

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**April 25, 2022
MEETING #874**

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*
Richard Kennedy, *Member at Large*
Robert Headwell, Jr., *Legislative Rep*
Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member*
Martin Kelly, *Legislative Rep*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*
Scott Fickbohm, *Associate Environmental Analyst*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:45 PM

MINUTES of the March 21, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Brian Holloway made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of April 22, 2022

<i>District Checking:</i>	41,626.71
<i>Building Acct:</i>	144,480.39
<i>MCSWCD Savings (Grants)</i>	115,220.38
<i>Trumbull C701373</i>	577.80
<i>Bolster CRF C012140</i>	64,157.90
<i>Water Quality</i>	990.17
<i>MMT C011843</i>	2,100.27
<i>Saltsman C701372</i>	76,457.57
<i>Kelly CAFO C012082</i>	944.84
<i>Holloway C012182</i>	953.66
<i>Hoefele C012183</i>	61,141.54
<i>Fisher C012181</i>	580.79
<i>AEM</i>	18,844.53
<i>Ridgedale C701426</i>	90,400.08
<i>Crowe T012325</i>	4,343.81
<i>Undeposited Funds</i>	276.83
<i>Total in all accounts</i>	\$ 622,820.44

Review of disbursements (check register 3/18/22 through 4/22/22)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills to be paid: None

Martin Kelly made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, pay all audited bills, approve all salary payments for the next month and/or the next board meeting, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) District Truck Bid** – *We received one bid on the F250 truck for \$44,100. We did contact the winner of the bid, but he has not been in to pay for the truck. We are not sure at this point if he is going to buy it. If he doesn't purchase the truck the district can put the up for sale as a private deal.*
- 2.) Tire Recycling** – *The tire recycling for farm and implement tires began today and will run for 2 weeks, ending on May 7th. The first day was busy and we already have a truck load of tires ready to go.*
- 3.) Retiree Health Insurance** – *A new retiree health insurance policy was written, Robert Headwell, Jr made a motion to accept the policy, seconded by Martin Kelly, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 4.) Director Training – Module 9 – Ethics (Martin Kelly)** - *Martin Kelly confirmed that he received the Ethic's Training, Module 9 and did complete his mandatory training.*

New Business:

- 1.) Field Work** – *The next week office will be busy with grant writing. Once the grants are done, busy season will begin. June and July will be busy with manure storages.*

- 2.) **Tree Sale** – We had another successful tree sale. There were 166 pre orders this year. There were a few extra items available for sale. We sold an additional \$1300 worth of plants by the end of the weekend.
- 3.) **CRF/EPF** – We hired a private planner at the last meeting to do an irrigation management plan for the CRF grant that's being written. That plan should be done next week. EPF grants have always been around 16 million. The state has just approved their budget and increased CRF from 4 million to 8 million this year to 14 million next year. Corey wants the office to be ready to apply for some of that money that will be available. There will be one CRF grant they will be writing for \$200k this year and next year Corey would like to have more grants written to tap into that money. EPF will have 3 grants written this year.
- 4.) **AEM year 17 resolution** – There are 3 projects lined up for AEM year 17 (see AEM Board report for details). Robert Headwell, Jr made a motion to fund the projects, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.
- 5.) **Methane Digester**- There is an SWCC meeting on April 28th and Corey would like to attend to discuss a portable methane digester. This mini digester gets brought in by a tractor trailer and is set up in two days. You hook it up to a generator to pump your manure through it and collect the methane gases. This a small-scale methane digester. Corey would like to apply to get one of these portable digesters and do a trial run on Scott Ryan's farm to see if they are manageable. There have been questions about whether these systems are cost effective. Corey's goal is to be in the forefront of technology. If we need to retro fit to keep up with the changing rules, then Corey will do what he needs to be ready to help the farmers.
- 6.) **AEA Report** – Scott Fickbohm attended the meeting. CRF/EPF deadline are coming up. AEM Leopold awards are due on May 1st for a farmer that is a leader in conservation. There is a \$10,000 first prize award. Every state has a winner that represents the state. 2022 performance measures will remain the same as it has for the past two years with the Covid friendly change in place. Waiver for open meetings has been extended as well.

Committee Reports:

NRCS: No Report

FSA: No Report

AEM:

John Valentine

Livestock Heavy Use Area Management System Project and Livestock Waste Storage and Transfer System
requested \$50,000 total project \$66,800

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

Roofs and Covers (367)

Roof Runoff Structure (558)

Underground Outlet (620)

Access Road (560)

Critical Area Planting (342)

Mulching (484)

Roofs and Covers (367)

Waste Storage Facility (313)

Waste Transfer (634)

Robert Rusnica

Silage Leachate Management System
requested \$12,000 total project \$16,000

Access Road

Lined Waterway

Heavy Use Area Protection

Robert Eck

Livestock Heavy Use Area Management System Project

requested \$38,000 total project \$51,000
Heavy Use Area Protection

Joseph Slezak
Resource Conservation Specialist

AED:

- Farm to Table Tour-The group is working on donations and sponsorships. We have 32 farms signed up for Host sites. 17 in Montgomery County and 15 in Fulton. We have a printer setup for a farm booklet that the chamber will be sponsoring. Working now that we have the farm forms to create the website. We have a fundraising POP-UP event setup at Stump City for May 14th and then working on many promotional events in June and July to get the word out.
- Working with Derek on creating website for AED to attach to existing website. Have a meeting on Friday to work on this more.
- Harvest Connect – had a meeting today and we are ready to go to add Montgomery County. Using the data collected for the Farm to Table event.
- We received the market study which is attached to report for your review.
- Contracts should be going out for the micro-enterprise grant.
- Submitted USDA grants for agri-tourism for the Farm to Table Tour and for Sundae on the Farm Events.
- Meet with some farmers for farm succession planning and on business planning. I expect this will continue in the future.
- Have a meeting tomorrow with the Fulton County SWCD board to see if they are willing to send some money down to cover my time working on Fulton County farms for both the farm to Table event and to add them to Harvest Connect.
- Amy Hoefele has agreed to be the farmer member /chairman of the AED committee and we are working on the process to get approval through the county.
- Working on setting up a meeting with organizers for Sundae on the Farm in the very near future. Creek Acres has agreed to be the host site for this year.

Becky Ferry
Ag Economic Development Specialist

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 PM

NEXT MEETING: June 27, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak