



# WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1260 Maryland Avenue, Suite 101 • Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: (301)797-6821

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## MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### REGULAR MEETING

March 13, 2024 - 10:30 a.m.

*WCSCD Conference Room Live and with the ZOOM Platform*

#### ATTENDEES:

Supervisors Present: Harry Strite (Chair), J.D. Rinehart (Vice Chair), and J. Tyler Harp (Supervisor) (in person), J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer), and Edward Wurmb (Supervisor), (via ZOOM)

Associate Supervisors Present: Kirk Winders (via ZOOM)

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Lori Flook Bishop, Mark Kendle, Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS), Josh Smith (Western MD RC&D), Hans Kefauver (USDA, NRCS), and Jeff Semler (UMD Washington County Extension)

#### CALL TO ORDER:

The March Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:40 a.m.

#### REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

The February Regular Board Meeting Minutes were submitted for review and approval.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the February Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The February Treasurer's Report was submitted for review and approval.

All accounts are in order. Dee noted we still have not received the Boonsboro WWTP Grant reimbursement check, in the amount of \$426,696.06. The report was submitted to DNR, January 4-5, 2024, and the District should receive reimbursement check within 30-45 days.

#### District Board of Supervisors

Harry E. Strite  
Chair

J.D. Rinehart  
Vice Chair

J. Scott Shank, III  
Treasurer

Edward C. Wurmb, D.V.M.  
Supervisor

J. Tyler Harp  
Supervisor

Boyd Michael  
Associate

Kirk E. Winders  
Associate

Ariel Herrod  
Associate

Additionally, the State General Fund Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request was received and submitted. It was advised at the MASCD Winter Meeting, it will be flat funding moving forward.

J. Tyler Harp made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:**

The February Monthly Bill Approval Report was submitted for review and approval.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the February Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE SUMMARY REPORT:**

The MACS Monthly Cost-Share Summary Report was submitted for review and approval.

J. Tyler Harp made a motion to approve the MACS Monthly Cost-Share Summary Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **REPORTS FROM OTHERS:**

- Josh Smith (Western MD RC&D) shared a Power Point presentation with the Board. The presentation, 'Western MD RC&D March 2024 Update', offered many highlights including details of active grants, agreements and MOU's, Partners & Employee Partnerships, employee statuses and funding updates, the 2024 Western MD Afforestation Program, a tree planting at Antietam National Battlefield in Spring of 2024, a 2025 Planting Proposal, the wild turkey monitoring project, wood energy fuel Supply analysis, and much more. Josh thanked WCSCD for their continued support through annual dues and provided Dee with an invoice for the FY2024 Western MD RC&D Annual Contribution Request.
- Jeff Semler, (UMD, Washington County Extension) provided an update on the hiring process of the Nutrient Management Program Consultants. They have interviewed three candidates. It is a (3) year MOU. Additionally, they have spoken with Terri Shank regarding FFA Certification Programs in the high schools.
- Hans Kefauver (USDA, NRCS) shared NRCS/UMD is organizing a second Field Day following the Extension Field Day held, November 7, 2023. This Cover Crop field day is planned for May 7, 2024, at Ernst Grain and Livestock, Clear Spring, MD. A second day for Grazing is planned, May 8, 2024, at WMREC. For the previous event, the WCSCD Board of Supervisors authorized financial assistance, supplying funds for breakfast items, etc. Hans asked the Board if they would be willing to contribute funds again this year for the field days in May.

J. Scott Shank, III recommended Hans speak with Josh Smith, WMRC&D, to see if they would be willing and able to contribute; possibly a \$400/\$400 split with WCSCD.

In the event, RC&D or others are unable to contribute, WCSCD is willing to contribute up to, not to exceed \$800.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to contribute up to, not to exceed \$800 for the field days, May 7 & 8, 2024. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Hans asked if the District would be willing to hold/manage funding donated by other sources, such as Farm Credit, etc. Managing as an in and out line item in accounting. Treasurer, J. Scott Shank, III did not see an issue with doing so.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to hold money donated by other sources, managing as an in and out line item in accounting. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Additionally, Hans and the Board discussed ordering hand out items, or items to sell, such as hats, shirts, mugs, etc. with a staff designed logo/tag line.

#### **URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:**

Sediment Control Review Report: The February Sediment Control Review Report was submitted for review and approval by Mark Kendle (Programs Technician/Office Coordinator).

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the February Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pond Approval(s): None

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following old business:

Dee provided updates on the following items.

- The MOU Amendment for stream restoration work with Ecotone, Inc.; in process with the District' Attorney.
- JoEllen Kidwell with JH Graphics had recommended 'updating blocks' on the District Website which will be needed for a new look and feel in future website work. Dee asked JoEllen to provide an estimate for Board of Supervisor consideration and approval.

**OTHER OLD BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

The Board discussed the following new business:

Signature Authorities: Dee presented two (2) Maryland Department of Agriculture, MACS Cost-Share Program Signature Authority documents requiring updated signatures due to changes within the Board of Supervisors and staff.

The first form for the Maryland Agriculture Water Quality Cost-Share Program entails authorized signatures for MACS Applications, Agreements, and Claim for Payment Forms. Signatures required are District Manager and an Alternate District Representative, NRCS District Conservationist, NRCS Designated Technician, and all the District Board of Supervisors.

The second form for the Maryland Agriculture Water Quality Cost-Share Program, MACS Program - Cover Crop Program, entails authorized signatures for MACS Cover Crop Program Applications, Agreements, and Claim for Payment Forms. Signatures required are Authorized District Representative, Alternate District Representative, Designated Technician, and Alternate Designated Technician. This document requires Chair, Harry Strite's signature.

MASCD Auction, Awards, & Crab Feed: Dee noted the MASCD Summer Meeting reservations have been converted to the MASCD hotel room rates. Planned attendees are also registered for the meeting and the crab feed to be held on the first evening. The cost for spouses is \$55.

Dee also presented an application for the Farm Credit Outstanding District Award (to be presented at the MASCD Summer Meeting) for Board of Supervisor review and approval; the application requires Board of Supervisor signatures. The Board concurred and signed accordingly.

Lastly, each year, the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Soil Conservation Districts, etc. join to raise funds for the MASCD Environmental Education Endowment Fund during a live auction as part of the MASCD Annual Meeting. Dee asked the Board of Supervisors for any donation suggestions and if there was a set spending limit for purchasing auction items. Historically, we have spent approximately \$200.

J. Scott Shank, III made a motion to spend approximately \$200 for the Endowment Auction donations. J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OTHER NEW BUSINESS:** None

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to adjourn the March Regular Board Meeting.  
J. Tyler Harp seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the March Regular Board Meeting at 11:55 a.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.