

Minutes – Regular Meeting  
Baltimore County Soil Conservation District  
April 15, 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

Jim Ensor, BCSCD  
Sam Cox, NRCS  
Eric Hines, NRCS  
Stu Darley, BCSCD  
Essy Frey, BCSCD  
Morgan Jackson, MDA

Morgan Jackson introduced herself to the Board. Jackson is a relatively new MDA Conservation Planner in the office specifically hired to work with small and equine farms. She worked in the Carroll County office prior to coming to Baltimore County.

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

Mike Mason and Cecelia Stephens of Lightstar gave a brief presentation on agrivoltaics on speakerphone.

**Treasurer's Report** – Hadaway stated the March 2025 Treasurer's report was in the packet. Sediment control fees received in March were significantly higher than February with just under \$22,000.00 being collected. Fourth qtr. FY'25 County funds were received. We will invoice the County for the remaining \$40,000.00 in supplemental funds on Thursday, April 17, 2025.

On March 31, 2025, Hadaway had a conversation with Sameer Sidh where Sidh told Hadaway that the County would no longer oppose the District's proposed fee increase. In response to that conversation, our fee increase letter was submitted to D'Andrea Walker on March 31, 2025. The increases include a \$350.00 concept fee, a \$125 plan application fee and \$0.015 per square foot rate of disturbance. No longer will recertifications of plans that have expired receive a free review, they will now be charged a full fee. Fees will now be capped at \$20,000.00.

**Motion - Hadaway moved to accept the March 2025 Treasurer's reports and pay the bills. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**District Conservationist 's Report** – Thirteen applications for \$524,536.00 have been funded across EQIP and AMA projects. Last year, twenty three applications were funded for \$777,186.00 across EQIP/AMA/CSP. Projects currently under construction include a livestock pipeline, two waterways, irrigation and a high tunnel. Three engineering site visits were conducted in March on ag waste, HUA and shallow water projects. NRCS now has a geologist shared between three states. We cannot pay for over runs on active IRA contracts even if they're under \$1,000.00.

All terminated probationary employees were returned to pay status and received back pay, from the date of termination. Ashley McAvoy chose to take the Deferred Resignation Offer and her last day in the office was Tuesday, April 8, 2025. Hines and Cox are trying to concentrate on continuing to provide quality service to all customers in both Carroll and Baltimore Counties. We continue to receive requests for office space from federal government remote employees. Aubrey Bettencourt is the new Chief of NRCS.

**District Manager's Report** – Ensor stated his report was in the packet and asked if there were any questions. He asked the Supervisors to please fill out the 2025 MASCD Annual Meeting Topics survey sent out on Monday, April 14, 2025. Registration for the Summer meeting is open, but it can only be done by calling the hotel, no on-line option is available. Duvall donated a cutting board and charcuterie board to the MASCD Endowment Auction. In addition, Ensor secured two bottles of wine from Boordy Vineyards and either Albright or Mays will donate some local honey to complete the District's donation. MASCD is still looking for sponsors for the 2025 Summer Meeting. The amount of the District's sponsorship will be tabled until the May meeting to get a consensus of what other host District's are doing.

**Motion -**      **Smith moved to accept the District Conservationist's and District Manager's reports.**

**Staff** – Jackson reported that she just submitted the first application for the Conservation Buffer Initiative for Baltimore County. This project includes planting 8.5 acres of fruit and nut bearing trees.

**Extension** – In Crowl's absence, Ensor stated that Extension is looking for partners for a CSA grant.

**Baltimore County Office of Agriculture** – No report.

#### Committee Reports

**Urban** – Darley reported that the average time until review for March was 17 working days with one priority request. Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project was returned to the engineer without being completely reviewed as Baltimore County Environmental Impact Review discovered major problems with the project which could completely change the plans submitted to the District. The Urban department will work on the paperwork necessary for the proposed fee increases and have it ready for Board review at the May Board meeting. MASCD is moving forward with E&S training. Several Districts have requested some sort of formal training and most agree that it's MDE's responsibility to provide it.

**Personnel** – No report.

**Agriculture** – Ensor was asked by the County to visit two farms, one on Turner's Crossing Road and one on Black Rock Road, to determine if the clearing taking place was for legitimate farming activities.

**Finance –**

**Motion - Duvall moved to continue the District's Farm Bureau membership at a cost of \$90.00 for 2025. The motion was seconded and passed.**

Ensor stated that many District Manager's are getting older and retiring. With this in mind, MASCD, MDA and SSCC are hosting a Management Excellence course on June 10-12. They asked for names of employees within the District who may be aspiring managers, or who may benefit from this training, so Ensor nominated Frey.

**Motion - Smith moved to pay Frey's expenses (mileage, hotel and meals) to attend the Management Excellence training to be held on Kent Island, Maryland June 10 – 12, 2025. The motion was seconded and passed.**

Ensor informed the Board that it would be very beneficial to farmers applying for MACS cost-share if the District had a notary in the office. Frey has agreed to become a notary if the District is willing to pay for it.

**Motion - Duvall moved to pay the costs associated with Frey becoming a notary. The motion was seconded and passed.**

**Old Business**

**FY '26 County Budget** - Discussed previously during this meeting. This was submitted April 3, 2025.

**E&S Plan Review increase** – Discussed previously during this meeting. This was submitted March 31, 2025.

**MASCD Auction Item** – Discussed previously during this meeting.

**New Business**

**Fee Increase Notifications** – Discussed previously during this meeting.

**FY 26 MDA General Fund Budget** – This was submitted April 3, 2025, and the total amount was the same as last year, \$25,506.00.

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

Being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 10:04am.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther L. Frey  
Administrative Assistant