st, at 9:00am at the Soil Conservation District Office.

Adjournment: J. Falkenstein motioned, seconded by R. Black, to adjourn the regular meeting at 11:16am 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.