

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 6, 2023

MEETING # 888

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*

Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member*

Martin Kelly, *Legislative Member*

Richard Kennedy, *Member at Large*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*

Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*

Joseph Slezak, *Resource Conservationist*

Scott Davis, *Technician*

Becky Ferry, *Ag Economic Dev Specialist*

Sandy Scott, *County Executive Director*

Thomas Bielli, *District Conservationist*

Amy Ringer, *Program Support Specialist*

Public Comment: NONE

MINUTES of the October 23, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Martin Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of December 5, 2023

District Checking:	32,994.41
Building Acct:	130,443.23
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	567,967.25
Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511	149,113.53
Water Quality	1,012.56
Hill Side Farm (Lipiec) C701471	39,225.24
Hoefele C012183	23,512.46
Fisher C012181	1.00
AEM	66,956.62
Ridgedale C701426	275,391.22
Crowe T012325	359.56
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	208,791.04
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	4,441.93
Part C:	130,523.33
Undeposited Funds	1,120.46
Total in all accounts	\$ 1,630,733.38

Review of disbursements (check register 10/22/23 through 12/5/23)

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 Richard Kennedy, carried.

Old Business:

1.) Field Work

- *Appleridge: nearly done, couple of finish up projects, hopefully cleaned up in next week or 2*
- *Ridgedale: floor poured, should be starting wall rebar soon, site prep for barnyard*
- *Michalak: pond was dredged and found shale on bottom*
- *Hillside Farm: project is complete, will be finalizing as-built*
- *Ulman: finished HUAP for ag bags, going to survey for barnyard/storage next week and get planning for this winter*
- *Crowe/Irrigation: equipment all installed, next will be working on water storage and conveyance*

AEM Yr 17 Projects

- *Eck: scrape alley poured, roof and cover already up, pours planned for 12/7, 12/11, and 12/13*
- *Ragozzino: finished up, completing as-builts*
- *Banewicz: got a contractor confirmed, planning to pour Monday*

New Business

- 1.) **CRF** – We got one application funded for CRF round 7. This farm also has an EQIP application in.
- 2.) **Pipe bid – Auctions International** – Martin Kelly made a motion to bid on the 8" pipe at Auctions International up to 17k, Richard Kennedy seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.
- 3.) **Mike Burns, Forestry plans – CSP** – NRCS has 5 forestry applications through CSP. Mike Burns, a local forester, would be willing to write up plans for the applications that have been submitted at a cost of \$400/plan and \$5.00/acre of land. Corey asked the board if they would be willing to use Part C money or AEM funds to cover the cost of the management plans for these 5 contracts. **Martin Kelly made a motion to hire Mike Burns to write up the management plans for these 5 applications, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 4.) **AEM – Year 17/projects, Year 18/ranking sheet** – AEM year 17 projects were covered under field work. **Martin Kelly made a motion to accept the ranking sheet that Joe Slezak proposed for the AEM yr 18, at the end of year 18 the board will reevaluate the ranking sheet and make any appropriate changes. Richard Kennedy seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 5.) **Tom – Retirement** – Tom has been with the agency since 1987 and he will be retiring at the end of December. The board and the staff at SWCD wish him well in all his future endeavors. Congratulations Tom!!
- 6.) **Changes to 2024 Performance Measures** - There was a survey sent out to the district for feedback of upcoming changes that are being considered to our Performance Measures requirements. The board of directors were also sent the survey to voice their opinions on those changes as well. The goal is to have the board members more involved in the district's activities.
- 7.) **Truck bid** – This year the district will need to sell one of our trucks. **Martin Kelly made a motion to put bids out for a new truck, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.**

Committee Reports:

AEM:

The AEM projects for year 17 are wrapping up. Eck and Banewicz are finishing up and should be done by December 31st. Ragazzino's project is complete.

No till Drill:

- Great Plains Drill – 345 acres for 2023
- Haybuster Drill - 260 acres for 2023

That was a total of 605 acres for 2023 which was up from 451 total acres for 2022.

Joseph Slezak
Resource Conservation Specialist

FSA:

FSA has been working closely with NRCS to get all the eligibilities done for the December 15th deadline. There is a new software program that they will begin loading all the highly erodible land and wetland determinations.

Since the Farm bill was extended, ARCPL signup will start around Christmas but the March 15th deadline for signups will remain the same. There will not be an extension for those signups.

Looking to partner on CREP. One was finished at Wayne Conards this year and looking to do another in the coming year. They are opening CRP; they will be allowed get back into the software since the Farm Bill was extended for a year as of today.

DMP was also extended, notice should be coming soon to start 2024 signups.

Emergency relief program is beginning again for those that had losses to their crops in 2022. Track 1 was for those who had crop insurance and NAP. Track 2 is for those who did not have crop insurance.

Sandra L. (Ferry) Scott
County Executive Director
Montgomery, Fulton, & Hamilton

AED:

- Harvest Connection – A commercial is running right now through the 10 most populated zip codes within the 8-county region. More data analytics will be available as that continues. They are also working on doing a social media training in March in Voorheesville.
- Grants
 - Dairy Modernization and Innovation Grant due tomorrow. There are three applicants.
 - Milk Handling grant due in January.
 - Micro Grants through the county will be coming out soon.
- First annual Tractor Parade was a success. The public and the fairgrounds and the farmers were all pleased with the outcome.

Becky Ferry
Ag Economic Development Specialist

NRCS:

Montgomery Co has 28 active contracts in the financial assistance programs.

2 AMA contract with one wrapping up today.

6 currently active EQIP contracts.

The majority of active contracts are under the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). 7 CSP applications that came in through round 1; 5 forestry, and 2 cropland applications. There will be a round 2.

There is a push again for Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The funding for the program is increasing.

All these contracts will be managed out of the Ballston Spa office until a replacement comes for the Fultonville position. There are three staff members in Ballston Spa, Kate Gerard, Toni Daino, Matt Martire.

Applications on hand 22 EQIP applications came in before the cut off. They are currently going through FSA to make sure they meet all the eligibility requirements. They are spread across different areas; 1 for a forest management plan, multiple high tunnels, 4 farmsteads, a pasture application, and one for energy improvement.

All the planning is being worked on now. The staff in Ballston Spa is already working with farms in the county that have applications submitted.

Adjournment:

Martin Kelly made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 12:12 pm.

NEXT MEETING: January 22, 2024, 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak