

# HARFORD SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT – Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes – 8/23/17

*NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2017 @ 9:00 am*

**Board Members Present:** Lee McDaniel, Frank Richardson, Andy Rigdon, Rick Holloway, Dave Doran, and Dan Magness

**Agency Personnel:** Bill Tharpe, Leslie Zink, Bill Metcalf (NRCS), and Andy Archer Kness (Extension)

1. Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. Agenda approved.
3. There were no public comments.
4. Minutes of meeting from June 7 were reviewed and approved.
5. Treasurer's report for June and July were filed as presented.

## **Correspondence:**

1. Thank you letter received from the University of MD's Soils Team. They won the National Championship on April 28th.
2. Thank you letter received from MASCD for Harford SCD's contribution to the 2017 North American Envirothon.
3. Email from Tony Riggi informing us of the passing of William Riggs, III on June 26<sup>th</sup>.
4. Email from Louise Lawrence informing us of the passing of Hans Schmidt's father on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Received an invitation to Montgomery SCD's Annual Cooperators Dinner coming up on September 7<sup>th</sup>.
6. Received an invitation to Allegany SCD's Annual Cooperators Picnic, which takes place tomorrow, August 24<sup>th</sup>.
7. No new information to report from the State Soil Conservation Committee.
8. Bill Tharpe received a certificate of completion for the Maryland Open Meetings Act training.

## **Old Business:**

1. **DC Report** – (see attached report) *HIGHLIGHTS:*
  - a. Typical end of Summer report.
2. **DM Report** – (see attached report) *HIGHLIGHTS:*
  - a. Feedback from the participants in the NRCS Workshop, "Construction Inspection for Field Office Activities", indicated that the training was excellent.
3. **Conservation Tracker** – (see attached report)
  - a. The DC Report does not always match Tracker. All signatures must be in place before the plans are entered.
  - b. The Ag Waste on the Rutledge property is the largest project to be completed.
4. **Grant Programs Update** –
  - a. There are only two remaining DNR grants.
  - b. Most likely will need an extension to complete the planting on the Stautberg project.
  - c. There is still an open grant with Chesapeake Bay Trust for Bob Tibbs.
5. **Extension Report** –
  - a. Robin's position has been filled by Caroline Johnson. Her first day will be September 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. October 17<sup>th</sup>; Pesticide Applicator Training for New License.
  - c. November 14 – 16; 2017 Mid Atlantic Crop Management School in Ocean City.
  - d. Trying to organize a Master Cattleman's program for Harford County. Currently promoting a survey to gather information.
6. **Strategic Plan** –
  - a. Motion to approve the Harford SCD 2018 – 2021 Strategic Plan as presented – **APPROVED**.
  - b. Leslie to email a copy to Lindsay Thompson, MASCD.
7. **Havre de Grace Water Quality Project (Concord Point)** –
  - a. This will be our first step towards a partnership on a solely Urban project.
  - b. City of Havre de Grace has requested money through grants and capital projects.
  - c. Motion to approve a grant of up to \$10,000 for construction of the two rain gardens contingent upon receipt of funds for balance of the project – **APPROVED**.
  - d. Insure that grant agreement includes the following items:
    - i. Harford SCD is given credit as a sponsor and is listed as a partner on any/all signage.
    - ii. Property is maintained after project has been completed.
  - e. Harford SCD to promote project in MASCD's Partnership Press and as a possible NACD Webinar topic.

8. **Other** –

- a. We did not receive any nominations from the public for the “2017 Conservationist/Cooperator of the Year” as of the deadline of July 31, 2017.
- b. Request feedback from Staff and present to the Board at the September meeting.

**New Business:**

1. **NACD Summer Meeting Update** –

- a. Took place in Des Moines, IA.
- b. Some discussion about NRCS budget and reorganization.
- c. Frank participated in a Water Quality Tour, which included lots of rain gardens, subdivision planning, a research farm in Amos, and ended with a tour of a craft beer distillery and vineyard.
- d. Iowa is a big state but only has a budget of \$9 million for projects.

2. **MASCD Annual Meeting Update** –

- a. MACS funding dominated the conversation in many sessions.
- b. Proposed changes to MACS funding are:
  - i. Reducing cost share from 87.5% to 50% on certain practices or eliminating certain practices all together.
  - ii. Increasing number of AU (Animal Units) from 15 to 30.
  - iii. Eliminating cost share on all solid manure structures.
  - iv. Reducing eligibility on covered HUA’s from 60 to 40 square feet.
- c. Encouraged District’s to start thinking about Supervisor recruitment.
- d. There are three Partnership meetings coming up in October.

3. **NRCS Local Work Group Meeting** –

- a. This year’s work group will focus on all programs and not just EQIP.
- b. NRCS would like to expand the work group to include community representatives.
  - i. Bill to invite Janet Archer from Farm Bureau; Jason Gallion from Harford Co. government; Bill Amoss from Ag Land Preservation; and Greg Rose from FSA County Committee.
- c. Work Group has been scheduled for 8:00 am on September 13<sup>th</sup> in the Forest Hill office.
- d. Responses from the work group are due to NRCS by the end of September.

4. **Other** -

- a. Motion to approve retractable banner as presented – **APPROVED**.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.**