

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES SEPTEMBER 2024**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 in the conference room of the ASCD office located at 12407 Naves Cross Road, Cumberland, MD. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

Supervisors present were Jim Mullan, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette, Kevin Trezise, and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist; Adam Heavner, District Manager; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Minutes – Amanda moved to approve minutes of the closed and open meetings as presented, seconded by Kevin. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Jim gave the August treasurer's report. Amanda moved to approve the report as presented, seconded by Steve. Motion passed.

Bills – There were no bills to come before the Board.

Permits – There were 13 land-use permits approved in August generating \$1,145 in fees for the County. Five major reviews were approved generating \$940 for the District.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported the federal fiscal year ends 09/30/24. Allegany County has seven farm bill contracts totaling a little more than \$250,000.00. He gave a breakdown of contract practices (attached). ProTracts will be down the end of September through the first week of October to transition to FY25. It is expected to be up by 10/08/2024. Funding for FY25 contracts is \$45 million, up from \$30 million in FY24. Most contracts will be funded through the AG Now program. Application deadline is 11/25/24 but he is expecting another sign-up later in the year. Chad reported a glitch in the federal system has caused one of Allegany's producers to call MDA and complain. Adam spoke with MDA Assistant Secretary Hans Schmidt about the situation. The issue is about an \$8,000 payment processed through a federally funded program. Chad said this needs to be addressed by National Head Quarters, not MDA. Chad was instructed to let NRCS Assistant State Conservationist Chris Schlette know that the Board wants to intervene to keep the situation from reflecting badly on our district. Adam explained the steps MDA is requiring of him to address the situation.

Other Agency Reports: Sarah Llewellyn from Extension was unable to attend. Amanda announced that Extension has some up-coming opportunities that will be beneficial for producers in our area. One is a two-day workshop titled Ranching for Profit, scheduled for October 24th & 25th at Garrett College. Extension is also offering training for writing nutrient management plans. How to sign up for these and other Extension activities can be found in their latest newsletter.

OLD BUSINESS

Associate Supervisor Policy & Procedures – All were provided an outline with attachments in their packets (attached). Amanda moved to let Supervisors review the material and bring comments and suggestions to the October board meeting for discussion. Steve seconded; motion passed.

Fall Tour & Cooperator of the Year – Staff only has one recommendation for Cooperator of the Year and that is Ian Reikie. All were given a list of past Resource Conservationist and Cooperator of the Year awardees (attached). Discussion about both awards took place. Jim moved to award Ian Reikie as Cooperator of the Year and Josh Smith from Western MD RC&D as Resource Conservationist. Steve seconded; motion passed. Adam will put together a few stops for the Fall Tour scheduled for Wednesday, October 23rd. Ian will receive a plaque and a metal sign during the tour. Josh will be invited to attend the Christmas lunch and will be presented a plaque during the event.

Steve asked Adam about the proposed fee schedule to the County. Adam will touch base with County Administrator, Jason Bennett.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting Times – The regular October meeting is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10/23/24 and will be followed by the Fall Tour and lunch. The November meeting will be held on the normal second Tuesday of the month, 11/12/24 and will take place at 8:00 a.m.

No Till Drill – Adam explained the repair he had to make to the no-till drill. The part could have been damaged from a rental or two prior to the cooperators it broke on. Discussion about how to show proper use of the drill took place. In addition to the information already provided, an advisory notice will be made with pictures to explain what to do and don't do with the equipment. If it is not obvious who is responsible for mis-use, the district will have to pay for its repair(s) when needed.

Drought Disaster Relief Program – A summary from Farm Service Agency (FSA) Program Technician, Brianna LeMay, was in everyone's packet (attached). A lot of Allegany County farmers are signing up for the program, including several new producers.

MASCD Summer Meeting Location – MASCD is seeking input as to where to hold the 2025 annual meeting. Two choices are available: Hyatt Regency, Chesapeake Bay or Rocky Gap Casino & Golf Resort.

OTHER BUSINESS

Cooperator Agreements – Amanda moved to approve two agreements: 1) Hannah Galante, 188 acres pasture/cropland in Ellerslie and 2) Kandi Haines, 16.6 acres of pasture/hay in Rawlings. Kevin seconded; motion passed.

Conservation Farm Plans – On the motion of Amanda, seconded by Steve, the two plans were approved as outlined in the District Manager’s report mailed with board packets.

Cancellations – None.

Correspondence – Thank you card from Emmie Wiley for the award donation he received during the County Ag Expo (attached).

On the motion of Jim, seconded by Amanda, Carl adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
09/11/2024 8:56 a.m.