

**ALLEGANY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MINUTES SEPTEMBER, 2020**

The regular monthly meeting of the Allegany Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held in the garage at the ASCD office, Cumberland, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. Carl Robinette, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Supervisors present were Lee Heavner, Amanda Paul, Carl Robinette and Steve Young. Others present were Wesley Gordon, Associate; Ben Sansom, Associate; Chad Bucklew, District Conservationist, Adam Heavner, District Manager; Slater Hafer, Soil Conservationist; and Mona Lee, ASCD Secretary.

All were provided Covid 19 screening.

Steve moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Lee. Motion passed.

Lee gave the July and August Treasurer's Reports. On the motion of Lee, seconded by Amanda, the reports were approved as presented.

Bills – On the motion of Lee, seconded by Steve, the following bills were approved to be paid: 1) MASCD annual dues of \$2,200.00 and Teacher Award of \$50; 2) MASCD sponsorship of \$625 for the MPT Maryland Farm & Harvest program.

Permits – There were 22 permits approved in July with fees totaling \$1,445.50 and 12 approved during August with fees totaling \$1,043.50.

District Conservationist's Report – Chad provided everyone a summary of EQIP FY20 Contract Approvals (attached). Allegany County has FY20 pretty much wrapped up with time to spare for obligating contracts. The NRCS green Jeep has been salvaged and will be removed 9/14/2020.

Other Agency Reports – Adam reported for Sherry Frick that Extension's next Ag Newsletter will be sent in early October. UME is considering a hybrid meeting for NM Voucher Training and Pesticide Recertifications for all who can attend virtually and in-person for farmers who can't. Educational events are being held virtually with a few field days meeting in person practicing Covid 19 safety precautions. Staff are still meeting clients by appointment only at the UME office.

OLD BUSINESS

Office Updates – Will Gindlesberger accepted an NRCS position at the Garrett field office which will leave both the MDA Planner and Technician positions vacant. MDA is in a hiring freeze so it is not known when these positions will be filled which may cause problems meeting WIP goals. Nutrient Management Specialist, Keith Potter, will begin working from home permanently effective 10/1/2020 so he will no longer have an office here.

Livestock Auction Recap – Lee and Wesley reported the sale was well attended and brought good prices and T.R. Robinette did a fine job putting the event together. It is possible there will be a morning sale during the fair next year.

MASCD Board of Director's Conference Call Recap – Adam and Lee sat in on the teleconference. Annual dues have increased from \$2,000.00 to \$2,200.00. The Executive Director position vacated by Lindsay Thompson will be offered to one of two final candidates and announced later this week. Some changes to the Cover Crop Program was discussed. The MASCD summer meeting is being scheduled for August 1st – 3rd, 2021. Maryland's hosting of the NACD meeting has been postponed to 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Meetings Act Training – Mona has already taken the training and provided the slideshow notes from that training and Parliamentary Procedure reference guide for everyone (attached). MASCD wants at least one board member to take the online training. Amanda volunteered.

Annual Review of District Accounts- All were provided the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements (attached) for FY20. Lee moved to have Advantage Resource Group perform the annual review again this year. Steve seconded; motion passed.

Fall Tour- After considering some of the projects to visit, Lee moved to postpone the event to spring. Amanda seconded; so moved.

Post Pounder Rental Agreement- Adam asked to revise the current policy to collect the fee up front in hopes of expediting the return of the equipment. He will revise the language in the current policy for the board's consideration at the next meeting.

District Pond Policy- Everyone was provided the policy adopted in 2012 for reference (attached). Discussion took place regarding the extensive permit process and expenses involved with Class III ponds. With the limited staff at the Allegany office it makes it even more difficult. Alternative solutions to pond refurbishments will be considered when assisting cooperators.

Solid Waste & Recycling Board – Amanda moved to recommend Lee to sit on this board to represent the agriculture community. Steve seconded; motion passed. Adam will send a letter of recommendation to the County Commissioners and cc Sierra Wigfield, County Recycling Coordinator.

Office Building Lease – Some mis-communications between the landlord and leasing team have been cleared up. Chad is still waiting to hear terms and payment schedule for a new lease. The current lease expires 9/30/2020.

Local Work Group- Chad provided the bulletin outlining actions required (attached). The meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, 2020 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. virtually and by teleconference. The announcement will be advertised in the Cumberland Times News and posted along with the meeting's agenda to the ASCD web and Facebook pages. There is a new program being offered to the Northern Tier counties in addition to the regular farm bill funding.

OTHER BUSINESS

On the motion of Lee, seconded by Amanda, the following Farm Plans were approved:
CRP re-enrollments for: Jesse Shipe, Paul N. Smith, Jr.; Lee Robinette; and a Conservation Plan for Martin J. Kolb.

There were no Cooperator Agreements or Cancellations.

Correspondence – (All attached)

- 1) A thank you card from Sharon and Nathan Peck for the card of condolence at Marvin's passing.
- 2) Thank you letter from Ethan Hilgeman for his ACM scholarship.
- 3) Email from Chesapeake Conservancy seeking nominations for Champions of the Chesapeake honor.

On the motion of Lee, seconded by Amanda, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mona M. Lee,
ASCD Secretary
9/8/2020 1:58 PM