**Approved MINUTES**

**CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**

**March 16, 2023**

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

Board Chairman Myron Frock  Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara

Board Vice Chairman Chris Weaver Board Supervisor Greg Dell

Board Supervisor Donald Maring District Conservationist Eric Hines

District Manager Matt McMahon Western MD RC&D Director Josh Smith

Western Maryland RC&D Executive Director Josh Smith gave a presentation on current projects that the council is working on, particularly projects in Carroll County.

**MINUTES**

Board Supervisor Donald Maring made one correction to the minutes of the January 19, 2023 Board Meeting. No name was given as to who made a motion to sponsor two campers for the UMD 4-H Residential Camp, and that he had made said motion. Board Supervisor Greg Dell made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Board Supervisor Donald Maring seconded, and the motion passed.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| W.B. Mason - office supplies | 98.82 |
| Hashawa - lunch for Envirothon | 237.50 |
| Kyocera - district copier | 4.68 |
| PNC Bank- supplies | 119.78 |
| Carroll County EAC - sponsorship for 2 campers | 650.00 |
| Advance Business Systems - plotter - March | 329.00 |
| Selective Insurance | 150.00 |
|  |  |
| TOTAL | 1,589.78 |

Account Breakdown -

Board Supervisor Greg Dell moved to approve Treasurer’s report and payment of bills. The motion was seconded by Board Vice Chairman Chris Weaver and the motion was passed.

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

The next Board Meeting will be April 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the District office.

**DISTRICT**

District Manager Matt McMahon reported on the following: Envirothon Instructional Day was March 1st, and it went well. Competition day set for April 26th. Secretary Atticks will be visiting Carroll County that day for an event at the Ag Center, so Matt extended an invitation for him to stop by the Envirothon if he had time. Secretary Atticks already sent word through Extension Agent Bryan Butler that he would like very much to attend if he’s able.

Matt, Myron, Janet, and Eric gave a short presentation to the County Commissioners explaining what we do on March 9th. It was well received, and Matt told them that we hoped to put a small tour together for them this spring. Because the District is not in agreement with the Budget put forth to the Commissioners by our Budget analyst, Matt will be going back before the Commissioners to specifically address what he included in the District’s budget request to include raises for the District staff equal to the raises that County employees received in September. It is recommended that as many of the Board members as possible participate in the hearing. Commissioner Gordon was in the office on Monday March 13th to discuss his Conservation Plan with Stan. Stan and Matt were able to have a brief discussion with him on the budget issue while he was in. Board Vice Chairman Chris Weaver mentioned that he had been in contact with some of the Commissioners to discuss the matter as well. Matt requested that any Supervisors who plan to take part in the budget hearing contact him so the presentation can be discussed and organized in advance of going before the Commissioners.

The matter of MDA field staff being asked to write Nutrient Management plans in counties with no plan writers at Extension is still being discussed. Matt attended last month’s Baltimore County Board meeting to hear their thoughts on the matter. The Baltimore County board put forth a motion to provide partial cost share for any cooperators who hire a private consultant to write their Nutrient Management Plan.

MASCD Annual Meeting will be in Cambridge again this year even though the Western Region is the host region. Matt indicated that allowing District Grants Coordinator Gay Teada to also attend would be a great help as our District is in charge of the hospitality suite and will assist with registration and the Endowment Auction. The board agreed that Gay should attend.

The MASCD Coloring Contest has gotten underway. Entries for our local contest are due back to the District by May 5th.

MASCD Board of Directors meeting will be March 28th at 9:30. It is a hybrid meeting being held in Annapolis with the option to attend virtually.

**MDA**

District Manager Matt McMahon reported on the following: Updated MACS flat rates put forth by the Regional workgroups were approved and will take effect April 1st. The staff is going to a training on March 22nd and the Western Region is also the pilot group for using the new cost share spreadsheet, which is similar to the one used by NRCS for its programs such as EQIP. The spreadsheet showing the updated flat rates for the Western Region was emailed out to all Supervisors earlier in the day.

MDA still plans to have another round of interviews to try and fill the technician and planner positions that did not get filled in the last round of hiring. Carroll still has a technician vacancy that will hopefully get filled in this round.

**NRCS**

District Conservationist Eric Hines reported on the following: The first round of funding from the Inflation Reduction Act for Maryland is $1.4M. There is a specific list of practices that the funding can be used for, mostly Climate Smart practices. (Energy audits, tree planting, pollinator habitat, etc.) Once this funding is spent, the funding will be considerably higher in subsequent rounds.

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND - EXTENSION**

No report.

**FSA**

District Manager Matt McMahon gave a brief overview of the Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program. Additional information on that and other current FSA programs are available on their website.

Board Chairman Myron Frock reminded the board that his term expires in November, and he will not be seeking reappointment. With that in mind, he recommended that the board elect a new panel of officers to allow the new Chairman to work with him between now and November. Board Supervisor Greg Dell nominated Donald Maring as Chairman. Board Vice Chairman Chris Weaver seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously. The following officers were then moved, seconded, and approved unanimously: Vice Chairman; Chris Weaver, Treasurer; Greg Dell, Equipment Chairman; Myron Frock, Education and Outreach Chairperson; Janet O’Meara.

Board Supervisor Greg Dell reported that he looked into the current rates charged by the District for renting the drills compared to average rates and that our rates are in line and no update is needed.

Board Supervisor Janet O’Meara proposed that in light of the Carroll SCD staff again producing more BMPs than any District in the state this year the board should consider an appreciation breakfast or something similar. Board Chairman Myron Frock suggested that perhaps that could be done in conjunction with a Contractors Breakfast meeting since Carroll hasn’t hosted one of those for a few years.

Board Supervisor Donald Maring inquired as to whether or not Ag Preservation could specify if any certain fields needed to be farmed using contour strips if the Conservation Plan indicated that contour strips were not necessary as long as No Till and Cover Crops were used. District Manger Matt McMahon indicated that unless the easement contained specific language calling for the contour strips, the Conservation Plan provided all of the technical determinations needed.

District Manager Matt McMahon asked the board if they would like to invite James Leppo and Kim Crone to the next board meeting to discuss serving as Associate Supervisors. (Mr. Leppo and Ms. Crone applied for the Supervisor position now occupied by Supervisor Janet O’Meara.) It was agreed that they should be invited.

At 8:40 p.m., Board Supervisor Greg Dell 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