



WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

April 10, 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), Edward Wurmb (Supervisor) (in person), J. Scott Shank, III (Treasurer) and J. Tyler Harp (Supervisor) (via ZOOM)

Associate Supervisors Present: Kirk Winders and Ariel Herrod (via ZOOM)

Others Present: Denise "Dee" Price, Mark Kendle, Lori Flook Bishop, and Brent Cammauf (USDA, NRCS)

CALL TO ORDER:

The April Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Harry Strite, Chair, at 10:42 a.m.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the March Regular Board Meeting Minutes as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

All accounts are in order. Dee noted we have received and deposited the Boonsboro WWTP Grant reimbursement check, in the amount of \$426,696.06.

Additionally, Dee will finalize and present to the Board the budget draft as soon as she receives budget and salary information from the State and County.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's Report as submitted. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

MONTHLY BILL APPROVAL:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the March Monthly Bill Approval Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MACS MONTHLY COST-SHARE SUMMARY REPORT:

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

Dee explained the multiple MACS Application cancellations listed in the report summary. All applications were 180+ days old, applied for during Covid, and/or due to the increase in material pricing, etc. Applications will need to be resubmitted if there is continued interest in cost-share programs.

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

REPORTS FROM OTHERS: None

URBAN PROGRAM REPORT:

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

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the March Sediment Control Review Report as submitted. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pond Approval(s): Dee brought forward, one (1) pond for approval and Chair signature.

Dee presented details with MDE's new letter format for Small Pond Approvals and is seeking approval and Chair's signature for Morningside East, LLC, located on Oakmont Drive. The pond meets the Maryland NRCS Pond Standard 378.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the pond for Morningside East, LLC, and to move forward with the Chair's signature. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following old business:

Grants - Update:

- Keedysville: Dee and Mark have reviewed the latest submission; Ecotone is making applicable revisions. A meeting is scheduled with landowners, April 22, 2024, to go over the latest design concept. As discussed previously, there are a number of hurdles for this project, to include, Streambed utilities, State Highway Administration approval for work at the bridge, etc.
- Boonsboro WWTP: The final payment from DNR has been received and deposited. Dee will close out the grant with the Accountant as time allows.
- Rest Haven Cemetery: A large meeting was held on and off site with all parties involved; the City of Hagerstown, Washington County, Rest Haven Cemetery, Volvo, Frederick, Seibert & Associates, Inc., etc. MDE is going to pursue a watershed study due to the existing drainage issues. Mark added, Ecotone, Inc. is reevaluating and may be interested in the Rest Haven Cemetery project.
- City of Hagerstown (Hamilton Run - Restoration): There are two design alternatives. Waiting to meet with the City of Hagerstown and for word of definitive funding from the City. The City of Hagerstown advised they have set aside 1.4 million for this project, however, there is no paperwork in place to support this currently.
- Dee received an email from Ecotone, Inc., and forwarded to the Board for reference. Ecotone does not feel the MOU, signed March 14, 2018, is exclusive. The Board discussed a potential MOU amendment and an RFP for other bids.

MACS Regulations - Cost-Share Thresholds: A copy of the MACS Program Updates presentation, by Jason Kepler, Administrator, was provided for Board review. MACS regulation changes are effective April 15, 2024.

MASCD Board of Directors Meeting/Legislation - Update: Dee provided highlights from the meeting:

- The Catoctin and Frederick SCD's have merged into one District, "Frederick County Soil Conservation District".
- Small Pond Reviews - Bill passed allowing Districts to charge and/or assess fees for Small Pond Reviews, effective October 1, 2024.
- State Highway - Median Pollinator Habitats for WIP goals.
- Fastcap Program - Rebranding logo and signage.
- MDA - Horse Outreach Workgroup.
- Alicia Mulkey with MDA is stepping back from her role with the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Website (Blocks) - Update: JoEllen Kidwell with JH Graphics had previously recommended updating "blocks" on the District's 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. An email from JH Graphics was provided for Board review, which explains the need for the updates and offers the quote of \$960 to do so.

Dee is seeking approval of the proposed quote from JH Graphics in the amount of \$960, and to move forward with updating “blocks” on the District’s website.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve the quote from JH Graphics in the amount of \$960 for updating “blocks” on the website. J.D. Rinehart seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Cover Crop Program - Spring Certifications, etc.: The Cover Crop Program Spring Certification is now underway through early June. Producers must come to the office to report; they cannot report via email or text (Dee made a local requirement of those reporting to do so in-person). Producers are also encouraged to make an appointment to ensure someone is in the office and available to assist.

OTHER OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the following new business:

Envirothon: The Washington County Local Envirothon was held April 4, 2024, and was very successful. Teams from ABLE (homeschool), Boonsboro, Clear Spring, and Smithsburg High Schools participated in this year’s competition, with Smithsburg High School finishing as the overall winner. Additionally, a team from Northern Middle School took part in the event, however, were not eligible to place or advance to the Maryland Envirothon, which is for high school students. Results and photos and/or links thereto are posted on the District’s website.

The District has, in years past, covered costs for coaches to attend the State Envirothon. Dee recommends stipend checks in the amount of \$200 each, to cover the cost of traveling, etc., for two coaches.

Edward Wurmb made a motion to approve stipend checks in the amount of \$200 each for two coaches to attend the State Envirothon. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TV & Tablet/iPad - Purchases: Dee asked for the Board’s thoughts on installing a TV in the back, smaller conference room for staff training and meetings; basically, the same set up as the larger conference room. The large conference room is a shared space with other agencies and is not always available. Secondly, Dee asked the Board to consider iPads, or tablets, similar to what the County Inspectors use.

The Board discussed iPads also being used as cell phones, and if the District has any credit card incentives. Dee will contact Glessner Technologies and Ken Murphy for recommendations and quotes.

J.D. Rinehart made a motion for Dee to seek prices for installation and cost of a TV for the small conference room and iPads, or tablets for Dee, Mark, and Owen. J. Scott Shank, III seconded the motion. Motion carried.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Dee noted the attached article for Supervisor reference, regarding the Francis Scott Key Bridge port closure. The article, titled Port Closure Complicates Ag Timeline, was featured in the Delmarva Farmer.

ADJOURNMENT:

J.D. Rinehart made a motion to adjourn the April Regular Board Meeting. Edward Wurmb seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harry Strite, Chair, adjourned the April Regular Board Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled in-person, Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 10:30 a.m., WCSCD Conference Room, 1260 Maryland Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, and with the ZOOM Platform option.