

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 27, 2022
MEETING #875

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 @ 7:45 PM

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

TREASURER'S REPORT as of June 27, 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| District Checking: | 21,423.01 |
| Building Acct: | 106,636.70 |
| MCSWCD Savings (Grants) | 115,224.23 |
| Trumbull C701373 | 577.84 |
| Bolster CRF C012140 | 64,163.26 |
| Water Quality | 990.25 |
| MMT C011843 | .00 |
| Saltsman C701372 | 76,463.96 |
| Kelly CAFO C012082 | 944.92 |
| Holloway C012182 | 953.74 |
| Hoefele C012183 | 61,146.65 |
| Fisher C012181 | 580.83 |
| AEM | 18,846.11 |
| Ridgedale C701426 | 90,407.63 |
| Crowe T012325 | 4,344.17 |
| Undeposited Funds | 2,968.02 |
| Total in all accounts | \$ 562,703.30 |

Review of disbursements (check register 4/22/22 through 6/27/22)

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.) **Tire Recycling** – *The farm tire recycling was a huge success. There were very few issues, and overall, the farmers were very happy to be able to get rid of their tires. The total cost of the project was \$16,540.20.*
- 2.) **CRF/EPF** – *3 EPF grants and 2 CRF grants were submitted this year. It will be a few months before we will be notified which grants were funded.*

New Business:

- 1.) **Evaluations – Corey/Karen** - *Upon their reviews the board moved Karen up to a GS 7-2 and allowed her to enroll in the HR2. They moved Corey up to a GS 12-9. Martin Kelly made a motion seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 2.) **Field Work** –
 - *The office is working on 3 pond designs.*

- *Kelly's manure storage is still in negotiations. Jess Engineering would be willing to sign off, but Russ Kelly does not want to take the risk that it will leak and wants a new floor poured. Corey contacted Bill Logan and there hasn't been any agreement made yet.*

3.) AEM Implementation – *Every year we are given \$100K for implementation. We have a few farms lined up for implementation grants and a few other farms that would be willing to do projects if the first farms pull out.*

4.) Revised AEM yr 17 Resolution – *A minor change was made to the AEM yr 17 resolution. All board members were contacted. Richard Kennedy made a motion, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.*

5.) Increase allowed spending limit – *Martin Kelly made a motion to increase the allowed spending limit without board approval to \$1000. Robert Headwell, Jr seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.*

6.) Part C ideas

- *Compost facility - The City of Amsterdam would like to have a facility that residents could dump their municipal waste. Next week Joe is going to meet with the Town of Bethlehem that does this on a larger scale, and they have a tub grinder and have a compost turner. Joe would like to pursue the possibility of a composting facility for Montgomery Co.*
- *Chuctanunda Trail – A bid for \$18k was given to do a set of stairs from Veteran's Field down to Chuctanunda Trail.*
- *Rainstorm Simulator*
- *Workshops for cover cropping, business planning, farmland protection, and advertising media.*
- *AED website*
- *Enclosed Trailer*
- *Compact Tractor*
- *New No Till Drill – We received a bid for a new no till drill for \$34k on a federal contract. The no till drill that the district currently owns is being repaired. If the new drill is purchased, then the old drill will go out to bid.*

Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to purchase the No Till Drill for \$34k, the Rainstorm Simulator for \$2600, the construction of the stairs for Chuctanunda Trail for \$18k, Martin Kelly seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried. The district will discuss and prioritize what other projects the district will spend the Part C money on. That list will be brought to the board at a later time.

7.) Trail @ Marie Curie School Amsterdam – *Montgomery Co is partnering with Fulton County to use their excavator to help with the trails at the school. Montgomery Co is working on a website for Harvest Tour/Harvest Connect and was looking for 10k from Fulton Co if they wanted to have their farms included on the website. John Persch was willing to do an exchange of services so they will be offering the use of their excavator at no monetary charge.*

8.) Farm to Table Billboard – *This was discussed during the Part C ideas and at this time the motion was not passed to purchase the billboard for Farm to Table.*

9.) Open Meeting Law – *If there is a meeting and not all people are in person, each individual board needs to make a motion to approve members not being present. Those members that are not present will not be included as part of the quorum for the meeting but would be able to be a voting member if there was a quorum. The MCSWCD Board of Directors decided against making a motion for open meetings at this time.*

Committee Reports:

NRCS:

We have been moving forward with 2022 contract approvals. So far, in Montgomery County, we have approved the following:

- EQIP:
2 contracts total: 1 for an energy audit and 1 for pasture management
- AMA
7 contracts total: all High Tunnels
- CSP
4 contracts total: 3 for cropland, one for forestry

All AMA and all CSP applications in the county were funded. Not all EQIP applications were funded. We received over \$3M statewide in High Tunnel applications alone, there were not enough funds available to fund all EQIP applications this year.

Thomas Bielli

District Conservationist

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

AED:

- Farm to Table Tour- We have Road signs to distribute to Farm Sites. We have billboard banners to have made. We have posters to be printed by the county. We have a booklet being printed by the Chamber. We have a website up and running for free. www.FarmToTableTour.org/
Last month will be a lot of social media to help promote. If you see posts online, please share.
- Met with Fulton Counties SWCD board and they are willing to contribute to my time for Farm to Table and for Harvest Connect.
- Farm To Table Grant - I applied with USDA for a \$25,000 grant for agri-tourism. I did not receive that grant.
- USDA Grants – there are grants that just closed for processors. It was for branding and marketing. I sent it to all 3 processors we have in the county. They looked at it but I do not believe any applied. There is another 2 that open up in the Fall. One for processors for implementing some distribution and efficiency issues. The other is for dairies for energy saving and climate resilience practices. Working to think about ideas for farms to possibly apply.
- Farmland Protection – received the pre-application information that ASA from Greenwich. Working using that working on forms and process for ourselves. Then want to schedule a meeting for people who might be interested in early September that we can advertise at the fair.
- Want to update and re-design the fair display to help promote the CRF practices. Looking to maybe do soil horizons and show how cover cropping helps with soil health.
- Sundae on The Farm- I applied for a USDA \$25,000 grant for agri-tourism and I did receive this. It will be used for supplies, media etc. I have a request for 80% of the grant to be upfronted by the board to purchase such supplies and start the production of the videos. Start the construction of the website while we wait on the grant funds. My request is for \$20,000 so that I can get everything ordered and made and ready for the event.
- Sundae On the Farm – Location set at Creek Acres LLC. Committee has had 2 meetings and we are working on a lot the details. Have the 5-K flyer made and distributed for getting registrations out.
- Workshop Series – Applied for a Grant using RC&D to Dairy Producers Federation for \$5000 for the 10-12 topic workshop series. Varied topics from Farmland Protection to CRF to Business Financials etc. Want to have a workshop each week from October thru Middle of December. Total cost about \$7500.
- Beef Quality Assurance Meeting- We have a time slot either Tuesday 9th or Wednesday the 10th of August in the morning. Right now we are still looking for a farm to host. We had two back out so far so if you know anyone, please let me know.

- Working with Derek on creating website for AED to attach to existing website.
- Harvest Connect – Have permission to add the farms from Fulton and Montgomery County into this platform. Looking to launch it with Farm To Table Tour. Adding those farms first then getting more farms from the county. Requested to have RC&D pay for promotional material for Harvest Connect. The board did not approve.
- Working with Economic Development office and Chamber of Commerce on both events. Also planning for future events.
- Soil Health Grant- I applied for \$3000 for soil health grant to purchase a rainfall simulator. I unfortunately did not receive that grant. I wanted to use it at Sundae on the farm and other events to help promote CRF programs.

Part C-

1. Fall Workshop Series \$7500 (if I don't receive the grant) Covers Topics: cover cropping, business planning, farmland protection, media training. Etc. 10-12 classes
2. AED website -\$2500
3. Fair Display Upgrade-\$1000- digital photo frame, horizon soil examples
4. Rain Storm Simulator -\$2600



- 5.
6. Enclosed 16' bumper hitch trailer to put all the AED supplies in to stay protected and be able to take to various events easier. \$10,000



7. Billboard Banners \$1000 total. 2 for Farm To Table and 2 for Sundae on the Farm
8. Harvest Connection- Looking for promotional materials to promote the App During Farm to Table and Sundae on the Farm. Request \$5000 for printed materials and for signs to show they are a member of the App.

Becky Ferry
Ag Economic Development Specialist

AEM:

- Round 17 waiting on contract from State then will voucher for 25% and project funding.

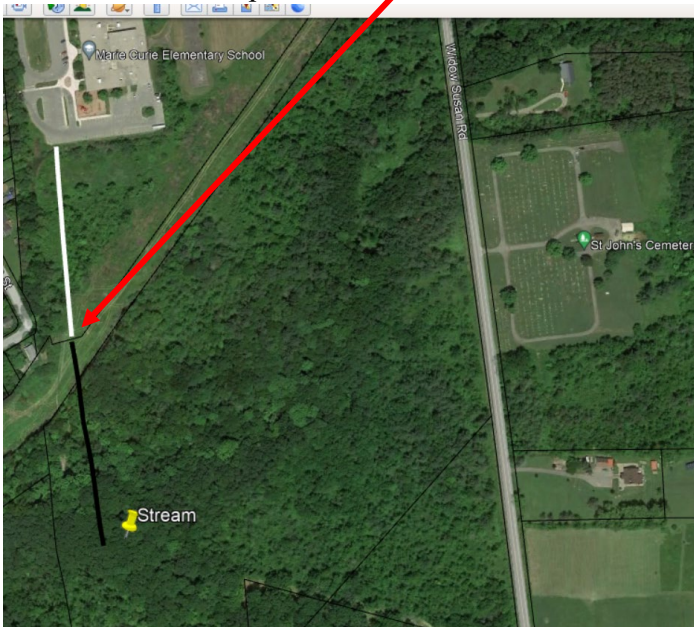
Part C

• Compost

- Contact with Bethlehem Compost meeting at their site next week
- Windrow turner – new Vermeer is \$75,000
 - Contacted Chester Miller for info on his machine, cost and brand
- Tub grinder rental companies provided by Town of Bethlehem: SM Gallivan and Advantage The vendor runs the grinder. Town operators with wheel loaders assist by pushing yard waste towards the grinder, and by moving the ground material for piling in windrows.

• Trail work

- Marie Curie Trail
 - Estimate for \$6000 (white line) Existing trail system located by the stream. Proposal to connect to it. National grid owns the property on narrow strip. Proposing to stop at this location for phase 1.



- Chuctanunda/Veterans Park
 - Did not receive stairs grant from St Mary's Carondelet Community Fund.
 - Quote for \$18,000 for stairs to connect Veterans Park to the Chuctanunda Trail. Similar to these stairs only steeper and for a greater distance.

Joseph Slezak
Resource Conservation Specialist

FSA: No Report

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 9:15 PM

NEXT MEETING: July 25, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak