

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 21, 2022

MEETING #873

Present:

Scott Ryan, Chairman, Grange Member

Richard Kennedy, Member at Large

Robert Headwell, Jr, Legislative Rep

Brian Holloway, Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member

Corey Nellis, District Manager

Karen Klemczak, District Clerk-Treasurer

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:46 PM

MINUTES of the February 24, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Richard Kennedy made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of March 18, 2022

<i>District Checking:</i>	<i>10,992.70</i>
<i>Building Acct:</i>	<i>63,424.22</i>
<i>MCSWCD Savings (Grants)</i>	<i>115,218.42</i>
<i>Trumbull C701373</i>	<i>577.78</i>
<i>Bolster CRF C012140</i>	<i>64,155.18</i>
<i>Caroga Creek C701262</i>	<i>.00</i>
<i>Water Quality</i>	<i>990.13</i>
<i>John King C701338</i>	<i>.00</i>
<i>MMT C011843</i>	<i>2,100.18</i>
<i>Saltsman C701372</i>	<i>76,454.32</i>
<i>Kelly CAFO C012082</i>	<i>944.80</i>
<i>Holloway C012182</i>	<i>953.62</i>
<i>Hoefele C012183</i>	<i>61,138.94</i>
<i>Fisher C012181</i>	<i>37,079.72</i>
<i>AEM</i>	<i>19,003.72</i>
<i>Ridgedale C701426</i>	<i>90,396.24</i>
<i>Crowe T012325</i>	<i>4,343.63</i>
<i>Undeposited Funds</i>	<i>62.00</i>
<i>Total in all accounts</i>	<i>\$ 547,773.60</i>

Review of disbursements (check register 2/23/22 through 3/18/22)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills to be paid: None

Richard Kennedy 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., motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) District Truck Bid** – *The Nissan Rogue was sold for \$21,500. The 2019 Ram 1500 Tradesman is for sale now. We received one bid so far on that vehicle and the bids will be opened tomorrow. The minimum bid on the truck is \$30,500.*
- 2.) Tire Recycling** – *Scott Davis has been organizing a tire recycling day for Farm Tires. The plan was to have it over a period of two days during the week and Saturday for drop off. Bob Headwell felt strongly that we should have the event over a period of two weeks to give the farmers more time to drop off their tires. Corey was going to talk to Scott on Tuesday and see if we can make the two-week window for drop off work.*
- 3.) Retiree Health Insurance** – *table to next month*

New Business:

- 1.) Field Work** – *Corey had a meeting with Wayne Conard, Hoefele and J. David Saltsman. Hoefele was not going to do his project but after talking with Corey he decided he would move forward. We already have the money from the state and work can begin in the spring. David Saltsman will not be doing his project and the money will get turned back to the state. Conard wants a slotted floor facility, but the state said that they would not fund that*

project. Corey attended the SWCC meeting to discuss the slotted floor facility, and they tabled the decision until the next meeting April 12. They did ask to have a meeting a week earlier with Corey and the state committee staff to discuss.

- 2.) **CRF Grants/ Irrigation Plan Contract** - The deadline for the submission of the CRF grant was moved from the end of March to May 16th. We will be submitting 2 CRF grants. One of those grants will be an irrigation plan contract and a plan will need to be drawn up. There was a person from Massachusetts that could do a plan for \$1000 and said he could have the plan drawn up in two weeks. There was another planner that could do a plan for \$80/hr. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to hire the planner from Massachusetts for \$1000 seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.
- 3.) **Manager's Meeting** – There was discussion about the partnership with NRCS and the masking/locking the doors during Covid. It was a long discussion mainly about customer service. It was consistent across the board that all the SWCD managers feel that communication with NRCS could be improved. Our job as a district is to get conservation on the land and sell it to the farm in contrast to NRCS whose view is that they offer voluntary programs and if they don't want to participate that's their option.
- 4.) **Director Training – Module 9 – Ethics** - All board members received a copy of module 9, Ethics. All the directors that were in attendance completed the mandatory training for 2022 Performance Measures. A copy of the module was emailed to Martin Kelly to review and complete the training on his own.

Committee Reports:

NRCS:

Last Friday, 3/18/22, was our deadline for completing ranking and cost estimates for all of our EQIP and AMA applications. These are the EQIP applications we have on-hand:

- Montgomery
 - 2 applications for Farmsteads
 - 1 application for Energy Management
 - 8 applications for High Tunnels (1 with Irrigation)
 - 1 application to address gully erosion in a Pasture
 - 1 application for a Pasture watering system
- AMA Applications were accepted for designated Urban Areas. Most of them are for high tunnels that were also eligible for EQIP. We have 12 AMA applications in Fulton/Montgomery

Friday 3/11/22, was our cut-off date for accepting new applications for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). We received 3 applications from Montgomery Co producers; all applications are for cropland.

Thomas Bielli

District Conservationist

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

FSA: No Report

AEM: No Report

AED:

- Farm to Table Tour-The group is working on donations and sponsorships. We have the Farm Registration Form out for farms to sign up. Have a logo. Working with groups on printing quotes and design of map and website. Starting with the social media campaign. 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.
- Meet with some farmers for farm succession planning and on business planning. I expect this will continue in the future.
- Working with Derek on creating website for AED to attach to existing website.
- Harvest Connect – working on seeing if they might share the platform and include our area on the website and the app.
- Work is continuing in the farm protection planning. We have a market study started to give us values on land for the county. Land conservancy is paying for half.

Ranking meeting was completed and hopefully letters and contracts to go out in the next week or two

Becky Ferry
Ag Economic Development Specialist

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 8:47 PM

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

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak