

MONTGOMERY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
August 12, 2022

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Montgomery Soil Conservation District (MSCD) was held Friday, August 12, 2022, virtually on the GoToMeeting platform.

People Present:

Robert Butz, Chair
Tim McGrath, Treasurer
Linda Lewis, Supervisor
Doug Tregoning, Supervisor
Tom Linthicum, Associate Supervisors
Mike Scheffel, OAG
Kelly Nichols, Extension
Sam Engler, District Conservationist (NRCS)
John Zawitoski, District Manager (MSCD)
Kathleen Sigwart, (MDA)
Karen Walker, Office Service Coordinator (MSCD)

John Zawitoski, the District Manager recognized that we had a quorum and stated that Tim McGrath as the senior Supervisor, should call the meeting to order and run the meeting until the Chairman Robert Butz arrives. As such, the meeting was called to order at 8:03 am. The District Manager noted that Mike Scheffel would present the report for the Office of Agriculture.

Agency Reports:

OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE: Mike Scheffel presented the report for OAG. Mike mentioned there are several items listed on the report where there is no new information to report. Mike indicated that the OAG keeps some items on the report until the item achieves final resolution and there is nothing more to report.

- Mike indicated that there was no new information to report on **Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)**. The OAG report reminded the Board that All Agricultural Groups opposed the Bill 40-21 during the November 30, 2021, Public Hearing. The Transportation and Environment- T&E Committee work session is still pending. The OAG believes the Council will schedule this Bill after the summer recess in September. This bill has been scheduled to go before the T&E Committee on October 24.
- Office of Legislative Oversight has continued to work on their report concerning the **oversight on the Status of TDRs and BLTs** -The OAG staff and MNCPPC are working together to review and update the status on the use of both TDRs and BLTs.

The OLO staff has concluded the internal meetings to gather data and information surrounding the two programs. The OLO staff will begin writing their recommendations into a final report that will be distributed internally during the month of August with a final report released sometime in September or October. The estimated number of remaining 4,039 TDRs in the Sending Area=Agricultural Reserve Zone and the TDR Receiving Areas = 131 Overlay Zones. The OAG believes the findings from this report will demonstrate that the County Government and MNCPPC have deemphasized the use of both TDRs and BLTs over the past 10 + years. Mike indicated that the OAG is awaiting the draft report and comments from OLO and are curious to see what is contained within the report.

- Mike then reported on **Bill 13-22 Buildings-Comprehensive Building Decarbonation** was introduced in June and the Public Hearing was July 26, 2022, at 1:30 pm. Mike reminded the Board that all agricultural groups provided letters to the County Council and the MAP provided in person testimony during the public hearing last Tuesday. The Council Member Hans Riemer has responded to the letters from the agricultural groups stating that agricultural and farming uses will be exempt from the Bill 13-22. Hans has instructed the Council Staff to draft this exemption for agricultural and farming uses. A link to the proposed Bill is incorporated into the minutes as outlined below:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/Resources/Files/agenda/col/2022/20220614/20220614_3E.pdf

In short, the OAG recommended the following amendment to this legislation. The Exemptions sections begins on line 27 and continues to line 42 (E).

27 (c) **Exemptions.** All-electric building standards do not apply to new
28 construction, major renovations, or additions in:
29 (1) the emergency backup systems of buildings that require an
30 emergency system and hence backup power;
31 (2) buildings primarily used by a utility regulated by the Maryland
32 Public Service Commission for the generation of electric power or
33 steam;
34 (3) applications for building permits submitted to the Department
35 prior to the effective date of the regulation;
36 (4) district combined heat and powers facilities; and
37 (5) buildings used for the following uses, as defined in Chapter 59:
38 (A) Manufacturing and Production uses;
39 (B) Crematory;
40 (C) Life Sciences; [and]
41 (D) Commercial Kitchens **and**
42 (E) Agricultural Buildings.

- Mike then presented an update to the **Rustic Roads Master Plan Update-** Please see the attached messages from MNCPPC dated July 15, 2022, outlining the progress and status of the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update. Additional comments from the Office of Agriculture were remitted to MNCPPC on July 29, 2022, and they are attached. Mike further explained that the OAG is developing a power point presentation titled

“The Rustic Roads Through the Eyes of the Farmer” that will feature pictures of Rustic Roads along with testimonials from farmers regarding their views of the Rustic Roads program and MCDOT maintenance and improvements. There are about 15 farmers that have responded so far. Mike explained that Park and Planning met with the Montgomery Agricultural Producers (MAP) Map and invited Linda Lewis to share any additional information concerning the meeting. Linda concurred that there was a meeting, and it went very well. Linda said that large machinery was available so that the staff could see the challenge to navigate large equipment on the rustic roads. Mike asked if Patrick Butler, Roberto Duke and Jamey Pratt attended the meeting and Linda responded that they did. Linda shared that the meeting went longer than anticipated and traffic picked up and it was too dangerous to put the equipment on the road. Alternatively, the Park staff was taken on a truck ride and problem areas were pointed out to them. Mike noted if Rustic Roads followed the current existing executive regulations for maintenance that by and large most of the problems with rustic roads would disappear. Links to the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update are incorporated into the minutes as outlined below:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/RusticRoadsFunctionalMasterPlan1996ocr300.pdf>

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-master-plans/>

- **County/State Staff updates-** Mike indicated that the recruitment announcement to fill Cathy Yingling position was released and 52 candidates have applied before the deadline and 16 applicants meet the minimum qualifications. Mike shared interviews have been scheduled for September 2nd and hopefully the position will be filled soon.
- The 4H job description for Alga’s Faculty Tenure position has been posted and if anyone is interested, please let UME staff know. Mike explained filling the 4H positions are ongoing, and he is unclear of the university’s approach to advertise and fill the positions. Doug commented there have been interviews to fill Alga’s position and that the 4H job description for the position that was held by Santana Mays will be posted soon. Santana has agreed to continue helping MC for the spring show, 4H camps, and County Ag Fair to weigh in animals.
- There is an administrative position that will be opened soon to replace Linda Walters for the Master Gardener program.
- Mike then provided an update on the **OAG’s FY 23 Operating Budget:** Mike noted the OAG was approved to fill 2 positions. These being the BDS position that Kristin Fisher once held and prior to 2010. Mike shared that HR has accepted the package for the position, and hopefully the position will be advertised soon and the MSCD Engineering Position-Technical assistance on small ponds etc. Mike shared that everything has been done to get the ball rolling on their end and he invited John to share information. John noted that the MDA has provided cost share for the position for two years and the funds are in the District’s account.
- Mike then reported on the outcome of the **2022 Farm Tour-** OAG sponsored the 2022 Farm Tour on Saturday July 23 and Sunday July 24, 2022, featuring a total of 19 farms. This year’s Farm Tour featured a New APP: where visitors can download Visit Montgomery’s Adventure Planner

App to access a special farm tour digital passport. We received many positive comments about the attendance during the farm tour notwithstanding how hot it was especially on Sunday. Linda commented that it was hot, and the tour was good. She noted there was a greater attendance than normal. Mike said that he has received other feedback similar to Linda's comments and noted by and large it was a good thing.

- Mike also reported on the outcome of the 2022 **National Envirothon Championship**- He noted the students from Richard Montgomery High School on the 'Tree Troupe Team' placed second in the National Championship in Ohio last week. Mike noted that John would share more on this item under his District Manager's report.
- Lastly, Mike shared that the OAG had been made aware of a proposal by FSA to assign an **FSA Executive Director for both Prince Georges and Montgomery County**- apparently this proposal is coming from the FSA leadership, and if implemented would mean that Montgomery County farmers would no longer work with Missy Donnelly; however, Montgomery County Farmers would continue to receive their FSA programs and services from the Derwood Office. Mike noted that this is an item Jeremy wanted to bring to their attention, and they learned about the matter at a farmer's club meeting. Although the Derwood Office will remain open, Missy will no longer be the CED and there would be different staff.
- **Upcoming Meetings and Events:**
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board-August 9, 2022; Montgomery Soil Conservation District-August 12, 2022; Montgomery County Agricultural Fair-August 13-20, 2022; Agricultural Leaders Luncheon-August 15, 2022; Agricultural Advisory Committee-August 16, 2022, Cancelled due to the County Ag Fair; Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors- September 6, 2022; COG FARM Committee Tour of Ag Reserve-September 9, 2022.

After Mike presented the report, Tim commented that he spoke with Jeremy about having the Ag Advisory to send a letter of thanks to DOT for doing a great job grubbing back on the intersection Route 109 and Comus Road. Tim noted DOT is being proactive and has worked on Peach Tree Road and other areas in western Montgomery County. Tim shared that he did not want to miss the opportunity to show gratitude for what DOT has done. Mike asked if the grubbing was done on Route 109 or Comus Road and Tim responded that it was at the intersection of Route 109 and Comus Inn. Mike asked about the location because the state road also provides road maintenance, and they possibly did the work and not DOT. Tim remarked that it is a State road and possibly DOT did not do the work. Mike said that he would check with Jeremy and follow up on the matter. Note: Jeremy is still trying to determine if the work that done along MD-Route 109 and Comus Road was completed by the State SHA or the County DOT.

After the DOT comments, John circled back to the FSA proposal and noted previously a similar arrangement had been made and that Jeremy was concerned because it would be a challenge for Montgomery County Farmers to receive services from the FSA office in Prince Georges County. John noted that whoever is working on the issue does not understand the logistics to make the plan achievable. In short, there is just no easy way to get from Montgomery Office to the Prince Georges County Office.

John explained that he wants to have a conversation with Missy on this matter to obtain a better understanding of what is being proposed. So far, the proposal has just been talking at farmer clubs. The Chairman indicated that he likes John's approach because of his state and federal experience and is probably the best candidate to reach out to Missy. The Chairman then apologized for his late arrival and wanted to move forward on the agenda. John responded that Kelly should be next to present her agency report.

Extension Report– Kelly Nichols - U of MD presented her report. She reported on some staffing updates and is happy to share the Howard County Ag Agent position has been posted. She placed the position link in the chat so that it would be available if they know anyone interested in working for Extension to apply. The posting will be open until September 4. She noted that as both Mike and Doug had mentioned, Extension is in the process of filling a couple of 4-H and administrative positions both in the county and statewide. There have been interviews for one position and hopefully the other position will be posted soon. However, we have been told that HR is short staff, so things are moving slowly.

Notes from out in the field: They have been trapping Fall Armyworm and Western Bean Cutworm Traps out at Eric Spates. No Fall Armyworms have been caught and only three western bean cutworm moths were caught in July, which indicates a low population. Because little or no insects were trapped, we should consider trapping other insects that can be caught and tracked. Although there are no traps in the county for Corn Earworms; high numbers have been caught in traps in Maryland and Delaware and she is hopeful that Montgomery can trap for Corn Earworms next year. She asked if there are any insects that impact agronomic crops or vegetable crops that she should be scouting and trapping to please contact her. Also, she can place traps on your farm if you wish. Alerts will be sent out as more research and information that is gathered and it lends her the opportunity to get out of the office. She also suggested that if you have sweet corn, you should go out and scout. She has the chart for spray schedule if you need it.

Kelly then explained that the EPA is proposing changes to the use of Atrazine. One proposed change is to reduce the annual application rate from 2.5 lbs to 2 lbs per acre. She noted that the comment period is currently open and noted more information can be found in an article in our latest Agronomy News.

Kelly then reported that Wheat and Barley Variety Trials and Disease Ratings and that this information should be posted on the website soon, but she can get anyone this information if needed.

Listed below are the upcoming events:

Solar on the Farm webinar on Tuesday, August 16, from 1:00-2:30pm, hosted by Drew Schiavone, Extension Energy Conservation and Technology Specialist. Learn more about using solar to power your farm, leasing your land for a solar project, how solar works, and opportunities available for solar energy. For more information and to register, visit the solar event website.

The Agricultural Law Education Initiative (ALEI) is hosting a free webinar series throughout August on **Legal Considerations for Choosing Your Farm Business Structure**. Six webinars will be offered on Mondays at noon on topics including an overview of options and formation basics, transition considerations, insurance needs, and tax implications. For more information, please visit the webinar series website.

Sprayer and Pesticide Application Twilight Meeting on Thursday, September 1, at the University's Research Farm in Keedysville, from 5:00 pm-7:30pm. Topics include precision ag technologies, sprayer calibration.

Kelly then reported on a new **Email Blast** system she has begun to send out routinely to farmers. In short, she is looking for feedback on how often and what type of information should be in the email blast. The statewide newsletters cover Agronomy Updates, Fruits and Vegetables, Food Safety, Dairy and Beef and to let her know if you would like to receive any of the newsletters, please let her know. After Kelly presented her report, the Chairman commented on the Wheat and Barley Trails and noted that it is very interesting. He also shared that it appears that local varieties did the best. She responded that she needs to research the matter, but local varieties tend to do the best. Robert commented on the importance of local ag research.

SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

The Chairman explained that all the Supervisors received a copy of the minutes and asked if there were any questions or corrections for the minutes. Having no questions or corrections, a motion was made by Linda Lewis and second by Tim McGrath and passed approving the June 10, 2022, Board of Supervisors Minutes.

The Chairman then invited Karen to address the June and July financial reports. Karen shared that she had diligently worked on utilizing FY22 MDA and County Operating funding. Most of the State funding was directed for the Supervisors' attendance to the 2022 MASCD Summer Meeting. The June financial report requires an original signature, and she has coordinated a time to meet with Tim to sign off on the reports. Karen reported that the checkbook and bank statement have been reconciled for both June and July and are ready for the Board to approve the financial report filings.

Karen highlighted that she has been working on the Cooperators Dinner details. She explained that both she and John had met with the staff at Windridge and that we are working to obtain a tent for the event. She also explained that the items for the Auction Piece for the 2022 MASCD Meeting have been secured. Karen mentioned MSCD has received the reimbursement from MDA for the Practice Keeper software and funding for the engineering position. John shared that under the MDA Operating Budget, we closed out the year with roughly seven thousand dollars and this amount will be carry overed into FY23. He also noted that we received donation requests that should be addressed. Karen commented the donation request for Close Encounters with Agriculture (CEWA) was in their package. John shared we have supported this program in the past and provided a \$1,000.00 donation. John noted this program is the biggest part of our education outreach and he would like to continue to support the program. He noted MSCD has

local funds available, and he recommended to provide a \$1,000.00 donation. The Chairman asked if there was another donation request, as he would like one motion to address both requests. John shared it is a financial matter but not a donation request. John stated the Envirothon “Tree Troupe” team from Richard Montgomery High School won the State Envirothon competition in June and placed 2nd in the National Envirothon Competition in July. He provided details of their achievement and noted that they have participated in the National competition for two years in a row. Last year, the five team members each received \$300 cash award and he would like to honor them again this year in the same manner. The Chairman asked if there were any questions on this matter and Tim asked which State won the National Competition. John responded it was Massachusetts for 1st place, Maryland for 2nd place and Florida for 3rd place.

Tim noted Richard Montgomery High School is about as city or suburban area as it gets in Montgomery County, and he asked if schools in the AR Zone participate in this program. John responded the Poolesville has participated in the past as they have a Global Ecology Program; however, the Envirothon Program is extra-curricular activity for students, and some teachers are just not willing to go outside of their normal school day. MSCD is fortunate to have teachers from Richard Montgomery and Blair High School that see the value and support this program. The Envirothon program requires a teacher to sponsor the program and be an advisor for the Envirothon teams. John shared MSCD has made efforts to reach out to other schools to participate, but at the end of the day a teacher must step up and volunteer their time. John noted for the Cooperators Dinner, he would like to acknowledge Lissa Vincent the advisor/teacher for the “Tree Troupe Team” with the “Teacher of the Year” award. He noted that she has done an outstanding job and he would address this item specifically under the awards for the Cooperators Dinner.

After the discussion on other schools participating in the program, the Chairman summarized the financial request as \$1000 for CEWA and a total of \$1500 for the 5 Envirothon winners for each to receive a \$300 stipend and requested a motion for approval. A motion was made by Tim McGrath and second by Linda Lewis and passed approving a \$1,000 donation for CEWA and a \$1,500 Envirothon cash award for 5 team members (\$300 each). Due to the large amount requested, the Chairman wanted a separate motion for donation request and the filing of the MDA June and July financials. A motion was made by Tim McGrath and second by Linda Lewis and passed approving to file the June and July MDA Financial reports.

District Activities Report and Program Update

Sam Engler, District Conservationist presented the Activities Report and John noted that there has been a lot of activity summarized in the report. Sam explained that 6 new Requests for Assistance (RFA) and he and John provided details on each request. One RFA involved the installation of a farm access road, and the Chairman clarified that farmers are not exempt from Erosion & Sediment, (E&S) but E&S is considered as a part of a farmer’s conservation plan. John responded that is correct and shared that the operator and the District must coordinate Right of Way access with the County and State agencies for access. He noted having no July meeting it’s been a robust month with 30 Conservation Plans listed on the report awaiting Supervisor

approval during the Executive Session. John's thoughts for the Executive Session, would be for the Board to approve the conservation plans as a whole and not review every individual plan, unless Supervisors had specific questions concerning any plan. John also suggested that Sam could highlight any information on conservation plans that may have some issues or would be of special importance to the Board. The Chairman remarked that approving plans as a whole was the standard process, and he agrees with John's recommendation. After the discussion the Chairman requested a motion to approve the Activities Report and the conservation plan approval process. A motion was made by Doug Tregoning and second by Linda Lewis and passed approving the Activities Report and the approval of conservation plans as a whole/group.

District Managers Report: New Business

MDA- GF and CBT Fund Budget Update – John explained that the District is still awaiting FY23 Budget amendment for the CB Trust; however, we have received from MDA, a proposed FY23 GF operating budget. This budget is flat and represents the same level of funding received in FY22 that was approximately \$13,000. Although the budget has not been signed off, MDA has sent us the first 3 quarterly payments totaling \$9,200. In advance of receiving the GF budget amendment from MDA, John did prepare both FY23 GF and Trust Fund submission using last year's budget submission workbooks. John noted that there was a few increased costs above what was provided in FY22. This included increased per diem for the summer meeting being an additional day due to the combined NACD/MASCD meeting, increased mileage reimbursement costs and increased costs for our annual audit. While making MDA aware of these increased costs, the MDA decided to maintain funding support to the District at FY22 levels. John feels MDA has allowed us to have the FY22 carryover funds that will be available to cover these increased costs for FY23. In consideration the request made by the Department to approve the GF Budget Amendment, he recommends the District Supervisors execute the FY23 GF Budget Amendment. After the discussion on the Amendment, a motion was made by Tim McGrath and seconded by Linda Lewis and passed approving the FY23 MDA budget Amendment. John noted that he would bring the FY23 MDA Budget Amendment to the Ag Leaders Luncheon and have a supervisor provide a original signature.

Donation Request: Close Encounters with Ag -This item was addressed under the Secretary/Treasurer's report and John thanked the Supervisors for supporting the CEWA program.

MD Envirothon Competition Results/Recognitions –This item was addressed under the Secretary/Treasurer's report and again John thanked Supervisors for their support.

Update on Izzak Walton League Lead Project – John wanted to provide an update on the item and noted on June 29th, the District and OAG met with IWL and their engineers to discuss the lead reclamation project. This project would represent a significant land disturbance of 7 to 12 acres, of which most of the area is currently forested. This level of disturbance would require Erosion and Sediment Control, Stormwater Management, and the filing of NOI with MDE. In addition, there would also be forest conservation requirements. Obviously, this isn't an agricultural land disturbance, but John felt this shouldn't mean that the District can't try to assist. There is an environmental issue on this agriculturally preserved property that needs to be addressed. The SCD and OAG discussed opportunities

with the IWL whereby areas disturbed by the reclamation project could be returned to an agricultural use. If this is considered, this may be an avenue by which the District can provide some assistance. The IWL and their engineers have meetings with County DPS to discuss what they would require if they were to go through the regulatory process. We have offered to sit in on future discussions with County Officials if this would be helpful to the IWL. As of right now, we do not have a specific proposal to present to the Board. John invited Mike Scheffel to share any other details. Mike commented the league met with the Ag Preservation Board and John was present to address E&S matters. The Ag Preservation Board has provided approval but noted that if IWL wants to pursue this, the league must work with MSCD. Mike also noted the project is for the shot gun range. The handgun and raffle range are an easy clean up, but the shot fall area is more diffuse and harder to pick up. Currently, the trees have been doing a good job of blocking the shots and limiting the shot fall area. If the plan is approved, trees will be removed. The plan is to reconfigure the shooting lanes for the shot gun range and put up some netting to better capture the fall area. Mike noted that the new plan for the future will make the current potential 12 acres of land disturbance much smaller. Tim thought that lead shot had been eliminated from ammunition for a long time and Mike responded that non lead shot can be purchased but it is more expensive. Mike shared that people that shoot skeets think the best way is to use lead shot; it is cheaper. The Chairman asked if John was seeking approval for this matter and John responded no. Because this is a matter on the horizon, John wanted to make the Supervisors aware of the situation and provide and update.

County Out of State Travel Freeze - With the Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health today, the County Executive has directed that no employee may travel on official County business to states with policies that roll back long-established fundamental rights and significantly impact the health and lives of many women in our County. This includes travel that is funded by the County or by an outside entity. The memo received from the County CAO, effective immediately, directs all department and office directors and travel approvers to decline authorization of business-related travel to about 20 states. John wanted to bring the matter to the Supervisors' attention. He also noted the Envirothon competition was held in a State the was listed on the travel freeze and shared no county funds were used for the Envirothon students travel to Ohio.

Council Bill 13-22 Buildings- Comprehensive Building Decarbonization – This item was addressed under the OAG report and John requested the Board to formally endorse the written testimony submitted to the Council for the July 26th public hearing. For the record, John emailed a draft of the testimony for Council Bill 13-22 and received endorsements from 3 Supervisors approving to submit the written testimony.

Summary of MDA WIP Meeting 8/2 – John shared the summary is a follow up from all the counties local WIP meetings to address questions and concerns that came from the meetings. An example is the question MSCD raised on how the AIR Report is capturing conservation tillage. MDA is working on the language/wording on the AIR Report to make things clearer. Some Districts were unclear and uncertain about data used for the WIP concerning animal units. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the District timelines to meet Federal reporting requirements. Annually the State provides a report to EPA by the first of December summarizing what has been done during the calendar year. MDA is putting the Districts on notice about the required information needed for the report. More reporting will be provided to Elizabeth Hoffman for tracking and John shared MSCD is on track to meet most of our WIP goals but may fall short on animal waste units. There was a lengthy discussion on reporting roll offs dumpsters and other initiatives as Resource Improvements to help meet our Waste Management WIP goals.

Old Business Report

Recap: MASCD Central Area Meeting-This meeting was held on July 13th. Representing the District on this meeting was Supervisors McGrath, Butts and Tregoning. Sam and John both were in attendance as well. After the review and approval of the last central area meeting minutes, the committee reviewed pending appointments: 1st was reviewing appointments that were made following the 2021 Meeting in Cambridge: **Awards Committee** – Eric Hadaway; **Resolutions Committee** – Jon Quinn

There are still two vacant committee appointments to be made, one Supervisor and one Staff.

Endowment Committee (Current Staff Level Member - Vacant) After Discussion, John Zawitoski, volunteered to serve on this committee as a staff representative. A motion was made and seconded by the committee to appoint John to serve on this committee

Long Range Committee (Currently Vacant, Last held by Wade Butler, Mont SCD.). No Supervisor volunteered during this meeting. Chairman Funk indicated he would send emails out to District's in the Central Area asking for volunteers. If he doesn't get a response, he will reach out to individual Supervisors to discuss.

Next was a discussion concerning **MACS Flat Rates**. It appears MDA is transitioning to more regional flat rates for the MACS program. It is recognized the number of contractors that are out doing conservation work are becoming fewer, and that all Districts are pulling from the same set of contractors, so in essence we are already functioning in a regional environment. The challenge however is that given the market instability and supply side issues, getting valid flat rates representative of current costs continues to be a challenge. Contractors and Suppliers won't provide price guarantees more than a few days from price inquiry. This is going to have a pretty significant impact. While MDA's COVID price support increase and 100 percent of flat rate costs have helped, there is still a significant out of pocket costs for farmers. All District's noted projects that have been cancelled due to cost increases.

There was a roundtable discussion on Small Pond Reviews. Except for Baltimore County, either a District already had an engineer on Staff or were in the process of getting an engineer position approved/filled.

Next was a discussion of WIP Phase III Goals: All District's provided insight into the individual WIP Discussions with MDA. Some common issues were discussed.

Concern of some of the goals assigned to Districts where they have no control over. Goals assigned but are reported in a farmer's nutrient management AIR report, Accuracy of NASS data, particularly with animal unit numbers and the extent needed to be treated with Waste Storage Structures and how districts can receive credit for ag stormwater management that is not associated with animal manure.

Resolutions: One resolution was considered and approved by the Central Area for presentation at the Summer MASCD meeting.

The District's would like NRCS to prioritize training for NRCS 570 (Ag Stormwater Management for District's as a component of the ongoing technical training for District Staff.

Practice Keeper Install Update - The installment of the Practice Keeper Planning tool has been completed, we are now being trained on the platform and planners can now use this tool for doing conservation plan updates of expired plans for conservation tracker. These plans will ultimately be entered into CD as time permits. Our focus in to use this tool to help the District meet the 2025 WIP planning goals. For the next board meeting, conservation plans will be presented that were done in Practice Keeper.

MASCD Summer Meeting Reminder (8/28-8/31) - Just a reminder that the summer meeting will be held August 28th-31st. Karen has worked with all of you to get your room reservations set, meals coordinated and other associated fees. If there is any change in your scheduled days, please let Karen know ASAP. In your packets is an updated agenda for the meeting.

2022 Cooperators Dinner Update - Planning has begun for the 2022 Cooperators Dinner. We have secured the caterer for the event (Simply Fresh) and we have had some preliminary discussions with the event planners at Windridge Vineyard. We are assessing any additional items and we may need to reserve an event tent in case of rain.

We are also focusing in on the program for the event. This will include a tour of the winery and some refreshments for our guests to sample. We are finalizing our recommendations for our awards presentation. For Cooperator of the Year, we are recommending Misty Gleann Farm; Teacher of the Year: Lissa Vincent. We will also recognize District and County Leaders that could be recognized by MASCD at the summer meeting. We won't know for sure until after the meeting, but our dinner provides us an opportunity to have any award winners recognized by their peers. There was no formal motion, and all supervisors agreed with the recommendations. Misty Gleann Farm will receive the Cooperator of the Year and Teacher of the Year will be Lissa Vincent.

Cover Crop FY23 sign up and program participation observations - A quick summary of this year's cover crop sign up. As expected with fuel costs, availability of seed and commodity prices, we have seen a decrease in enrollment for this year's program.

Farmers applied for about 15,279 acres for MDA's Traditional Program. This number is down from 18,937 acres from a year ago. With the changes made to the District's commodity cover crop program, we had a total of 3,770 acres enrolled. This number of enrolled acres falls within our budgeted amount of about \$57,000. John noted there was no interest in the new MDA Cover Crop Plus program.

After sharing the information on Cover Crop, John noted the next Board meeting is scheduled for September 9th at 9:00 am. Linda said she has a previous 9:00 meeting on that day and indicated she cannot attend unless the meeting started at 8:00 am. John asked if the Supervisors wanted to meet in-person and at 8:00 am and Tim replied that his attendance would be virtual for a 8:00 am meeting. The Chairman noted that we will be seeing each other soon and the meeting can be virtual. It was decided the Board of Supervisor Meeting will be virtual for September 9th and the start time will be 8:00 am.

Chairman Correspondence: The Chairman, Robert Butz did not have any correspondence to share, and he thanked John for the District Manager's Report.

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

The meeting officially adjourned at 9:25 a.m. and the next scheduled Board of Supervisors Meeting will be virtual on September 9, 2022, at 8:00 am.

Regards



Karen Walker, Administrative Assistant

<u>MEETINGS ATTENDED</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Butz	100%
Butts	75%
McGrath	100%
Linda Lewis	100%
Doug Tregoning	100%
*Linthicum	58%
*Joe Lehman	50%
*Chris Miller	75%

*Associate Member