

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 22, 2022

MEETING #876

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*

Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member*

Martin Kelly, *Legislative Rep*

Robert Headwell, Jr., *Legislative Rep*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*

Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:29 PM

MINUTES of the July 25, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Brian Holloway made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of August 22, 2022

District Checking:	32,094.73
Building Acct:	183,516.57
MCSWCD Savings (Grants)	115,228.08
Trumbull C701373	577.88
Bolster CRF C012140	64,168.62
Water Quality	990.33
Saltsman C701372	76,470.35
Kelly CAFO C012082	945.00
Holloway C012182	953.82
Hoefele C012183	61,151.76
Fisher C012181	580.87
AEM	18,847.68
Ridgedale C701426	90,415.19
Crowe T012325	4,344.53
Undeposited Funds	646.02
Total in all accounts	\$ 650,285.41

Review of disbursements (check register 7/25/22 through 8/22/22)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills to be paid: None

Robert Headwell, Jr. 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 Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) **Field Work-** Field work has been going very steady this year. At MMT farm they dug a few spring pits looking for water and that was successful. Opened the 4th pond in two weeks this past Friday. NRCS is working at Ridgedale Farm on the diversion ditch. There have been a few bumps in the road, but the project is moving forward.
- 2.) **Sale of No Till –** The district didn't receive any bids on the no till drill. The board discussed and thought it would be a good idea to keep both drills and see if it may be useful to have two. It does get busy during the spring and the fall and if one were to break down there would be a back up to use.
- 3.) **Budget –** We haven't received anything from the county yet. Corey doesn't plan to request much of an increase for our office.
- 4.) **Pank –** There are still a few questions on what to do at the farm. DEC has agreed not to assess any fines if Ryan the planner signs off and a new VTA will be built this fall. They haven't heard from Ryan yet to know if he will sign off.

New Business

- 1.) **SOTF** - The first advance payment of \$10,000 was received for the Sundae on the Farm Grant. The next \$10,000 will come when the interim report is complete in September and the final \$5000 will be deposited when the final report is complete in October. Martin/Bob/Scott all said yes. Motion Carried.
- 2.) **Hoefele Grant** – Resolution for time extension, Martin Kelly made a motion to ask for an extension on the Round 25 Ag Non-Point Source grant for Appleridge Grant C012183 (Hoefele), seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.
- 3.) **Tire Recycling (Oct 22)** – We tentatively have October 22nd set for our annual car and small truck tire recycling day.
- 4.) **Farm To Table** – This was the first year for Farm to Table and overall, it was a huge success. Various farms reported back that they had 300 people visit their farms.
- 5.) **Hydroseeding** – We just started our hydroseeding last Thursday and Friday. We did a municipal job for the village of Fonda and the trail at Marie Curie School. Next week Latimer Hill Rd will be redone. The first seeding didn't take. The road ditches didn't seem to take very well. Not sure if the seeds are adhering to the sides
- 6.) **Marie Curie Trail** – There were some issues with the work on the trail. Corey decided to do a cooperative agreement with Fulton Co in exchange for Becky's work on the Farm to Table and Harvest Connect. If they wanted to participate, they would have to contribute \$10k to offset her salary. John Persch asked if we could take it out in trade. He offered his excavator if we had any jobs coming up. We had gotten a bid from a contractor to do the trail work at the Marie Curie School for \$6000. Corey agreed to credit John for the \$6k minus materials if he did the work on the trail. However, instead of an 8 ft wide trail it was more of a driveway than a trail and the stone was overflowing on the sides. Corey contracted Gene Bargstedt to clean up the trail and make it look more like a walking trail than a driveway. He cleaned up all the edges brought in topsoil cleaned up the entrance and it looks very good.
- 7.) **Ag Plastics** – The district had 40 bales of plastic ready to go. The company we use said they would take it, but they will no longer pay the shipping charges, in the past they split the cost 50/50. They also won't take anything with bale wrap, only bunk silo plastics. This is a problem because about 70% of our plastics are bale wrap. Now Scott is looking for a new place that will take our Ag plastics.
- 8.) **R&R Farms** – They failed their VTA inspections. We are doing a full containment there. The design is done. Jessica needs to approve the design and they will begin construction of a .2-acre pond at the end of the bunk silos.
- 9.) **Office Space** – Jim Pullano from NRCS contacted Corey about complaints he had received from an NRCS staff employee that we allow customers to come in and out of the back door that is meant for employees only. The district employees have tried to limit the number of customers that use the back door but unfortunately there are time they aren't able to direct them out the front door of the office. Corey would like to move the desk of the NRCS employee that has the issue with customers walking by his desk into the corner farthest away from the back door. He would put up a partition so that employee can feel safe and won't have customers near his desk. Corey talked to the board and let them know that he was going to present that offer to Tom and Jim Pullano to address the problem.
- 10.) **2022 Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees – Regional District Employee Award**– Corey was nominated by Scott Davis and won the award. They will be presenting the award August 30th in Cambridge, Maryland. Corey will not be attending the awards ceremony.

NRCS:

Almost all our contracts have been obligated for 2022. The following is a summary for what was funded for various programs in Montgomery County:

Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) – 6 contracts were funded for High Tunnels and 1 contract for a high tunnel/irrigation system combination under this program. AMA is funding that is only available in specified Urban Areas across the state.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) – 8 contracts were funded through this program (7 on cropland and 1 on forest land). All applications in this program were funded for fiscal year 22. Statewide, this was an under-

utilized program in 2022; NY did not use all our allocated funds. My team had one of the highest participation rates in the state with a total of 13 contracts.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) – Only 2 applications were funded this year under this program. One for a pasture watering system and one for the development of an energy management plan on a grain farm.

We are still accepting applications for all programs for 2023 funding. No cutoff date has been announced yet.

Thomas Bielli

District Conservationist

Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties

AED:

- Farm to Table Tour- This event was a complete success especially for the first year. There was 90% of farms that claimed increase in sales of about 50-75%. Most claiming their best day ever. It also has continued with increase sales after the event.
- Sundae On the Farm – Signups for the 5K are coming in. The event is coming together supplies are being ordered. Schedule is put together and commercial will be airing soon.
- Workshop Series – Starting in October I want to do weekly series for farmers. Topics from social media to farmland protection and much more. Will start lining up places to hold the meetings and speakers and figuring out the cost I will have to charge for each session.

Becky Ferry

Ag Economic Development Specialist

AEM: No Report

FSA: No Report

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 PM

NEXT MEETING: September 26, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak

