

APPROVED

MINUTES

**CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
February 13, 2025**

Board Chairman Donald Maring called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. at the Carroll Soil Conservation District office. The following participated:

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| Board Chairman Donald Maring | Board Supervisor Greg Dell |
| Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara | District Manager Matt McMahon |
| Board Supervisor Kim Crone | NRCS District Conservationist Sam Cox |
| Board Supervisor James Leppo | Associate Candidates Brian Rasche and David Swain |

MINUTES

Board Supervisor Greg Dell made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2025 Board Meeting. Board Supervisor James Leppo seconded, and the motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT

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

Advanced Business Systems-plotter tax	63.06
PNC Bank-3498	70.29
PNC Bank-4070	1,630.33
Maryland Farm Bureau-2025 Dues	105.00
Advanced Business Systems-plotter paper	284.98
Advanced Business Systems-plotter	369.32
W. B. Mason Company-office supplies	211.59
PNC Bank-4070	779.81
Bounds Acct. & Tax Svs, LLC-2024 1099s	155.00
Janet O' Meara 1st Quarter Expenses	294.12
Jamie Leppo 1st Quarter Expenses	306.18
Greg Dell 1st Quarter Expenses	290.10
Donald Maring 1st Quarter Expenses	334.32
Chris Weaver 1st Quarter Expenses	308.86
TOTAL	5,202.96

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 March 20th, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

DISTRICT

District Manager Matt McMahon reported on the following:

The MASCD Winter Meeting was held February 3rd and 4th in Annapolis. Greg, Janet, Jamie, and Kim attended the

meeting on the 3rd, where Governor Moore's proposed budget was discussed at length. There was particular concern over no funds being included for the MACS program.

The office has gotten over 70 applications for the PT secretary position. Matt already rejected 22 who were clearly not qualified, and 13 have been put on the 'short list'. Applications will be accepted until February 18th, after which the list will be paired down for interviews.

The dates for the 2025 Carroll Envirothon are March 11 for Instruction Day, and April 15 for Competition Day. All station reps have reported back that they will be participating. Advisors from all the high schools have responded except for FSK High.

The University of Maryland Soil Judging Team won the regional competition and is seeking donations to offset the cost of traveling to the National Contest. Board Supervisor Greg Dell made a motion to donate \$500. Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara seconded, and the motion passed.

MDA

District Manager Matt McMahon reported that Addis Tekle has been offered and accepted the vacant MDA technician position in Carroll County and will be starting February 19th.

NRCS

District Conservationist Sam Cox gave the following update:

State Office Updates

- Initial financial assistance allocation was about \$31 million. IRA funding is paused until April 20, 2025.
- Farm Bill funding allocations about \$15-20 million we're able to obligate (CSP, EQIP, RCPP)
- Ranking deadline of February 14th for first round applications and preapprovals by February 28th
- IRA contracts already obligated are on pause to issue payments or do modifications. 35 contracts in Carroll. Participants contacted via phone call by the office.
- Continuing Resolution ends March 14, 2025

Technical Assistance

- CREP 2025 and 2026 re-enrollment work being done with MD DNR and the staff
- Quality Assurance Review was completed in Baltimore County and I will share action items, corrections and commendable with staff in Carroll to help improve our efficiency and continuity of technical and financial assistance between the two offices.

Financial Assistance Programs

- NWQI- applications preapproved in Little Pipe Creek. Awaiting Preapprovals for Prettyboy
- Payment rates for practices were raised with the locality pay. As a result, we are seeing contracts meet the \$450,000 program caps
- Contract Annual Reminder Letters- sent reminding participants their requirements to complete practices per their contracts.

Office Administration

- Telework for NRCS employees will be revoked starting 2/18 as a result of executive orders.
- We have received numerous requests for remote workers to report to our field office but nobody has been placed. These requests have been elevated through FSA and NRCS state offices

- Lease for the building was renewed. Partnership is asking for total repainting and total carpet replacement since it's the original carpet.
- Upcoming Meetings and Trainings-
 - Frederick Soil Health Day – February 26th at New Midway Firehall
- Special Projects- cancelled Carroll Soil Health Day training that was scheduled for February 20th as a result of pause on IRA funding. Will reschedule for January 2025.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EXTENSION

No report.

FSA

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following: Amy Bange, a Program Technician from Baltimore County is now the Acting CED for Carroll. She had hoped to be at the meeting tonight but was unable.

Equipment

No report.

Board Chairman Donald Maring stated that he would like to step down as Chairman and asked that a new panel of officers be elected for the board. The following officers were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved:

- Chairman- Gregory M. Dell
- Vice Chairman- Donald G. Maring
- Treasurer- Kimberly L. Crone
- Equipment Chair- James D. Leppo
- Personnel- Janet L. O’Meara
- Education/Outreach- Janet L. O’Meara

At 7:38 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