

**ST. MARY'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9 am by Chairman Bobby Cooper. Members in attendance were Stanley Boothe, Donnie Ocker, Jeffrey Raley, and Carl Dyson. Also in attendance were Bruce Young, Ben Beale, Haley Carter, Mike Scheffel, Luther Wolfe, and Matt Hobart.

INTRODUCTION: Matt Hobart introduced himself as the new NRCS Soil Conservationist for St. Mary's county. Matt comes to St. Mary's from New York state. He has experience in dairy and horticulture.

REGUEST FOR EXEMPTION TO DISTRICT POLICY #26: (Note- Donnie Ocker recused himself from the meeting room during discussion and vote for this matter) PB II, LLC, represented by Robert Trautman presented a request for an exemption of the 10 acre grading unit limit. The project will include clearing, stump grubbing and removal, and grading of 507 acres for conversion of forested land to farm land. The project will be phased and full sediment and erosion plans completed for each phase. The board discussed the activity, phasing plans, soils present and any potential for soil loss. Stanley motioned to approve the exemption allowing grading over 10 acres. Jeffrey seconded the motion. Motion passed.

MINUTES: The minutes were previously distributed and read. Mike noted a date discrepancy in his report. Motion was made by Donnie and seconded by Jeffrey Raley to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve as amended. Motion passed.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Notice of appointment of Julie Oberg as the new Deputy Secretary for MDA
- Notice of upcoming So MD Forage Conference on January 10.

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 Stanley, the bills listed on the District Manager's Report were approved for payment.

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

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

District Conservationist Report: Matt provided a report to the board on recent NRCS activities. There are 15 contracts that have been submitted and are moving forward in the acceptance process.

Area Coordinator Report: Mike provided a review of the MDA activities. MDA staff evaluations have been completed and went well. There is no word on when the technician position will be advertised. .

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

Farm Bureau: Jeffery provided a brief report about the FB meeting. Farm Bureau is giving up the rental equipment program. Legislative dinner will be held Friday.

OLD BUSINESS

Holton Pond: The project is finished with the exception of seeding and mulching and “as-built” certification. Grading work is completed. The final stabilization and inspection was postponed due to the snow. The project turned out very well. Rodent guards will be needed on open pipes. A second payment installment of \$802,801 was made to the contractor.

MASCD Winter Meeting:

Bruce reviewed attendance plans for the meeting. The winter meeting starts on February 7th with the MASCD Board of Directors meeting. Legislative day luncheon will be held on February 8th. Bruce has been working to set-up the legislative visits for St. Mary’s.

SMADC Equipment Meeting: The meeting was postponed due to snow.

E&S Fee Increase Request: The request was slated for discussion at the January 23rd agenda of the County Commissioners. After discussion of the issue further at the Farm Bureau legislative Dinner, the Commissioners wish to review the matter further with Dr. Bridgett and postpone any action at this time.

Cooperators Dinner Meeting: Haley distributed registration materials for the dinner. The price is set at \$30 per plate. Registration deadline is January 26th. Invitations will go out early next week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Legal Dispute-- County Subpoena: Bruce has been subpoenaed to appear in court on February 8th. Bruce will be asked to testify regarding clearing in a critical area buffer.

Farm Bureau Legislative Dinner: The Legislative Dinner was held January 5th at the Old Breton Inn. Bruce attended and provided an update on storm water management for agriculture structures.

St. Mary’s County Budget Request: Bruce is working on the budget submission. The intent is to submit the budget with amounts similar to last year. The final budget will be submitted in January and presented at the next board meeting.

Office Furniture Purchase: The front office needs a new desk as Sara Burbage's old desk is in poor condition. The board discussed the office furniture needs of the office and thought it best to have matching desks for both work stations. Donnie motioned to purchase 2 new desks with a total price range of up to \$3000. Stanley seconded the motion. Motion passed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Request to Cash out Leave: A request was made by a District Employee to cash out some earned leave. Motion was made by Donnie and seconded by Stanley to approve 80 hours of earned annual leave cash out.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Donnie moved to adjourn at 11:30 am. Motion seconded by Stanley. Motion carried-meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ben Beale
Secretary**