**APPROVED MINUTES**

 **CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**October 19, 2023**

 Board Chairman Donald Maring called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at the Carroll Soil Conservation District office. The following participated:

Board Chairman Donald Maring District Manager Matt McMahon

 Board Supervisor Myron Frock NRCS Soil Conservationist Jennifer Kemp

 Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara Associate Supervisor James Leppo

 Associate Supervisor Kim Crone

**MINUTES**

Board Supervisor Myron Frock made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023 Board Meeting. Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara seconded, and the motion passed.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Board Chairman Donald Maring cited the Financial Report, breakdown of District’s Equipment Account and the following list of bills to be approved for payment:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PNC Bank - MASCD and office supplies | 2,371.23 |
| Kyocera - copier | 4.05 |
| Emali's Farmhouse - flowers for Lawrence Meeks funeral | 158.90 |
| Advance Business Systems - plotter | 347.75 |
| WB Mason - office supplies | 1.64 |
| PNC Bank - Office supplies | 306.36 |
| Commissioners of Carroll County - postage July & Aug 23 | 83.92 |
|   |   |
| TOTAL | 3,273.85 |

Account Breakdown -

Board Supervisor Myron Frock 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 November 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District office.

**DISTRICT**

District Manager Matt McMahon reported that Cover Crop Fall Certification is underway and going well. Matt, District Conservationist Eric Hines, Sediment Control Planner Bryan Snyder, and Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara met with Tim Hare and Pat Varga from the County Bureau of Resource Management to discuss the high volume of grading and clearing projects that were seeking Ag exemptions. Matt and Janet plan to put together a pamphlet or one page handout with the criteria for what qualifies for Ag exemptions. Several appointments were made to other District boards at the SSCC meeting this morning.

The following individuals were reappointed to their respective boards:

-Mike McGinnis, Baltimore County (Extension) -Lee McDaniel, Harford County (Extension)

The following individuals were appointed to their respective boards:

-Walter Wells, Calvert County (at Large)

-Wes Shaffer, Frederick County (Extension)

-John Faulkenstein, Frederick County (Farm Bureau)

-Diane Flickenger and Robert Black, Frederick County (at Large)

Matt has only received a few nominations for Cooperator of the Year. It was agreed that the decision for COTY and the venue for the December Holiday luncheon would be tabled until the November meeting since there were only 3 voting supervisors present. Matt will be taking the District display to the Carroll County Environmental Symposium on October 28th.

**MDA**

District Manager Matt McMahon reported that Jason Keppler had also given an update on the following proposed changes in the MACS program:

-raising the per practice limit to $150K for non-Ag Waste practices ($200K for pooling agreements)

-removing all per farm caps for non-Ag Waste practices

-raising the per farm limit including Ag Waste practices to $450K, but that limit will be per operation rather than the one deed = one farm and include any BMPs installed by previous owners.

-reducing cost share rates for start-up or expansion of operations to 50%

-all BMPs cost shared under an imminent start up agreement will have an automatic Status Review 6 months following completion of the BMP.

-all Ag Waste BMP applications must include co-cost share or a letter of justification for non-inclusion.

**NRCS**

NRCS Soil Conservationist Jennifer Kemp reported that Carroll finished up the fiscal year with 27 contracts funded for $2.6M. NRCS is expanding the Source Water Protection area to include a significant portion of Carroll County. Practices within that area that meet certain other criteria are eligible for 90% cost share. The next deadline for the Federal Government possibly shutting down if Congress is unable to agree on a budget is November 17th. There is still no new Farm Bill, but NRCS has the authority to continue operating under and extension of the last one through 2023. FSA is currently only operating with one of its loan programs, with all other programs shut down until the Farm Bill is approved. Rob Schnabel of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation has funding available to provide up to $1,000/acre for Riparian Forest Buffers to help pay for associated BMPs and fill any cost share gaps.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EXTENSION**

No Report

**FSA**

No Report

At 8:10 p.m., Board Vice Supervisor Myron Frock made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara, and the motion was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt McMahon, District Manager