

**ST. MARY'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 4, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Stanley Boothe. Members in attendance were Donnie Ocker, Jeffrey Raley and Bobby Cooper. Also in attendance were Luther Wolfe, Ben Beale, Bruce Young, Haley Carter, Rachel Yeatman, Carl Dyson, and Mike Scheffel.

MINUTES: The minutes were previously distributed and read. Motion was made by Donnie Ocker and seconded by Bobby Cooper to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as distributed. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Donnie Ocker moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion seconded by Bobby Cooper. The Treasurer's report was accepted.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- A summary of the MD legislative session from MASCD was distributed
- Bruce provided a copy of a request for support for the MD 4-H Congress.

DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT: Bruce reviewed the District Manager's report and a copy is attached.

The board considered approval of the plans and designs as recommended by the District Manager:

Bill Approvals: Upon motion by Donnie and second by Bobby, the bills listed on the District Manager's Report were approved for payment.

E&S Control Plans: Upon motion by Bobby and second by Jeffrey, the plans listed on the District Manager's Report were approved.

Conservation Plans: Upon motion by Donnie and second by Jeffrey, the plans listed on the District Manager's Report were approved.

District Conservationist Report: Rachael provided a report to the board on recent NRCS activities. Rachael reported that 6 applications have been selected for funding through round one of the EQIP selection process. Round two will occur at the end of the month. Rachael also reviewed the new planner certification process.

Area Coordinators Report: Mike provided an update of recent MDA activities. Mike reported on three MACS projects that will expire in August of 2017. These projects need to be completed by the deadline.

University of Maryland: Ben provided an overview of current crop conditions and notified the board of several upcoming workshops.

Farm Bureau: Jeffrey reported that the Farm Bureau is working with others on a wildfire relief auction.

OLD BUSINESS

Charles County Cooperators Dinner Meeting:

Scheduled for May 10th, which is next Wednesday. Bruce reviewed reservations and confirmed attendance for the event.

John Deere Drill:

The new drill has been delivered and has already been put in use. The small seed box attachment was installed and is being used during the first rental. The new drill cost approximately \$38,000.

Earth Day –April 23, 2017:

Unfortunately the Earth Day celebration had to be cancelled due to impending rain.

Envirothon:

The St. Mary's Competition took place on April 26 at the farm of Lillian Jarboe. Six teams competed. Bruce went over the results. GMHS team #1 placed first. The state competition will take place on 6/15 and 6/16 in Queen Anne County. A bus will transport kids from three So MD counties. The national event was discussed. Bruce provided an event guide for review. Fundraising has been adequate with \$373,000 in anticipated revenue.

Annual Report:

Haley reviewed the annual report. The report will be posted to the SCD website. It includes annual accomplishments, outreach and education and new employees. The board reviewed and thanked Haley for her work.

Projector Replacement:

The projector is now not working at all. Bruce reviewed the original quote for the projector, screen and wiring replacement. Another option would be to purchase the projector through UME Extension for a reduced cost. However, the installation and screen replacement would also need to be completed. The county has not responded that they could do the install. UMD Extension has offered to share in the cost of the projector. Bobby motioned to approve purchase of the new projector through the original contract. Jeffrey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit Award Submission:

Haley reviewed the award application for District of the Year. The application has been submitted. Donnie motioned to approve the application, with a second by Bobby. Motion carried.

Erosion and Sediment Control Regulation Changes:

E&S regulation changes revolve around three areas: grading unit size, renewal period and required MDE site visit interval. The local approving authority is still authorized to determine the size of existing grading unit. The board discussed the issue and if a grading unit size should be maintained. The board felt it would be best to leave the policy as is which requires a 10 acre grading unit with the ability to request an exception based on the specific characteristics of the site. The option to extend the renewal period to three years was also discussed. The board agreed to leave the approval period at 2 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

MASCD Annual Meeting Registration:

Hotel reservations are due. Meal reservations are not due until July 3rd. Bobby and Stanley will attend. Donnie and Jeffrey may attend. The board approved Haley attending.

MACS Cover Crop Program:

Signature Authorization: The board was requested to approve a new signature authority due to the new cover crop software program. District administration designees will be Bruce and Haley. Technical designees will be Nancy, Bruce and Rachel. Bobby motioned to approve and authorize Stanley to sign the new signature authority document. Jeffrey seconded. Motion carried.

NMP Tracking Sheet: There are new requirements for ensuring compliance with nutrient management planning process. A full NMP will no longer be needed. Instead only certain parts of the plan will be required for any capitol project.

Patuxent Area Meeting:

The meeting will be held on May 23rd at the Charles County office. All staff are required to attend the meeting. Jane will cover the office.

Farm Bureau Membership:

Motion by Jeffrey to pay the Farm bureau dues in the amount of \$55.00. Seconded by Bobby. Motion carried.

NRCS Student Leadership Council Representative:

Rachael Riche has expressed interest in serving as the student leadership council representative. Racheal also serves as the farm Ambassador for the St. Mary's County farm bureau. Rachael has horses. Her dad is a waterman and logger. The board agreed that Rachael would be a good representative for the leadership council.

CLOSED SESSION - PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Donnie Ocker and seconded by Bobby Cooper to go into closed session to discuss an employee's compensation, an employee's leave request, and an associate supervisor application. All members in attendance voted yea to the motion. Authority to go into closed session is covered under State Government Article, §10-508(a) statutory authority #1. At 7:10 p.m. a motion was made by Donnie Ocker and seconded by Jeffrey Raley to return to open session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Donnie moved to adjourn at 9:15 PM. Motion seconded by Bobby. Motion carried-meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ben Beale
Secretary**