

Minutes – Regular Meeting
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
June 16, 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
Sara Dulina, BCSCD
Sam Cox, NRCS

Others

Jess Armacost, BCDOA

Minutes – Hadaway asked that the following changes be made to the May 19, 2026 meeting:

1. “The motion was seconded and passed.” be added to the 1st motion on the 2nd page.
2. The last sentence of the **Treasurer’s Report** be changed to read “The FY’27 County budget passed with a line item in DEPS’ budget for \$240,427.00, the total grant amount that we had requested.

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

Treasurer’s Report – Hadaway stated the May report was in the Board packet. As of the end of May, we’ve received more in fees than we budgeted for FY’26, and the Weed Spray Program is beginning to pay for itself.

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

District Conservationist’s Report – Cox reported that Colton Buckley is the new Chief of NRCS. On his first day as Chief, he changed the agency’s motto, mission and vision statements. They are now as follows:

Motto – Keeping Working Land In Working Hands.

Mission Statement – We deliver practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

Vision Statement - An America where working lands remain productive, resilient, and in the hands of those who steward them.

We have 41 active contracts for 2.3 million dollars, and are working on getting signatures on our final 2 EQIP contracts. We hope to have CSP pre-approvals finished by the end of next week. Ag. Progress Days are scheduled for August 11th – August 13th at Penn State. MDA released an Urban Grant Program for Urban Farmers with county designations as well. This is a grant opportunity for small scale farms for capital improvements, operating expenses and innovative farming solutions.

There is a cap of \$10,000.00 per person and the program is on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications are due June 15, 2026 – July 21, 2026. Applicants must follow Baltimore County guidelines and ordinances and produce a farm product that generates \$1,000.00 in revenue annually. This may, at times, conflict with County zoning requirements.

There is an Assignment of Pay option available on both MACS as well as Federal Cost share programs. This option allows a contractor to request a certain amount of money go to them directly instead of going to the farmer.

District Manager's Report – Ensor stated his report was in the Board packet and asked if there were any questions. Envirothon snacks were purchased and delivered to the State competition. The Baltimore County Envirothon team from Western School of Technology came in 14th out of 16th place statewide. Ensor informed the Board that State Highway's lawyers have reviewed the Master MOU for Weed Control and have requested the District to sign it instead of the Weed Control Coordinator who normally signs it. Their reasoning is that the District pays the Weed Control Coordinator (Chuck Kauffman), owns the truck and carries the insurance on the Weed Spray truck. After much discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to continue with the Weed Control Program. Ensor will reach out to the new A/G to see if the requested insurance requirement in the Master MOU is necessary. He will also ask if the District needs to agree to indemnify and hold harmless the State Highway Administration or vice-versa as stated in the Master MOU. Supervisors will review the Weed Control Master MOU again at the July Board meeting. Van Funk sent out copies of the MOU between MDE, MDA and the Districts regarding Ag. Complaints. The MOU keeps MDE from going on to farms by themselves without MDA and/or the District accompanying them. The MOU is worded from a regulatory standpoint, it's long and hard to understand. This will be discussed at the July 13, 2026 Central Area meeting as well as the Summer MASCD meeting. Duvall is interested in Van Funk's position on the SSCC, however, at this time, he is on the Baltimore County Planning Board and the meetings are at the same time as the SSCC meetings, therefore, he is unable to serve. Ensor notified Loretta Collins that, at this time, all of our Supervisors are very busy and unable to fill Van's position on the SSCC.

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

Staff – No report.

Extension Agent – In Crowl's absence, Ensor distributed copies of her report. (A copy of which is attached to these minutes.)

MDA Area Coordinator – In Alles' absence, Ensor distributed copies of Alles' report for June. (A copy of which is attached to these minutes.) The 2026-2027 Cover Crop Program sign up period will run from June 22nd – July 15th.

Baltimore County Division of Ag. – Armacost distributed copies of the BCDOA June 15, 2026 newsletter and briefly discussed items contained therein. Hereford Middle School's Ag. Career Day had 800 children participate. Baltimore County has submitted a charter application for a third FFA chapter at Eastern Tech. which will focus on food safety. The next Ag. Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for July 2, 2026, and Hereford Jr. Farm Fair is scheduled for August 1, 2026.

Committee Reports

Urban – Dulina reported the time until review for May was 21 days with no new priorities. The corrections/changes to the Plan Information Sheet (owner information added) and updates to the 2012 Urban Policy and Guidelines Manual (stating meetings are not substitutes for reviews) are finished and will be distributed shortly. The Urban staff spoke at the June BCEA meeting. There were 30 people in attendance at this meeting, and many were agency people. Smith's term as Supervisor ends in October 2027. Smith has not indicated whether he will be reapplying or stepping away from this position. With this in mind, the Urban Department reached out to Mike Coughlin with Morris & Ritchie, and Mr. Coughlin is very interested in serving as a District Supervisor. Hadaway stated that Pete Gutwald does not feel District overtime is necessary, nor is the District the "hold up" with plan review turn around time.

Personnel – Ensor asked the Board to please do a better job with Executive Session minutes, both taking them and ensuring the District Manager gets a copy of these for record keeping requirements.

Agriculture – No report.

Finance – No report.

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 – No new information.

E&S Plan Review Efficiency – Covered previously during this meeting. This will be removed from the agenda.

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Associate Supervisor Attendance – McGinnis has tried repeatedly to contact Bryan Alexander by phone regarding his failure to meet the attendance requirement associated with being an Associate Supervisor. Ensor will draft a letter addressing this issue and have McGinnis sign it.

MASCD Endowment Auction – Duvall generously donated a handcrafted inlay cutting board and two bottles of wine from Basignani Winery.

NEW BUSINESS

District Committees – This will be discussed at the July meeting after Supervisors have a chance to review who is on each committee as well as the purpose/description of each committee. Frey will email this information to each Supervisor as well as include it in the Board Packet for June.

Up-Coming Supervisor Appointment – Covered previously during this meeting.

Being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 9:58 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21, 2026 at 8:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Frey
Administrative Assistant