



Cecil Soil Conservation District

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Board of Supervisor's Meeting July 16, 2025

The Cecil Soil Conservation District held a Board of Supervisors meeting with a Zoom call-in option. The meeting was called to order at 8:37AM by Chairman – Bruce Yerkes. Attendees Supervisors – Van Funk, Willie Ewing, and Jonathan Quinn. Other attendees: District Conservationist – Rob Weaver, District Manager - Chris Brown, District Coordinator, Tracey Rach and Administrative Assistant – Patty Pierce. Visitor: Loretta Collins.

- Willie Ewing made a motion to accept the June 18, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Van Funk seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Bruce Yerkes asked if the board had reviewed the treasurer's report, expenses, and supplementary emails. There were no questions. Tracey Rach shared that two county employees require ARC GIS for urban plan review. New licenses will need to be purchased that will require to be renewed each year. This expense will be utilized with funds provided to the District under the approved FY26 County Budget. Tracey also shared two CDs that are maturing in two weeks. The Board agreed to add funds to those two CDs in order to receive the better rate. Jonathan Quinn made a motion to file the treasurer's report and pay bills. Willie Ewing seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Cecil County Fair will be held July 18th through the 27th. Children's Day is July 21st which Ryan Fisher, Gerry Powell, Patty Pierce and two students from the School of Technology will assist children with a choice of three different crafts. Ag Showcase is July 22nd and the majority of staff will be attending to assist in communicating program opportunities and filter any possible technical assistance questions. Emergency Services purchased all of the stop the bleed kits for the safety training being offered.
- Farmers are currently signing up for the FY26 Cover Crop Program which will end July 17th. Patty Pierce shared that the district currently has 75 farmers who have enrolled compared to last year with 89 applicants.
- Chris reported on the planning for the Ag Tour for the County Executive, Council and other dignitaries. It looks as though it is scheduled for August 27th 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM with a lunch offered towards the end of the tour. The tour route will cover the south area of the county. Chris Brown shared details regarding route. Cecil Transit will be providing one bus to transport approximately 30 people.

- Visitor: Lorretta is traveling to board meetings to get facetime before MASCD. Loretta Collins shared State Committee update. The next meeting will be held in Salisbury and will include an overview of MDA and bird flu moving forward. Alisha Mulkey is drafting a memo to the Office of the Attorney General regarding commercial activity on farms specifically about parking lots. Counties are having trouble with E&S county requirements causing burdens to farm operations. The forest clearing committee is seeking feedback from boards regarding forest clearings. Currently the committee is asking MDE's OAG for determination of the need for E&S and SWM related to forest clearings. There are districts who are nervous about asking office of attorney general. This topic will be discussed at the next state committee meeting and MASCD summer meeting. Loretta emailed a general survey to all board supervisors looking for basic responses. Engagement issues but would like feedback from supervisors and get an understanding from 115 people from 23 districts. Would like feedback regarding the future. Jonathan Quinn asked for clarity regarding diversity questions. Loretta answered that diversity means "knowledge and expertise". Loretta and Alisha met with Farm Bureau as they would like encourage Farm Bureau to have involvement with SSCC. Lorretta also asked about the status of the Farm Bureau nominations to replace Jonathan Quinn on the CSCD Board. Patty has one application and is awaiting two others from interested individuals. Chris Brown relayed concerns that if more districts do not General Business meeting at MASCD there will not be a quorum. The group discussed incentives to get more to attend the general meeting.

New Business

- Rob Weaver presented the District Activities Report. Staff visited farms for Inventory & Evaluations for various practices. Several producers have called regarding farm ponds. However, we are struggling with how to prioritize these. Designs have been completed and the projects never go anywhere due to low cost share available. Right now, we are suggesting folks get designs done by outside engineers and then NRCS can apply for federal cost share. Two projects were surveyed. Three design was reviewed "in-house". Nine projects are in progress. Seven waterways were staked out and one waterway was laid out. One application for best management practices was submitted to MDA/MACS. Two agreement transfers were received from MDA. The WIP reconciliation round (28) was completed. Rob Weaver shared NRCS financial assistance conservation program activities. Farm Conservation Plans Completion annual goal and year to date acres information was shared with the group (See activity report). Chris Brown shared information regarding the prioritization of conservation planning activities and how they will play into the new reporting year. Historically planning has been prioritized based upon information from conservation tracker. The largest tracts by acres have been prioritized but this led to multiple meetings with cooperators. Chris and Rob meeting with planner regarding better use of time and efficiency and meeting with cooperators. Planning will be done with the use of producer reports to "bunch" all producer tracts together and lessen our back and forth with producers. Chris Brown shared an opportunity for a tour at FMC Corporation in August for interested staff and supervisors. Twenty-nine urban E&S plans were reviewed and twenty-five urban E&S plans were approved. Two 378- Small Pond plans were reviewed. Nine urban meetings were attended. Staff visited one Inventory & Evaluations' including an existing pond dredge request and inspection of dry hydrant. Three stream restoration/wetland creation projects are in progress. Five information and education events were attended by staff. Staff attended nine trainings and twelve-monthly meetings. Chris Brown, Bruce Yerkes and Van Funk attended the MASCD Board meeting. Staff attended on-site reviews with Western Area Engineer Warren Johnson. Staff attended ag preservation inspections with Cecil County Planning and Zoning. Van Funk made a motion to accept the activities report as presented. Willie Ewing seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Rob Weaver shared NRCS Updates. Internal hiring of critical vacancies is opening today for three days. Filling 2 DC positions on the shore but applicants remain at the current pay. MDA received buy out emails to reduce staff. The federal "Big beautiful bill" provides the same current EQIP program funding. The district will be hosting a Local Workgroup meeting in the near future.

- No new cooperators this month.
- Chris Brown reviewed the two agreements that the district has with MDA, MDA-444S-FY26 and MDA-1821-G-FY25 (Trust Fund). Van Funk made a motion to approve the General Fund agreement MDA-444S-FY26. Jonathan Quinn seconded the motion. Motion carried. Chris Brown discussed the agreement renewal between MDA and the district for Dan Polite. We are waiting for further info from MDA on how to proceed. DiCarlo licenses for survey equipment were also discussed.
- Other business: FMC Tour offered on August 8th. Elkton Alliance raingarden and Farm Museum auction items were discussed and denied.

The next meeting will be held on August 20th at 8:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the office with a teleconference option. The teleconference option will continue to be offered for those working in the field.

As there being no further general business, Bruce Yerkes called for a motion to adjourn the general meeting. William Ewing made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Quinn seconded the motion. The general meeting adjourned at 9:57 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A Pierce
Administrative Assistant