

MONTGOMERY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
March 11, 2022

Due to continuing COVID-19 meeting restrictions, the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Montgomery Soil Conservation District (MSCD) was held remotely on the GoToMeeting virtual platform.

People Present:

Robert Butz, Chair  
Robert Butts, Vice Chair  
Tim McGrath, Treasurer  
Linda Lewis, Supervisor  
Doug Tregoning, Supervisor  
Adam Lyon, MDA  
Jeremy Criss, Director OAG  
Mike Scheffel, OAG  
Sam Engler, Acting District Conservationist (NRCS)  
John Zawitoski, District Manager (MSCD)  
Kathleen Sigwart, MDA  
Karen Walker, Office Service Coordinator (MSCD)

John shared that both the Chairman, Robert Butz and Linda Lewis were out of State, but both would attend although the Chairman would be joining the meeting later due to connectivity issues. In the absence of the Chairman, John asked the Vice Chairman, Robert Butts to open the meeting. The Vice Chairman agreed and called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Jeremy Criss, Director of the Office of Agriculture presented his report.

**Agency Reports:**

**OFFICE OF AGRICULTURE:** Jeremy Criss greeted the group and presented information on the items listed below.

- The first item Jeremy discussed concerned Council **Bill 40-21- Individual Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Systems - Amendments (McCartney-Green)**. Jeremy indicated that all of the local Agricultural Groups provided testimony in opposition to Bill 40-21 during the November 30, 2021, Public Hearing. The Transportation and Environment- T&E Committee work session is still pending. The Council is working on the CIP and Operating Budgets through March. Jeremy noted that as of the date of this meeting there was no additional information to report but will remain in his report as it moves through the local legislative process.
- Jeremy then reported on **ZTA 21-07 Height and Density Allocations for MPDUs-Affordable Housing-** This ZTA is follow up from Council Member Reimer request to the Office of Legislative Oversight-OLO for a status on the use of both TDRs and BLTs, the OAG met with the staff of the OLO and MNCPPC to begin discussions on the data sets that are kept for TDRs. The last TDR status report was done in 2008. A question was raised concerning the TDR Fund legislation that was allowed to sunset, where the County could purchase TDRs. Jeremy needs to research his hard copy files for this information as details concerning the fund could not be found online.
- The next item concerned the **Supplemental Appropriation FY22-27 Ag Land Preservation CIP Program** – Jeremy reported that the County Council approved the Supplemental Appropriation totaling \$3,675,816 for Ag Land Preservation Easements. The OAG is using this funding to acquire Rural Legacy Easements on farms that were included in the FY 22 RLP application that was remitted to the State in February of 2021. The Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice-RESJ recommends the OAG look at their procedures and policies for funding easement purchases for avenues to prioritize funding opportunities for minority farmers.

- **Follow up on Bill 16-21-Environmental Sustainability- Building Energy Use Benchmarking and Performance Standards** – While Jeremy did not have any new information to report concerning this Council Bill, he indicated that there have been two T&E Committee work sessions on Bill 16-21 and a third is scheduled for March 14, 2022. The letter from the AAC to the County Council recommended that Bill 16-21 should be amended, and Montgomery County should follow the lead of Washington State and exempt all existing and new agricultural buildings.
- **Jeremy then provided an update on OAG/Extension’s Beginning Farmer Course-** The Beginning Farmer Course will start next Thursday evening, February 10, and run for a total of 9 weeks. For more information, visit the registration website. The local in-person classes will be held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds. Topics will include soils, crop planning, financing, equipment, permits and licenses, and pest management. The OAG will participate on April 7, 2022, to review the County permitting and licensing requirements.
- **The Rustic Roads Master Plan Update** was then discussed by Mike Scheffel and Jeremy Criss. They met with MNCPPC staff to begin discussions on the Rustic Roads Master Plan Update. The OAG believes the agricultural community has more concerns about the MCDOT maintenance and improvements along the Rustic Roads as compared to the Rustic Roads Master Plan. The APAB has prepared a very informative letter outlining the concerns the Board has with the Rustic Roads. The AAC members were given a homework assignment to provide to Office of Agriculture one-page summaries of their personal views of the Rustic Roads. Jeremy asked if the Board of Supervisors could provide a 1-page summary of their views and assessment of the Rustic Road Program. Jeremy believes the biggest problem is not with the Master Plan but with road maintenance and getting work orders done in a timely manner. Jeremy thinks to reinstate the clearing and grubbing program will help the situation.

Tom Linthicum explained through his interactions with County DOT on Rocky Road, that he learned the majority of Rustic Roads are not owned by the county and the county would not maintain beyond the prescribed ROW and if they did it could be viewed as if they were trespassing. Tom shared that he would look for the documentation from DOT that he has and forward it to Jeremy. Linda asked when he would need the 1-page summary from farmers, and Jeremy responded that next week would be fine and that would give him enough time to assemble everyone’s input and asked farmers to consider and provide pictures of farm equipment (GPS) damaged by hanging trees on Rustic Roads. Another issue raised concerned farmer representation on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. Jeremy shared that commodity ag is not represented on the committee. Both Randy Stabler and Tom Linthicum, commodity farmers applied to be on the committee but were not selected. Jeremy noted the commodity farmers have the biggest problems on rustic roads. John suggested that the committee regulations be changed to include representation of commodity ag.

- Links to the Master Plan Update Process are incorporated into the minutes below:  
<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/RusticRoadsFunctionalMasterPlan1996ocr300.pdf>  
<https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-master-plans/>
- Jeremy then reported on **the MD Deer Harvest Report for 2021-2022-** He noted that MD-DNR released the deer harvesting report for the 2021-2022 Hunting Season and deer harvest rates are down statewide and Montgomery experienced a significant decline approximately 19%. The news released regarding this report is incorporated into the minutes below:  
<https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2022/02/10/maryland-hunters-report-taking-70845-deer-in-2021-2022-season/>
- Jeremy provided an update on the **Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation-** Jeremy explained that the MALPF will accept easement applications on July 1, 2022, and there will be some limited opportunities for funding in Round Two which require matching funds from the County. Anyone interested in exploring this opportunity please contact Mike Scheffel in the OAG to understand the requirements and the deadlines. Jeremy mentioned that the applications must be approved by the county and then remitted to the state.

- Jeremy then provided an update on the Council's **PHED Committee Recommendation on the FY23 Ag Land Preservation CIP**. Jeremy explained that on March 7, 2022, PHED recommended an increase of \$500K in Current Revenue for FY23 to cover the on-going Planning, Design and Supervision-PDS expenses that are not related to CIP that we have been trying to migrate back to the Operating Budget since 2010. The PHED Committee recommended these PDS expenses should be removed from the CIP in FY24.
- Lastly, Jeremy reported on the **County Executive FY 23 Operating Budget Recommendations** will be released on March 15, 2022. OAG is seeking CE's support for two new positions. One for the District and one for the Office of Ag. We should know what is being recommended by the CE on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Other County Staff updates-Cathy Yingling UM-Extension will be resigning effective March 31,2022 and Rick Walter, UM-Extension Director will be retiring October 2022.

**Upcoming Meetings and Events:** **Beginning Farm Courses start on** Thursday -February 10, 2022, and continues for 9 weeks; **Montgomery Soil Conservation District**-March 11, 2022; **Agricultural Advisory Committee**-March 15, 2022; **Sherwood High School Farm Tours**-March 16, 2022; **National Agriculture Day with the County Council**-March 22, 2022; **Community Solar Webinar-OAG, MCA, MC Green Bank**-March 24, 2022; **Annual Montgomery Weed Control Board of Directors**-March 25, 2022; **Montgomery County Farm Bureau Board of Directors**- April 5, 2022; **Montgomery Soil Conservation District**-April 8, 2022; **Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board**-April 12, 2022.

MDA- Adam Lyon, Patuxent Area Coordinator then presented his report and remarked on the Avian Influenza outbreak on the eastern shore. He explained that MDA is asking Staff/District personnel to refrain from visiting poultry operations until further notice. Adam then announced that MDA will hold one Resource Conservation Area Meeting this year as an in-person meeting. The meeting is currently proposed for May for the entire State to be held at Sandy Point State Park. Besides providing program updates, the meeting will be a team building exercise and give the opportunity to thank the staff for all that they have endured for the past 2 years. Because the meeting is for the entire state with more than 100 participants and for only 1 day, the partner involvement will be limited to only District Managers.

Adam then shared information concerning several internal initiatives that are being worked on to provide guidance for the staff. Adam has met with the Program Manager, Byron Petrauskas and several technicians to work on providing updates for technician production guide that will ultimately update the position description. The goal is to form an index for how long it takes to complete certain designs. The plan is to roll out the information at the Area Meeting. In addition, position updates are being provided for the planning series Arcs 1, 2 and 3 to reflect a more modern acreage and the types of plans that are being developed. The updates will be used to form a master plan over the next 3 years to address the WIP goals. Along with the position updates comes another round of recruitment. Adam noted the paperwork is in process with HR and the gap positions have been identified and will be posted. The goal is to be fully staffed by FY23 to meet the WIP Goals. Adam alerted John to look for good conversation and information at the Area Meeting. After Adam presented his report, John mentioned he has not received an email from Byron confirming MDA's cost share commitment to purchase the Practice Keeper Software. Adam said he would follow up with Byron. John noted the status of the Practice Keeper Software would be addressed under the District Manager's Report and he looks forward to receiving the email from Byron.

**EXTENSION REPORT:** Kelly Nichols - U of MD Extension was not available for the meeting; however, she did provide a written report for the meeting. John asked if anyone had questions on the report and recommended the report be incorporated into the minutes. A motion was made by Linda Lewis and second by Tim McGrath and passed approving to incorporate the Extension report into the minutes. Below is the report.

- **Avian Influenza Update:** USDA has confirmed cases of avian influenza in multiple states in both backyard and commercial flocks. Within the last two weeks, two cases have been confirmed in Maryland, and an additional two cases have been confirmed in Delaware. The Maryland Secretary of Agriculture has restricted the movement of poultry litter outside of an area on the Eastern Shore in order to help prevent the spread of avian flu. For more information, read the press release, along with a map of the restricted area. Poultry owners are strongly encouraged to practice good biosecurity. For resources on biosecurity and avian influenza visit Extension's Poultry Pages; resources can be found on the main page and in the Avian Influenza tab.
- **Produce Worker Survey:** The University of Maryland is working to find out what support farm workers, volunteers, and owners need to increase trust and build a strong food safety culture. Happy workers = safer produce! This information will be used to inform the materials we create to support food safety worker training in Maryland. Take the survey and be entered into a drawing for a \$10 Lowes gift card.
- **Dicamba and Paraquat Training:** Dicamba training is required for applications of dicamba over the top of soybeans (Xtendimax, Engenia, and Tavium herbicides). BASF, Bayer, and Syngenta all offer online trainings. Note that you only need to do one to satisfy EPA's training requirements. Dicamba training needs to be completed every year. Paraquat training is required for applicators who are mixing, loading, applying, or handling paraquat. Click here, and then click the blue Online Training button; you will need to create a free account to access the training. Paraquat training needs to be completed every three years.
- **Farming for Healthy Soils Program:** MDA's Farming for Healthy Soils Program provides financial and technical assistance for implementing soil health practices on farms. These practices must be new to the field and/or farm and include reduced and no-till, multi-species cover crop, extended season cover crop, prescribed grazing, and precision nutrient management. Rates range from \$10 to \$55 per acre. For more information, contact Kevin Antoszewski at kevin.antoszewski@maryland.gov or 410-841-5866.
- **New App for Row Crops:** The MyIPM for Row Crops app is now available on Apple and Android devices. The app provides pest management information for insects and diseases of corn, cotton, sorghum, soybean, and peanut, including labeled pesticides and rates, photos of pests and diseases, life cycle information, and non-chemical control strategies. This app was developed at Clemson University with the support of the Southern Region IPM Center and collaborators at Universities across the Mid-Atlantic, Southeastern, and Mid-Southern United States.
- **Maryland Beef Webinars:** These webinars will take place on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:30-8:30pm from March through December. Topics include deworming, genetics, forage analysis, stockpiling, mineral nutrition, and wintering bulls and cows. For more information and to register, visit [www.go.umd.edu/beef-webinars](http://www.go.umd.edu/beef-webinars).

## **SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT**

Approval of the January Minutes was next on the agenda and shared that all the Supervisors received a copy of the minutes. A motion was made by Linda Lewis and seconded by Tim McGrath and passed. With no objections, the Board voted to approve the January 14, 2022, Board of Supervisors Minutes. After the approval of the minutes, John shared there are 2 financial reports for approval because there was no Board Meeting in February due to attendance to the Winter MASCD Meeting. Karen shared that the checkbook and bank statements match for both months. She noted that MASCD has cashed the Envirothon Dues payment and shared there are no donation requests. Karen mentioned she is looking to provide the Supervisors payment soon and ask if anyone had questions. Having no questions, a motion was made by Doug Tregoning and second by Linda Lewis and passed approving the filing of the January and February MDA financial reports.

## **District Activities Report and Program Update**

Before discussion on the Activities Report, John explained to the Board that Charlotte has received a promotional opportunity with NRCS, and that Sam Engler has been named the Acting District Conservationist. Since this was Sam's first week in his acting role, to expedite the activities report that both John and Sam will be presenting the report. Sam thanked everyone for welcoming him back and then went over the report. He

shared he has worked with Kathleen on her 2 conservation plans that are listed on the report. In addition, Brandy has submitted a conservation plan that involves CREP. John shared with the Board that the conservation plans listed on the Activities Report will be addressed during the Executive Session immediately following this meeting.

John highlighted several items listed on the Activities Report that included a HUA design for Beatrice Paganini and a trough design for Laytonsville Landscaping; A roof runoff survey for Tim Johnson and Laytonsville Landscaping has begun the earth fill project for Dusty Hill Farm. John shared the background and details on the feasibility for Jefferey Shirazi that was listed on the report and noted the NRCS Engineer shared the stream crossing could cost up to \$250,000. Tim asked where the project is located, and John responded Brighten Dam and shared that the bridge is failing. John shared additional details on the matter and noted the bridge replacement must be larger and accommodate the agricultural equipment needing access to the property. John noted that MSCD staff have been very busy and if there were no additional questions concerning the report, asked for a motion to approve Sam's report. Having no other questions, a motion was made by Tim McGrath and seconded by Linda Lewis and passed approving the Activities Report.

After the approval of the report, John shared the district has received 2 Request for Assistance (RFA). The first RFA is for Laura Van Etten. Laura has been working with Travis and she has a small operation and is on the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee. The second RFA is for Tim Hanson and John provided some background information on the property when it was owned by Matt Doorman. John shared that the operation will not be equine now but a traditional farm that would include beef production. Doug commented that he went on a site visit to the farm, and it is a little more than 410 acres mostly in hay and pasture, with 100-125 acres in row crop. Doug noted that it is important to flag the critical areas not to be crop this year to avoid sediment erosion. John mentioned that Travis plans to meet with Mr. Hanson next week and John will attend the meeting also to ensure the critical areas are addressed. John noted that both RFA's are in line with the District Mission and noted we should work with them.

Sam then mentioned that he is working with the planners and getting estimates for EQIP application, assessments, and ranking. Sam remarked that NRCS has not received a lot of EQIP Applications this year and he feels it will be slow with the current cost and availability of materials.

#### **District Managers Report:**

**NRCS Memorandum of Agreement** - A little over 3 years ago, NRCS asked the district to approve an unfunded cooperative agreement or UCA. The UCA outlined expectations of cooperation between the District and NRCS. While we have provided comments on the UCA, we have not yet received a revised UCA to review. As a result of one of our comments, NRCS now is seeking the District's support for signing a MOA. While John still has great reservations concerning an updated draft version of the UCA the District provided comments to back in 2018, the MOA drafted by NRCS does not pose any concerns on John's end for the district to execute. While it does set up certain expectations between the District and NRCS, it doesn't or won't change how we currently work together. The real meat in this process is contained in the UCA agreement that outlines specific expectations between the two parties. John recommends the Board execute to MOA but hold firm on not executing the UCA until our comments from 2018 have been fully addressed. The expectation from NRCS is that once the MOA is executed, the NRCS will dust off the UCA process and ask the district to execute the UCA. John advises the Board not to entertain executing the UCA until the Board is satisfied that our 2018 comments have been address. John noted that the cover memo for the MOA will detail that the UCA will not be executed until all questions and concerns have been addressed by NRCS. A motion was made by Tim McGrath and second by Doug Tregoning and passed approving to sign off on the MOA between NRCS and the Montgomery Soil Conservation District.

**Update on Practice Keeper Initiative** - During the January Board meeting, John reported on the demo our office had with GeoDecisions on the Practice Keeper alternative planning tool. During this meeting, the Board discussed formalizing the process for getting this planning tool for the District and our planning staff to help us

bridge the gap between the planning necessary to keep plans expiring in conservation tracker and conservation desktop. We discussed the practice keeper would be another tool to write conservation plans and not to replace conservation desktop. New Conservation plans and those involving cost share assistance would be planned under the Conservation Desktop platform and that ultimately, any updated plan completed in Practice Keeper would be finalized in Conservation Desktop.

Following the January Board meeting, John reached out to Geodecisions for a status report on their proposal for the MSCD. Last week, we received the formal proposal that includes both the cost of the software build and the annual licensing. The total cost for the software build is \$11,830.00 and \$1,800 for four (4) site licenses for the balance of the calendar year. John reached out to MDA and had a meeting with Byron and Adam to obtain support and financial assistance to partner with this project. MDA has agreed to provide 50% cost share assistance to meet this financial obligation. The District has funding to meet our share of this cost obligation. MDA will be providing the District an addendum to our CB Trust Fund agreement for this additional assistance. We will need Board action to approve this addendum once we receive it. This is very positive news, and John is anxious to get this process started. Given the workload ahead of us in updating expiring plans, this tool will be extremely helpful in knocking out those revised plans. A motion was made by Doug Tregoning and second by Linda Lewis and passed approving 50% cost share with MDA to purchase Practice Keeper planning tool.

**Reappointment Recommendation** – Doug Tregoning was appointed a year ago to fill Robert Stabler’s unexpired term as the Extension appointment to the Board. Robert’s unexpired term has now expired and its time again to consider a new term for the Extension appointment. Doug Tregoning has done an excellent job serving in this capacity. Doug not only attends every board meeting but has attended in both the Summer and Winter MASCD meetings and has provided valuable input. John reached out to Doug to see if he would consider being reappointed to a full term (5-year term) and he indicated that he would like to be considered for reappointment. John then reached out to Kelly Nichols and informed her about Doug’s desire to be reappointed and that she was in full support. Normally, the SSCC takes into consideration, recommendations from the Board for appointments. We have a slate of 3 candidates as required under the code. We have Doug Tregoning (incumbent for reappointment) Joe Lehman (associate supervisor) and Chris Miller (associate supervisor). If amiable, the Board can submit a letter of recommendation for the reappointment of Doug as the Extension representative for the Board. If the Board supports this, John has a letter already drafted that we can execute and send following this meeting. The vice chair requested a formal recommendation supporting the nomination appointment for Doug Tregoning. A motion was made by Linda Lewis and second by Tim McGrath and passed approving the nomination for Doug Tregoning to continue to be a District Supervisor.

**Dr. Michael Weyand – Email of Appreciation** - Wanted to share an email of appreciation from Dr. Mike Weyand for the District’s support in association with his continuing education while he was employed through the District as a Trust Fund Technician. We provided him not only tuition assistance during his tenure with us but also a letter of recommendation for him to be accepted into the doctoral program at Hood College. He was and continues to be very appreciative to the district for our support and wanted to let us know that he successfully completed his doctorate degree. Tim responded that he was very happy for Mike but asked if there is a way to retain good employees. John noted some of the positions were not permanent and staff that have left pursued more stable positions. John explained that was one of the issues with contractual positions. Jeremy commented that one tool we have used in the past was working with the county to provide salary supplements as a measure to retain employees. This is still an option moving forward.

**Carbon Marketing Presentation (SSCC) and Healthy Soils Presentation (SSCC)** - During the February SSCC meeting there were two presentations on Carbon Marketing and Healthy Soils. John provided in the Supervisor’s packets both of these presentations that Supervisors could review at their leisure but indicated that if after reviewing the slides, Supervisors have any questions, please provide your questions and John will reach out to the presenters for additional information.

**Izaak Walton League – Lead Reclamation Project** - The Izaak Walton League is planning a lead reclamation activity for their property in Poolesville as the result of EPA requirements under the Best Management Practices for outdoor ranges promulgated by the EPA. This is driving their work. Given the encumbrance of the land under the easement, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board will have to review the proposed work in detail before any work is begun and there could be a role, depending on the advice from the Board, to assist with the erosion and sediment control measures and possibly working with the County on any stormwater management. Given the size of the project, it may be more appropriate to stage this project in smaller (less than 1 acre land disturbance) disturbances to avoid the NPDES notice of intent (NOI) process with MDE. Mike Scheffel is here to explain the project and to get advice from the district as to how we may be able to assist. Mike thanked John and shared the league has two-gun ranges on the property. One area is for handguns and the other is for shotguns. Mike noted the league is very conscientious and are open to everything environmental and want to be good stewards of the land. Mike noted a big challenge will be how to address lead in the forested areas. John shared the project is between 8-10 acres and it should be done in small sections and to minimize any disturbance below 1 acre at any given time. There was a lengthy discussion on this matter and Doug Tregoning recommended tentative approval for John to have discussion with the league on the matter and to bring this item back to the Board once more definitive plans are ready to be considered.

**MASCD BOD – March 29<sup>th</sup>** - Just a reminder to the Chairman that the next MASCD BOD will be March 29<sup>th</sup>. Details about this meeting are still coming together but indications are that this will be an in-person meeting. Possibly at MDA. If Robert is not able to attend, is there another supervisor that can attend this meeting as an alternate? John will follow up on the location for the meeting and check if Robert is available to attend. John noted to the others to keep the date on the calendar.

#### **Old Business Information Report:**

**Legislative Update:** John reported that he continues to monitor legislation and provides weekly updates to Supervisors and others across the State. Supervisors have the most recent update and John indicated he could provide additional information if Supervisors had any questions.

**Cover Crop Update:** March 1<sup>st</sup> was the first day that cover crop suppression could begin. March 1<sup>st</sup> is also the first date for spring fertilization. Cover Crop suppression and reporting must be completed by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the first date that spring suppression can be completed if a producer is looking to receive the later termination bonus for soil health.

- A. Spring termination may not occur before March 1, 2022, unless the operator plans to plant an early season vegetable crop. Termination may occur as early as February 15, 2022, when planting early vegetable crops; however, it is expected that the vegetable crop will be planted within 2 weeks of the cover crop being terminated.
- B. Options for end of winter management by the Operator include green chopping (for on-farm use only), plowing under, rolling/crimping or terminating by using a burn-down herbicide. Grazing of a cover crop does not qualify as an acceptable spring termination method.
- C. As required by the MOU with CBTF a random spring spot check of 10% of the acres in each County will be completed. This spot check may be completed by MDA, District or other personnel as deemed appropriate by MDA. This spot check will occur prior to final payment being issued.
- D. Cover crops that may winter kill such as Forage Radish and Spring Oats are not eligible for the delayed termination incentive.
- E. Planting green may not occur prior to May 1, 2022, if the applicant wishes to receive the delayed termination incentive. However, if the applicant wants to plant green prior to May 1, 2022, they may do so, and they would be eligible for the regular cover crop payment once the cover crop is reported as terminated.
- F. Within two weeks after the Operator's termination of the cover crop, but no later than June 3, 2022, the Operator shall certify to the SCD that the cover crop has been destroyed. The SCD will enter the

appropriate information into the Spring Certification section of the application. The final cost-share payment by MDA will be determined by the number of qualified acres which have met all of the program requirements, less any fall payments received and not to exceed the approval amount on the Operator's original application.

**Patuxent TAC Workgroup Update** - The Patuxent TAC met on February 24<sup>th</sup> and during the meeting the Chair and Vice Chair for this group were changed for this year. Chair for 2022 is Kristal McCormick of Howard SCD and John is now the Vice Chair. Meetings are still highly focused on mapping and reporting goals and progress. We have completed our portion of the annual report for last year's efforts.

**FY21 WQPC Annual Report Filed** - Just wanted to report that we have filed our FY21 Annual WQPC report with DEP and have invoiced them for our annual \$70,000 payment and we have received this funding. John shared that MSCD has the funding to pay out on cover crop and other ag initiatives that are not covered under EQIP or MACS.

**Indoor Mask Wearing Update** – Since Montgomery County has lifted its mandatory indoor mask wearing mandate, we have begun opening the office back up to more in person activities. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>. We can schedule this meeting as a hybrid in person and a virtual meeting for those that feel more comfortable attending remotely. Since the pandemic started and we were forced to go virtual, our overall meeting attendance increased from those years that were exclusively in person. Chairman Butz has discussed the possibility of having scheduled, in person, meetings part of the time and remote meetings at other times. Obviously, we can return to 100% in person meetings but if the Board wanted to entertain other alternatives, it's something they could do. Mike commented the Ag Preservation Board is considering every other month of in-person meetings but when a guest is invited it should be in-person meeting. This item would be discussed in greater detail at the April meeting.

**Chairman Correspondence:** The chairman, Robert Butz was not available to provide any comments and no correspondences.

**ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting officially adjourned at 10:14 a.m. and the next scheduled Board of Supervisors Meeting is April 8, 2022.

Regards

Karen Walker, Administrative Assistant

<b><u>MEETINGS ATTENDED</u></b>	<b><u>PERCENTAGE</u></b>
Butz	92%
Butts	100%
McGrath	100%
Linda Lewis	100%
Doug Tregoning	100%
*Linthicum	58%
*Joe Lehman	70%
*Chris Miller	70%

\*Associate Member