**APPROVED MINUTES**

**CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**July 18, 2024**

Board Chairman Donald Maring called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. at the Carroll Soil Conservation District office. The following participated:

Board Chairman Donald Maring Board Supervisor James Leppo

Board Vice Chairman Chris Weaver District Manager Matt McMahon

Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara NRCS District Conservationist Samantha Cox

Associate Supervisor Kim Crone UMD Extension Agent Bryan Butler

**MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Chris Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Board Meeting. Board Supervisor James Leppo 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Lamb Awards-Gay's Plaque | 125.00 |
| WB Mason - office supplies | 99.98 |
| Donald Maring-3rd Quarter Exp | 338.34 |
| Greg Dell-3rd Quarter Exp | 286.08 |
| Chris Weaver-3rd Quarter Exp | 206.80 |
| Janet O'Meara-3rd Quarter Exp | 290.10 |
| Jamie Leppo-3rd Quarter Exp | 310.20 |
| Kyocera - District copier | 12.24 |
| Commissioners of Carroll County-Postage | 63.80 |
|  |  |
| TOTAL | 1,732.54 |

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**

District Manager Matt McMahon informed the Board that he will be on vacation August 15th, which is the third Thursday in August. He asked if the Board preferred to postpone the meeting until the following week, August 22nd, or to go ahead with the meeting on the 15th with someone filling in for him. It was mentioned that the State Fair begins on the 22nd and they would prefer to hold the meeting on August 15th, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District office.

**DISTRICT**

Sign up for the 24-25 Cover Crop Program just wrapped up. Participation is on par with last year. The report ran earlier today showed 103 applications with a few that haven’t been entered yet. We received over 50 applications for the vacant Part Time Secretary position. Sam and Matt agreed on 7 applicants to invite for interviews. So far, we have heard back from 4. Interviews are scheduled for Tuesday and if needed Wednesday next week. Vice Chairman Chris Weaver will represent the board on the panel along with DM Matt McMahon, Admin Assistant Jeanne Turman, and one other member of the staff. The District will have a booth at the Carroll County Fair again this year. The MASCD Annual Meeting was held July 8-10 at the Hyatt in Cambridge. The Western Area discussed putting forth a resolution stating that Districts should have more direct involvement and input into the hiring process for positions assigned to them. During the discussion in the General Business Meeting, Byron Petrauskas from MDA explained that the interviews were being done regionally due to the volume of positions they were trying to get filled. It was then requested that MDA provide the information for selected candidates to the Districts as soon as they are chosen so the District Managers have adequate time to contact them and begin the process for getting them access to the NRCS computer system.

**MDA**

District Manager Matt McMahon reported that most of the discussion at MASCD was regarding the forecasted structural deficit with the State Budget in the coming years. Governor Moore made additional cuts to this year's budget. Not many specifics were given, but at this point MDA does not appear to be significantly affected. Many vacant PINs will likely be cut. The Area Coordinator for the newly created Central Maryland Region has been selected, but not named as of yet, their start date is July 24th.

**NRCS**

District Conservationist Samatha Cox reported the following:

1. Obligations-
   1. $2,930,758.49 in all programs (45 contracts vs 28 contracts in FY2023 $2.6 million)
   2. $1,916,258.98 in EQIP IRA (30 contracts)
   3. $1,002,269.31 in EQIP non-IRA
   4. $12,230.20 in AMA contracts (1)
   5. $90,671.60 for 5 high tunnels
2. As a state- the last push of EQIP had $13 million in requests for the remaining $7 million
3. 7 preapproved contracts for EQIP by end of July
4. 4 preapproved contracts for CSP by end of July
5. $11 million in current contract workload.
6. Advertisement for Jen’s soil cons position have closed. Interviews soon
7. Advertisement for Jack’s soil con tech position has closed. Interviews soon.
8. NRCS Program Support Specialist-Gay’s NRCS duties-interviewing candidates today and tomorrow. Hope to make a selection and have references confirmed within a week or two and have the person in the position by middle/end of August.
9. Working Effectively with Organic Producers training next week in Frederick
10. Plans for FY2025 rollout to be in October with first contracts being written before Christmas for certain funding categories.
11. IRA $ will be pushed from FY26 and FY27 to FY25
12. Construction just about completed for 2 Ag Waste and HUA and another one will start soon. Ag chems expected to be built this fall.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EXTENSION**

Extension Agent Bryan Butler reported on the following: The Carroll County office has a vacant Administrative Assistant position for which they are accepting applications. Carroll County still does not have a Nutrient Management advisor. There has been a great deal of discussion regarding the proposed PSEG Power Line project which is planned to pass through Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties. Many County landowners and residents are understandably upset, and Extension has been trying to help by hosting meetings and informational sessions in addition to the public comment sessions put on by the company. Extension plans to hold more informational sessions that will focus on how to negotiate an easement. There was discussion about the District taking a formal stance against the project. Vice Chairman Chris Weaver made a motion that Matt reach out to the District Managers in Baltimore and Frederick Counties to see if the members from their respective boards would like to meet and possibly put something forth together. Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara seconded and the motion passed.

**FSA**

No report

**Equipment**

No report

At 8:24 p.m., Vice Chairman Chris Weaver 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