

APPROVED

**MINUTES
CARROLL SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MEETING
June 19, 2025**

Board Chairman Greg Dell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the office of Dell Brothers Farm. The following participated:

Board Chairman Greg Dell
Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara
Board Supervisor James Leppo

Board Supervisor Donald Maring
District Manager Matt McMahon
Associate Supervisors Brian Rasche and David Swain

MINUTES

Board Supervisor James Leppo made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2025, Board Meeting. Board Supervisor Donald Maring seconded, 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:

PNC- 4070	103.44
Emali's Farmhouse- Carole's Retirement -Flowers	74.15
Johnson Bus Service- Envirothon -Buses	1,374.00
Advanced Business Systems - Plotter	369.32
W. B. Mason Company, Inc. -Supplies	33.99
Commissioners of Carroll County- March/April Postage	245.73
Kyocera Document Solutions Mid-Atlantic -Copier	4.90
Western MD RC&D -2025 Dues July 2024 - June 2025	200.00
Carroll County Public Schools-Teachers Envirothon	941.24
TOTAL	3,346.77

Account Breakdown -

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

Board Chairman Greg Dell explained a program the PNC had proposed for the District which would change virtually all of our transactions to electronic and eliminate most check writing. After considering the cost involved and the possible issues with our audit, Vice Chairman Donald Maring made the motion to decline the program and keep things as they are. Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara seconded, and the motion passed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Due to multiple schedule conflicts with July 17th, the next Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. at the District office.

DISTRICT

District Manager Matt McMahon reported on the following:

Spring Certification for the 24/25 Cover Crop Program just wrapped up. As of today, Carroll finished with 108 agreements. 31,177 acres were Fall Certified, and 31,053 acres were spring certified. Sign up for the 25/26 Program begins on Monday June 23rd and runs until July 17th.

At Matt's request, all Supervisors gave their reservation information for the MASCD Annual Meeting. After a discussion, Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara made a motion to donate a gift basket with beer from Pub Dog Brewery and a District fleece for the MASCD Endowment Auction. Vice Chairman Donald Maring seconded, and the motion passed.

MDA

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following:

The guidelines for the 25/26 Cover Crop Program were released. Funding was held at \$23M, better than the expected \$11M, but with no carryover left from this year, the funding will still be tight. The base payment has been reduced to \$35 per acre, with bonuses for aerial planting, incorporated planting before October 10th, and planting Rye or Triticale. The maximum payment would be \$65 per acre. Fall non-poultry manure is permitted, but those acres will only be eligible for \$25 per acre and no bonuses.

MDA is working on filling our vacant Technician position.

NRCS

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following report from District Conservationist Samantha Cox:

Financial Assistance:

- ☐ \$2.5 million in applications, 16 contracts for 2025
- ☐ 7 additional pre-approvals for this year in the works and should be wrapped up by end of the month (livestock – 1 app \$230k, forestry- 4 apps \$80k, cropland- 1 app for waterway \$20k)
- ☐ 111 active federal contracts with EQIP, AMA, CSP, + 6 RCPP contracts active
- ☐ 3 RCPP applications in for ranking
- ☐ FSA is accepting new CREP offers for a 2nd round until end of July
- ☐ CREP re-enrollment offers and new offers that met the June 6th deadline should be released soon.

Local Updates:

- ☐ CREP training for field staff June 25th on 3 farms in Carroll
- ☐ Pollinator training for field staff likely in Carroll- would like to see the WSG drill and get equipment info
- ☐ Brook Trout STAC meeting June 2nd - how to increase brook trout habitat and strong holds, provide resiliency, protect the populations, increase economic growth- every \$1.00 spent on conservation of brook trout results in \$10.00 economic growth for the community. Need cool streams, cool water from reservoirs and ponds, trees and shaded banks, how to target those areas? How to decrease sediments and nutrients in those watersheds.
- ☐ Chesapeake Bay Program released model estimates between 2023 and 2024 which showed a decrease of N by 15.3%, P by 21.8% and sediment by 7.6% from entering the Bay. The ag sector was responsible for 76% of N reductions, and 46% P and 77% sediment came from natural sector (trees, shorelines, forests and wetlands). The Bay Program assess water quality by the amount of dissolved oxygen in the Bay, chlorophyll a (algae growth) and water clarity.
- ☐ Staff working on designs for irrigation, waterways, ag pres plans, plan updates and preparing for cover crop program sign ups
- ☐ CAFO MDE updates- mortality and silage leachate-100 times as strong as raw sewage. 1

gallon of silage leachate can lower the oxygen content of 10,000 gallons of fresh water to a critical level for fish survival. pH of 3.6-5.5. No discharge from silage leachate 25 year storm capture.

☐ Daily attendance reporting continues. 1 Return to Office member with FSA. Potential to get 1 more but we don't know when.

☐ No longer have to report 5 accomplishments from the previous week.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND – EXTENSION

No report.

FSA

District Manager Matt McMahon passed along the following from Acting CED Amy Bange:

On June 11th, 2025, FSA was notified that a Secretarial Disaster Designates three Maryland counties as Natural Disaster Areas due to the extent of level D2 drought. The Primary Counties are Frederick and Harford. Contiguous Maryland Counties are Carroll, Baltimore, Cecil, Howard, Kent Montgomery and Washington. Pennsylvania Counties are Adams, Franklin, Lancaster and York. The disaster designation allows the USDA, FSA to extend much-needed emergency credit to producers recovering from natural disasters through emergency loans. Emergency loans can be used to meet various recovery needs including the replacement of essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganization of a farming operation, or to refinance certain debts. FSA will review the loans based on the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Due to the D2 drought conditions for 8 weeks through the beginning of the grazing period, April 1 st for Carroll County, we had our Livestock Forage Program (LFP) trigger. The announcement will be in the June Newsletter for Carroll County FSA. The office is preparing to administer this program along with the 2025 acreage reporting season. Interested producers can call the office for a fact sheet on the eligible livestock and pasture acres. Applications for LFP will be accepted until the end of the calendar year.

Carroll County is currently out of the D2 drought and is currently dealing with excessive moisture now. In some areas of the county, farmers have not been able to plant their crops. The problem is so extensive, not just in Carroll County, but other areas of the country, that the USDA, FSA Administrator agreed to extend the deadline to file for Prevented Planting to the acreage report deadline instead of within 15 days of the final planting for the crop.

FSA continues to accept Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) through August 15, 2025 and has a few producers starting to report spring planted crops.

FSA has an employee from the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, Tina Beckwith, who is using one of the empty desks in the office through the Return to Office initiative.

Nomination for FSA's County Committee (COC) elections open on June 16th for LAA2 which include the northeast section of the county from the county line going as far west following Stone Road, as Silver Run and Mount Pleasant areas and following Carrollton Road, as far south as Raven Run and Southwood areas.

Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara gave an overview of the statewide Heat Stress Awareness program being implemented by Carroll County and asked if MDA was doing anything similar. Matt will pass the information along to Area Coordinator Keith Potter.

Board Supervisor James Leppo passed along a request from a cooperator to possibly adjust the rental rate of the Truex Warm Season Grass drill, because that cooperator is using it to plant 10 acres and the current rate of \$100 for the first acre and \$50 per acre after that is making his planting project very expensive. There was discussion in which it was acknowledged that the rate was set higher than the other drills because the WSG drill would most likely be

used for small acreage projects such as pollinator habitat plantings. After some discussion, Board Supervisor James Leppo made a motion to adjust the rental rate for the Truex WSG drill as follows: Minimum charge of \$100 for up to the first acre, additional acres 2-5 at \$50 per acre, and any additional acres beyond 5 at \$25 per acre. Board Supervisor Janet O'Meara seconded, and the motion passed.

At 8:10 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