

Minutes – Regular Meeting
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
April 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District was called to order by Chairman McGinnis at 8:00 am with the following present:

Supervisors

Mark Duvall
Eric Hadaway
Toby Mays
Mike McGinnis
Steve Smith

Staff

Jim Ensor, BCSCD
Essy Frey, BCSCD
Stu Darley, BCSCD
Jen Kemp, NRCS

Associate Supervisors

Jesse Albright

Others

Jess Armacost, BCDOA
Loretta Collins, SSCC
Erika Crawl, UME

Motion - Hadaway moved to approve the minutes of the March Board meeting as amended. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report – Hadaway stated that March was a very good month for fees with \$40,209.82 being received. We continue to receive a good interest rate on our CD. In addition, we rec'd \$20,116.00 in CBT funds, bringing our income for March to \$60,462.57. This is the first time in a long time that our inflows exceeded our outflows. The FY'27 County budget was passed and we rec'd \$240,427.00, the amount we had requested.

Motion - Hadaway moved to approve the March Treasurer's report and pay the bills. The motion was seconded and passed.

District Conservationist's Report – In Cox' absence, Kemp noted that 34 applications were received during the 1st round of EQIP/AMA/CSP sign up. Thirteen (13) of these contracts were pre-approved for either EQIP or AMA programs. Lots of spring construction is going on, mostly HUAs and some grassed waterways. NRCS has determined that we can reduce the amount of clover in grassed waterway seeding mix.

District Manager's Report – Ensor stated his report was in the Board packet and asked if there were any questions. The 2026 Summer MASCD meeting registration is now open. The meeting will be held August 3 – 5 in Cambridge, Maryland. Ensor asked the Board if they wanted to sponsor this meeting again this year.

Motion - Hadaway moved to sponsor the 2026 Summer MASCD meeting with a donation of \$250.00. The motion was seconded and passed.

The deadline for donations to the MASCD auction is June 30, 2026. Duvall graciously volunteered to donate something to the auction again this year.

Public Information Act Policy – Between Board meetings, Ensor sent the Board copies of the “draft” Public Information Act policy for their review and comment.

Motion - Hadaway moved that the 2nd to last sentence in the first paragraph after the word “denial” include the words “within 5 business days”. In addition, the last sentence in the same paragraph will be edited to read “this 5 day period” instead of 10. Finally, the per page copy charge will be changed to \$1.00 per page. The motion was seconded and passed.

The 2025 Cooperator of the Year presentation to Dancing Fox Farm was held Friday, April 20, 2026. The State Soil Conservation Committee Meeting held Thursday, April 19, 2026 went well and Collins thanked the Board and staff for hosting and providing breakfast.

Motion - Hadaway moved to accept the District Manager’s report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Staff – No report.

Extension Agent – Crowl informed the Board that Gracie Mason is the new NM Advisor and she’s already busy writing plans. Crowl and Kness attended a UME Risk Management Workshop in Utah earlier in April to talk about Drone School. Crowl will be going to Kenya, Africa for 2 weeks in Mid-May to work with Daystar University and small farmers there. UME has over 115 students registered for AgVentures which will be held at the Ag. Center on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

MDA Area Coordinator – In Alles’ absence, Ensor distributed copies of Alles’ report for April. (A copy of which is attached to these minutes.)

Baltimore County Division of Ag. – Armacost distributed copies of the BCDOA April 17th newsletter. The Ag. Advisory Board is looking for a Poultry representative. The Ag. Advisory Board Policy and Regulation Committee will meet April 21, 2026. A Blueprint for Education meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at the Ag. Center. Career Counselors for all high schools and middle schools in the County will be here for this meeting. Seven folks have signed up to serve on the local Food Security Council. The air conditioning units for the west wing at the Ag. Center are scheduled to be replaced on April 23, 2026. By County Code, riding arenas require a special exception. MDA Weights and Measures division now has new requirements for meat labeling. They now want to see each piece of meat in the freezer case labeled with both weight and price.

Committee Reports

Urban – Darley reported the time until review for March was 18 days with one new priority. As of today, the urban department is swamped with plans. McGinnis asked if overtime was warranted. Darley didn't feel this would be well received. Darley passed out three versions of the Standard plan.

Motion - Hadaway moved to accept and adopt the Standard Plan with edits as approved by Michelle Crawford of MDE. This Standard Plan will be effective May 1, 2026. The motion was seconded and passed.

Hadaway will reach out to the BCEA steering committee regarding the June 9, 2026 meeting which will address the efficiency of sediment control plan submissions to the District.

Darley stated that the urban department is still trying to figure out how to address sediment control on Agrivoltaic projects as the numbers of these kinds of projects is increasing. Kritty Udhin's group is still trying to figure out the stormwater management aspect of these projects as well. Crowl offered to send Darley the phone number of the Agrivoltaic Specialist at UME.

Personnel – Ensor reported that the Board of Supervisors of the Carroll County Soil Conservation District is very unhappy with MDA's current policy which will not allow Districts to be involved in MDA interviews. They plan to send MDA a letter expressing their dissatisfaction with this policy, and they've asked for other District's to do the same.

Motion - Duvall moved to send MDA a letter stating that the District Board needs to have some input on MDA technical staff hired to work within the District. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agriculture - No report.

Finance – No report.

Duvall asked that District Committees be added to the agenda for a future meeting. This would be a time to discuss each committee, its purpose and whether or not the committee still needed.

Old Business

MOU With Baltimore County – No new information.

State Funded District Manager Position – No new information.

Proposed Organizational Structure for the BC Dept. of Ag. (DOA)- Ensor still has not rec'd any answer to two emails sent to Armacost regarding the flow chart included in the Proposed Organization Structure. When Ensor asked about this flow chart at the February Ag. Advisory Board meeting, JT Albright stated that nothing will be done until the Department of Agriculture is created. The Board will keep this on their radar as well as on the agenda.

SWM of Ag Buildings – Came up again at inter-agency meeting. Brady Locher keeps saying these need MDE approval.

FY 27 Budget - Covered previously during this meeting.

Envirothon – Katie Dell (BCPS) picked up the tee shirts and asked if the District would be interested in working with her to obtain grants that could be used for transportation and other Baltimore County Envirothon related costs. The Board is interested and would like more information. Due to training, Todd and Jackson will be unable to help Dell with this year's Envirothon.

SSCC Central Area Representative – Collins gave a brief summary of the SSCC meeting held April 19, 2026 at the Ag. Center. The May meeting will be held in Annapolis and the June meeting in Somerset County. She informed the Board that Van Funk of Cecil County has been serving as the SSCC Central Area Chairman for the last eight years. Due to term limits, Van can no longer serve and his term will be over in June. Collins respectfully asked that someone on the Board please consider serving as the SSCC Central Area Representative. She added that Cecil & Harford Counties have served on the SSCC for the last 50 years and that she's looking to have someone from either Baltimore, Howard or Montgomery counties to step up and serve. SSCC encourages in person attendance at all monthly meetings, but a hybrid option is available. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month from 9:30am – 12:00pm. The SSCC Central Area Representative would be responsible for gathering reports from the central area Districts once a month to form a report to be given at monthly SSCC meetings.

E&S Plan Review Efficiency – Hadaway stated we're still tracking how long a plan takes to review against fee received input. We may need to revisit our fee structure again, to ensure our fees are covering our costs. We may need to get a modest increase to cover the minimum fee included with reviewing a plan. Albright would like to see the District be financially sound enough to be able to do some programming and additional projects, be more financially independent from the County.

ADA Compliant Website – Collins reported that the Department of Justice extended the deadline for ADA website compliance. Government entities with a population of 50,000 or more now have until April 2027 to be compliant and Districts have until April 2028.

NEW BUSINESS

Associate Supervisor Attendance – McGinnis will contact Bryan Alexander regarding his failure to meet the attendance requirements associated with being an Associate Supervisor. Hadaway and Smith will begin putting out feelers in the development community to begin recruiting additional Associate Supervisors.

IRA, Sick Leave Buy Back, Raises - Ensor noted this was put on the agenda to give time for discussion, etc. prior to the June meeting.

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Page 5

Public Information Act Policy – Addressed previously during this meeting.

Being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 9:55 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Frey
Administrative Assistant