

ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES FEBRUARY, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held by teleconference on Tuesday, February 9, 2021. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

Supervisors present were Ron Hawk, Lee Heavner, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist, Adam Heavner, District Manager; Sherry Frick, Extension; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

Amanda moved to approve the minutes as submitted, seconded by Lee. Motion passed.

Lee gave the December 2020 and January 2021 Treasurer's Reports. On the motion of Lee, seconded by Ron, the reports were approved as presented.

Bills – On the motion of Ron, seconded by Lee, the following bills were approved for payment: 1) FSU scholarship payment of \$500; 2) IPOWER Webpage domain for ASCD website - \$18.

Permits – There were 4 permits approved in December with fees totaling \$370 and 10 approved in January generating \$480 in fees.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad reported 10 applications for funding have been received and processed in Allegany County. Work is still being done with limited client contact due to Covid 19 restrictions. A formal lease is close to being finalized. The Unfunded Cooperative Agreement submitted by Allegany is still under review at the state office. Chad provided updates on a few contract practices and payments. NRCS has offered a full-time Soil Con Technician position for Allegany and Garrett counties. Once accepted, the employee will occupy an office at ASCD.

Other Agency Reports – Sherry reported the Extension office is still closed with staff teleworking. Online meetings are being offered. The Western MD Food Council Conference's virtual event is scheduled for March 25, April 1, and April 8 from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. each day. The 2021 theme is Food Town USA. Cost is \$30/person and registration can be done through the UME website. A grant has been received to build an industrial hemp processing plant in western Maryland for MD, PA and WV. Extension is offering programs for local farmers interested in growing hemp.

OLD BUSINESS

Tree Sale – Adam explained the situation regarding the variety and sizes of trees available to offer. After discussion, the tree sale will be offered with disclosures noted on flyer and order form.

State Environthon Competition – A web-based event is scheduled for 4/26 – 4/29/21. Usually, county winners participate in the state competition but this year any team will be able to compete. Carl explained the procedure for the soils exercise which uses an actual training video. There is no fifth issue this year.

MASCD Agreement – The 3-year agreement expired in December 2020 but an extension has been offered until 12/31/2021. The addendum for \$10,000 funds the PSS MOU.

NEW BUSINESS

Ag Waste Sites Manure Warning Signs – Signs are required on completed ag waste sites. Typically, 2 – 3 signs will be used at every ag waste project. Ron moved to purchase 25 signs to be provided to landowners. Lee seconded. Motion passed.

MASCD Meeting Recap – Carl attended the zoom event on 2/1/21. He reported highlights including a budget preview and MDA announcement to increase permanent positions to 141. MDA will fund 1 planner, 1 technician and 1 admin employee at the Allegany field office. The annual summer meeting is being planned as a live event in Cambridge with a virtual contingency. Lobbyist Mike Mason gave a presentation with a handout of the number of bills affecting agriculture.

County Budget – Adam is waiting for the budget request forms. Steve will check to see when these can be expected.

MDA Recruitments – Through the direct hire process, MDA has offered the Soil Technician position to an applicant. The Conservation Planner position may take several weeks before a hire is made.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no Cooperator Agreements, Conservation Farm Plans or Cancellations to be reviewed.

There was no correspondence.

Adam announced Amanda completed the virtual class on Maryland's Open Meetings Act as requested by MASCD and Allegany Business Consulting has issued 1099's to supervisors.

On the motion of Lee, seconded by Ron, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
3/10/2021 9:08 AM