

Minutes – Regular Meeting
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
March 17, 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

Essy Frey, BCSCD
Sam Cox, NRCS
Dave Bachman, BCSCD
Sara Dulina, BCSCD
Morgan Jackson, MDA

Associate Supervisors

Jesse Albright

Others

Jess Armacost, BCDOA
Darren Alles, MDA
Erika Crowl, UME
Jyoti Mohan

Motion - Mays moved to approve the minutes of the February Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

Treasurer's Report – Hadaway stated the Treasurer's report for February was in the Board packet and asked if there were any questions. Fees received in February were \$19,250.25. The FY'27 grant request has been submitted to the County.

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

District Conservationist's Report – Cox noted that 32 active contracts with 31 applications for financial assistance were received. Two applications for the AMA (irrigation projects) program and two applications for the CSP program were received. Looks like a few of our forestry projects were funded. Maryland rec'd an additional 8 million dollars for EQIP funding projects this year, another ranking deadline is scheduled for later this spring.

District Manager's Report – In Ensor's absence, Frey stated that the DM report was included in the Board packet and asked if there were any questions. Brady Locher informed Ensor that District staff (especially Ensor and Frey) will not be included on the County network due to security issues. Tee shirts have been ordered for the Baltimore County Envirothon. Training day is scheduled for Monday, March 24, 2026 at Western School of Technology, and the Baltimore County Envirothon competition is scheduled for April 30, 2026. Cox noted last week there was a very productive Interagency Workgroup meeting. The building permitting process for larger waste storage structures and heavy use areas was discussed at this meeting. Producers will now have to go through Baltimore County's portal to apply for a permit.

Draft 3/17/26
Approved 4/21/26
Page 2

The building and permit folks were ok with NRCS signature and title block being on the plan, and were happy to allow NRCS to continue taking on liability of project. DEPS is still concerned about the environmental review and identifying all the resources on the property, so making sure the farmer uploads a conservation plan map which identifies resource concerns will be very important. It will be at least two weeks before applicants hear back from the County with comments or notification that their permit is approved. Cox asked DEPS to provide a list of what exactly is needed, a simple one-page checklist to make the permit process more clear and more efficient.

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

Jyoti Mahan introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Mahan is running for the Maryland House of Delegates, District 42A. There was then a lengthy discussion on permits now required for ag. structures.

Staff – Jackson informed the Board that several DNR tree plantings are getting ready to start and that she's excited for planting season. Jackson and Todd will be assisting with the Baltimore County Envirothon this year. Planners and technicians are catching up on plans not necessarily funded through EQIP.

Frey informed the Board that Bryan Alexander sent an email stating he would really like to continue serving as an Associate Supervisor, but has been spread very thin with constantly changing farm and childcare needs. He will try to make the April and May meetings.

Extension Agent – Crawl informed the Board that the Beginning Farmers Program is happening every Tuesday until April. An Eminent Domain Workshop with UME's Ag. Law Department is scheduled for March 25, 2026 at 6:00pm. A Soil Conservation & Nutrient Management Equine Day is scheduled for April 23, 2026 in Montgomery County. Travis Gorleski and Shannon Rotella will be conducting this workshop. The Horse Owners Workshop group is conducting an Equine Summit scheduled for some time in November. The Baltimore County Noxious Weed Control Board is looking for two farmers to sit on their Board. One organic farmer and one regular farmer.

MDA Area Coordinator – Alles distributed copies of his report. (A copy of which is attached to these minutes.)

Baltimore County Division of Ag. – Armacost distributed copies of the BCDOA March 13th newsletter. A "Legalities of Marketing" workshop for agricultural products was held virtually March 17th. BCDOA is working on getting the kitchen at the Ag. Center certified commercial so, Baltimore County farmers can rent this facility to take their raw products and turn them into value added products. A Farmers Market Managers meeting is scheduled for later in March.

The Ag. Advisory Board met last month and approved their 2025 Recommendations to the County Council. BCDOA will be hosting the Baltimore County Blueprint for Education meeting in April. Land Preservation 101 will be held sometime in April. The Budget Town Hall meetings are wrapping up with the last one scheduled for March 18th in Randallstown. Hereford Middle School is having an Ag. Career Day on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 and they're looking for folks to participate.

Committee Reports

Urban – Dulina reported the time until review for February was 17 days with no new priorities. At Hadaway's request at the February Board meeting, the Urban Department discussed implementing a mandatory meeting with the engineer after three reviews in order to improve plan review efficiency. The department is willing to have these meetings at their discretion, however, they wanted it noted that meetings do not guarantee that it gets the plan to the finish line. Dulina distributed copies of page 10 of the 2012 Urban Policy and Guidelines Manual which states "meetings may not be viewed as substitutes for reviews". Bachman added that the original purpose of a meeting is if a designer is having design concerns or issues that they don't know how to solve. Lately, when the Urban Department offers to have these meetings, consultants have been flat out refusing. Frey will reserve the large conference room for June 9, 2026 for the Baltimore County Engineering Association (BCEA). Bachman proposed the idea of having a meeting and exchange of ideas between the Urban Departments of each District. In preparation for the June BCEA meeting, Hadaway asked the Urban Department to update the plan information sheet to include the owner's email noting that if this information is not provided, the plan will not be reviewed. In addition, he asked that page 10 of the Policy and Guidelines Manual be updated to read "**MEETINGS ARE NOT VIEWED AS SUBSTITUTES FOR REVIEWS**".

Personnel – No report.

Agriculture - No report.

Finance – Hadaway stated that we will continue to monitor our plan tracking dataset showing what we're receiving in fees vs. the salary cost to review the plans. By law we're required annually to notify Baltimore County whether we feel a fee increase is necessary. We will continue to investigate the possibility of charging BCPS and other public agencies for plan reviews if necessary.

Old Business

MOU With Baltimore County – No new information.

State Funded District Manager Position – Alles is working on the MS-22 for this position.

Draft 3/17/26
Approved 4/21/26
Page 4

Employee Handbook – It was the consensus of the Board to remove the words “overalls, leggings” from page 34 of the handbook, the Dress Code and Personal Appearance section.

Motion - Duvall moved to approve the Employee Manual with changes as noted. The motion was seconded and passed.

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 – Cox noted that the Tim Clevenger (MDE) letter covers conservation practices for stormwater. No other word has been received from DEPs thus far.

FY 27 Budget - Covered previously during this meeting.

Envirothon – McGinnis asked if anyone had heard of the 2027 registration fee for the Maryland State Envirothon team being increased to \$3,000.00. No one present was aware of this.

SSCC April Meeting at the Ag. Center – This meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026 at 9:30am. The District will provide breakfast.

Standard Plan Text Revisions – Hadaway has not heard back from Michelle Crawford of MDE on this. He will contact Ray Barr to see what the status is. Jim Blevins is asking if we can make the same proposed changes to the under 20,000 sq. ft. Standard Plan.

NEW BUSINESS

E & S Plan Review Efficiency – Covered previously during this meeting.

First Fruits Farm Grading - They are putting up a building, and additional grading is needed for parking around the building. Jim Blevins feels this falls under agriculture. Ensor asked for the Board's opinion as to whether it falls under ag. or if they need grading plans, etc. Hadaway stated that because the site is over an acre, it will require an approved sediment control plan and an NPDES NOI.

Motion - Hadaway moved that First Fruits Farm's additional grading necessary for parking around the building is agriculture. The motion was seconded and passed.

Draft 3/17/26
Approved 4/21/26
Page 5

ADA Compliant Website – All District websites are required to be ADA compliant by April 26, 2027. It was the consensus of the Board to wait and see what guidance and assistance MASCD may provide.

Being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 10:49 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Frey
Administrative Assistant