

APPROVED

MINUTES
CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
April 24, 2025

Board Chairman Greg Dell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Carroll Soil Conservation District office. The following participated:

Board Chairman Greg Dell
 Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara
 Board Supervisor James Leppo
 District Secretary Kayla Hartman

District Manager Matt McMahon
 NRCS Soil Conservationist Jennifer Kemp
 Associate Candidates Brian Rasche and David Swain

MINUTES

Board Supervisor James Leppo made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025, Board Meeting. Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara second, and the motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

Board Chairman Greg Dell cited the Financial Report, breakdown of District's Equipment Account and the following list of bills to be approved for payment:

Commissioners of Carroll County-Postage for January	37.66
Advanced Business Systems-plotter	369.32
Commissioners of Carroll County-Envirothon Lunch	300.00
Dell Brothers, Inc.- Drill Repairs	2,173.37
PNC-4070 District: \$456.40 Equipment: \$374.66	831.06
Kyocera - District copier	5.08
Ecotone, LLC -UT Meadow Branch Wetland	42,430.00
TOTAL	46,146.49

Account Breakdown -

Board Supervisor James Leppo moved to approve the Treasurer's report and payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara, and the motion was passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The next Board Meeting will be held on May 15th, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

DISTRICT

District Manager Matt McMahon introduced newly hired District Secretary Kayla Hartman to those present and then reported on the following: He and MDA Planner McKenzie Somers attended an Eco-Fair hosted by Century High School on April 11th. The District display was put up and they answered questions from students. Envirothon was held on April 15th at Bear Branch Nature Center. Six teams participated, and the winner was Century High School. The FY 26 Budget request presented to the County was passed along to the commissioners as the recommended

budget. It will go for final approval by the commissioners in mid-May. Registration for the MASCD Annual Meeting at Rocky Gap is now open. Please let Matt know as soon as possible if you plan to attend. MASCD is also requesting donations of items for the Endowment Auction to be held at the Annual Meeting.

MDA

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following from Western MD Area Coordinator Keith Potter:

District Operations

The Resource Conservation State-wide All-Employee Meeting will be held on May 14th at Sandy Point State Park. All SCDs were emailed the template for the FY26 General Fund Budget Request.

We ask that SCDs return their requested request no later than April 25, 2025.

Program Planning & Evaluation

The annual one-on-one with each SCD to review local progress towards the Watershed Implementation Plan will start in April. Board members are invited to participate. <Carroll had their meeting on 4/10>

Conservation Grants

Urban Agriculture Grant Regulation public comment period ended on 3/10.

No comments were received.

Final action to adopt regulations has been sent to the Division of State Documents.

Cover Crop Technical Advisory Committee met on 3/18 to discuss potential options to modify the 2025 program based on current budget projections.

State Soil Conservation Committee

May 15 meeting will be at the Caroline County SCD. 9:30-11:30. Upper and Lower Shore SCD staff and Board supervisors are encouraged to attend. Agenda TBD.

Forest Clearing Workgroup is continuing its work to achieve general guidance for counties and SCDs regarding Forest clearing for ag production as it relates to requirements for stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and the forest conservation act. Feedback is welcome from DMs.

Animal Health

MDA continues to respond to HPAI cases in the Delmarva region.

NRCS

Soil Conservationist Jennifer Kemp gave the following update:

Financial Assistance:

- \$2 million in applications preapproved in Carroll, 9 contracts for 2025 (March board meeting)
- Since then, we've gotten another 8 preapproved EQIPs for \$915,000.00 and 5 CSP preapprovals (3 Ag Land, 2 Forestry) utilizing Prior Year Funds.
- \$3.7 million in 57 applications for FY2024.
- We are now authorized to make modifications on active IRA contracts that need changes within scope of the original contract- i.e. additional footage of fence or tile line or a change in fence type. We cannot add any new practices to the contract that are outside scope of the original contract.

Local Updates:

- Return to Work – may get NRCS or other USDA staff working from the office or other federal agencies for return-to-work orders
- Biosecurity- continue to practice good biosecurity.
- Construction Season- grassed waterways, ag chems, fencing, ag wastes/HUAs
- Planning- ag pres plan updates, new plans and requests for assistance
- Training May 1st in Queen Anne's with Extension on Cover Crops and IPM- slugs 10:30-1:30

State Office Updates:

Personnel

- The NRCS planner and technician took the DRP 2.0
- We have a planner from Frederick helping out with CSP

Agency Reduction in Force and Reorganization Plans (ARRP)

- Agencies were required to submit a phase 1 ARRP by March 13. Phase 1 ARRPs focused on initial agency cuts and reductions. Phase 2 plans are due April 14 and include a proposed reorganization structure. No word on when that will be released to the employees. Phase 2 plans are expected be implemented by September 30, 2025.

General

- NRCS offices continue to provide technical and financial assistance made available through Farm Bill programs, like EQIP and CSP.
- No matter what changes come, NRCS will continue to deliver voluntary, locally led, science-based solutions by supporting conservation, working with landowners, and strengthening our partnerships.
- We appreciate the patience our partners and customers have shown as we work together through this time of change.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – EXTENSION

No report

FSA

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following from Acting CED Amy Bange: The normal grazing period for Carroll County is April 1st through November 15th. Carroll county is currently, as of April 17th on the U. S. Drought Monitor, in a D2 drought. If the county continues 8 consecutive weeks of this level of drought or higher, during the normal grazing period for the county, we would have our Livestock Forage Program (LFP) trigger. We are currently on week 3, but the U. S. Drought Monitor updates every Thursday, so we will more than likely be in week 4 by April 24th. In short summary, LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who have suffered grazing losses. More information will follow if the program is triggered.

FSA is currently administering the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) which provides economic assistance payments to eligible agricultural commodity producers for the 2024 crop year

Staffing update, Program Analyst, Carole Hill, is taking advantage of the Deferred Resignation Program (DRP) 2.0. Her last day in the office is April 29th. Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara made a motion for the District to purchase a flower arrangement from Emali's Farmhouse for Carole, and to purchase a \$100 gift card for her. Board Supervisor James Leppo seconded, and the motion passed.

At 7:50 p.m., Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Supervisor James Leppo, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt McMahon, District Manager