

Minutes – Regular Meeting
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District
August 19, 2025

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

Sam Cox, NRCS
Stu Darley, BCSCD
Eric Hines, NRCS
Essy Frey, BCSCD

Others

Erika Crawl, UME

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

Treasurer's Report – Hadaway stated that the July Treasurer's report was in the Board packet in addition to a revised Revenues, Expenses and Fund Balance report for June. The reason for the revision was due to minor changes in State Funds expenses. Fees received in July were \$23,720.88. We invoiced the County for the entire FY'26 grant amount of \$240,427.00 on July 24, 2025, but have not received these monies thus far. We rec'd all four quarters of FY'26 State funds (\$20,663.00) in July.

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

District Conservationist's Report – Cox reported that we are finally done with obligations for new contracts for FY'25 and have started planning for FY'26. We don't know what a new Farm Bill will bring or when that will be. The staff are continuing with regular conservation planning, site visits and training. Cox invited the Board to attend the weekly ag. staff meeting at 2pm on Tuesdays. National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) monies targeted toward Prettyboy Watershed are available for FY'26. DNR is focused on conservation practices that benefit brook trout in the Prettyboy Watershed area. We currently have 34 active contracts and we'll be working on payments and certifications for CSP over the next few weeks. With the One Big Beautiful Bill, we are still waiting to hear whether funding will be available for modifications to IRA contracts.

District Manager's Report – In Ensor's absence, Frey stated that the DM report was in the packet and asked if there were any questions. Charles Kaufman has accepted the Weed Control Coordinator's position and started work last week. Crawl suggested more of a push be made by the District's Board to MDA regarding the weed control issues at the Ag. Center. Hadaway will write a letter to Abigail Vitaliano, Deputy Director of Baltimore County Department of Economic and Work Force Development regarding the lack of weed control at the Ag. Center.

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

Staff – No report.

Extension – Crowl reported that Zoe Askew, nutrient management advisor for Baltimore County is leaving to accept another position. Zoe will remain available through August 25th. Following that date, Christa Mitchell from Howard County will be the point of contact for those requiring a nutrient management plan. Due to reductions in SNAP Ed funding by the Federal Government, seven educators will have their positions eliminated effective September 30, 2025. SNAP-Ed funding is available through Baltimore County, and Extension is currently exploring ways to collaborate with the County in order to retain these positions. Drone School is scheduled for August 21, 2025 in Harford County and August 26, 2025 in Charles County. NRCS has requested Ag. 101 training, possibly in late fall or early spring. Crowl will be hosting Backyard Poultry 101 on September 9, 2025 at the Ag. Center. This training is designed to familiarize participants with the County's permitting process. This training is scheduled for September 9, 2025 at the ag. center.

MDA Area Coordinator – In Alles' absence, Frey distributed copies of Alles' report.

Baltimore County Office Of Ag. – In Armacost's absence, Frey distributed copies of the August 12, 2025 OOA newsletter.

Committee Reports

Urban – Darley reported eight active priorities currently in the office. Three of these are large BGE projects and two are substations (Batavia and Granite). Dulaney High School is also currently in for review. Time until review for July was 12 days. This may be higher in August due to the priorities. To date, there have been no objections regarding our fee increase.

Personnel – No report.

Agriculture – No report.

Finance – Having reviewed the information Alles sent to the Board during the last few weeks, Hadaway thinks making the District Manager a state position will benefit the District's budget. There was then much discussion regarding this possibility.

Brady Locher recently informed Hadaway that the County's digital permitting and plan review process has officially received final approval at the County level and will proceed as planned.

Old Business

MOU With Baltimore County - No new information.

Baltimore County Department of Agriculture – Bill 49-25 is currently pending. It may be sponsored by additional council members other than Kach and Marks.

Supervisor Advertisement – The advertisement was published in the Extension newsletter, OOA newsletter, posted on the District website, and displayed at the entrance of the Ag. Center.

County Council Work Meeting – Held July 29, 2025. McGinnis and Albright both testified regarding the creation of the Department of Agriculture.

MASCD Summer Meeting – The Board was pleased with the location, turnout, and speakers. The 2026 Summer Meeting will be held on Solomons Island. Hadaway suggested that Supervisors review the County Council's webpage for upcoming legislation prior to each Board meeting to stay informed. In addition, legislators should be invited to the Farm Bureau farm tour or District Cooperator of the Year presentations.

In accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act, the District's agenda will be placed on the website with a statement indicating that the Board may go into closed session if necessary. The minutes of the Board meetings will also be added to the District website.

It has been reported that MDE's Sediment Control Manual may be revised soon.

New Business

State Funded District Manager Position – Discussed previously during this meeting.

Motion – Duvall moved to accept MDA's offer to make the District Manager a state position provided the Board can have at least two of the four seats at the table during the hiring process. The motion was seconded and passed.

Hadaway will call Darren Alles and let him know the Board's decision and request additional information. He will also request a sample MOU like those used with other Districts and state District Managers.

Hadaway reminded the Board to be ready to discuss, revise and approve the District Employee handbook immediately following the regular Board meeting on September 16, 2025. That same day, at 11:00am, the Board will host the first "Get To Know The Staff" luncheon.

Being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 8:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Frey
Administrative Assistant