

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 24, 2024  
MEETING # 893

Present:

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

Corey W Nellis, Sr., *District Manager*  
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*

Public Comment: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER@ 7:43 PM

MINUTES of the April 22, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Martin Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brian Holloway. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of June 24, 2024

District Checking:	14,616.90
Building Acct:	211,130.21
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	577,985.47
Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511	146,549.21
Water Quality	976.83
Hill Side Farm (Lipiec) C701471	341.20
Hoefele C012183	1.06
Creek Acres Farm CRF	1.10
AEM	18.19
Ridgedale C701426	58,398.49
Crowe T012325	365.91
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	186,658.88
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	4,520.28
Part C:	310,287.25
Undeposited Funds	1,498.40
Total in all accounts	\$ 1,511,849.88

Review of disbursements (check register 4/22/24 through 6/24/24)

Review of outstanding accounts

**ABSTRACTS #6-2024:** Bills paid, to be paid and transfers. Motion: by Brian Holloway to approve Abstracts #6-2024, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Headwell, Jr., motion carried.

Brian Holloway 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., carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) **Field Work** – Corey was all set to begin work on Michalak and Bunker projects. He received an email from NRCS saying that neither of those projects will be going forward for 1 year maybe 2 years. The Archaeologist is 8 months to 1 year behind. At this point there is a question on how quickly these projects will get off the ground.
- 2.) **Solar** – This was tabled again for the July meeting.
- 3.) **Ag Tire Recycling** – The Ag tire recycling event was once again a success. It ran for 2 weeks, and we had 4 truckloads, recycling 64 tons of Ag tires.

New Business:

- 1.) **Employee Evaluations** -The board moved Karen up to a GS 7-5, they approved a \$1200.00 stipend to be given to Scott Davis every 2 years as compensation for his CPESC certification, and they approved 5 additional vacation days for Corey. Becky will stay at her current rate a GS 8-3. **Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to purchase the text to talk program to help Becky with grant writing, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.**

- 2.) **Karen new computer** – *Martin Kelly made a motion to approve the purchase of a new federal computer for Karen, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.*
- 3.) **CRF Grants** – *The district applied for 4 CRF grants totaling \$923K in state requests. The total grant amount with the farmer allocation will be \$1.2 million. This is the first round of grants for the year.*
- 4.) **Resolution - CAFO Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program ROUND 1** – *Martin Kelly made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 5.) **CRF Round 7 – Bunker payments** – *Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to approve transferring \$15K from the Part C account to cover bills for Bunker’s CRF until the money is received from the state, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 6.) **Amendment to Michalak Grant** – *Brian Holloway made a motion to approve the request for an extension of 1 year for Canjo 27 grant, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.*
- 7.) **Auction off Mule** – *Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to put the mule up for sale, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 8.) **Building Maintenance** – *Corey hired Frank Borst to mow our lawn once a week @ \$80/week for the summer.*

### Committee Reports:

#### AED:

- ❖ Innovation Grant- the awarded farm is working on the implementation, and I am helping with the submission for payments.
- ❖ Farm To Table Tour- We have 37 farms signed up. We have 10 new farms this year. The growth in this program is great for the Ag. Community
- ❖ We have an AED meeting on Wednesday to discuss the Sundae on the Farm location. Currently we do not have a location.
- ❖ RFSI infrastructure grant- This is to improve delivery systems on local food systems. Mainly the middle of the food system. It is due 6/28. Was short notice for a big grant but it is supposed to become yearly so will at least be more prepared for next year. There is an equipment one that is smaller that will be coming out in 2025. Working on compiling a list of people that could use it.
- ❖ Montgomery County Micro-Enterprise Grant- They have over half the money disbursed so they should be eligible to re-submit to have another round this winter.
- ❖ Harvest Connection- Have monthly meetings and working on a budget and support letters to ask individual counties to put up some money for a budget for this program to be sustainable. There are about 25 farms from Montgomery County listed on the site out of the total of 150 counties and 10 counties.

*Rebecca L. Ferry*

Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator

#### NRCS:

1. I am Dianna Stanton, and I will be Acting District Conservationist (DC) for the Northeast Area 3 Team for 90-120 days, or until the DC position previously held by Tom Bielli is filled. This includes supervising the staff in Fultonville, Ballston Spa and Greenwich. My “regular” duty station is the Troy Field Office, I am the Team Leader for Troy, Schoharie and Ghent.
    - a. The most recent vacancy announcement for the Fultonville DC position resulted in no qualified applicants for the Fultonville DC. The DC position will be readvertised again for Fultonville, Ballston Spa or Greenwich locations.
  2. A Soil Conservationist position was advertised in June for the Fultonville Field Office (and a second one in Greenwich).
  3. Matt Martire, Soil Conservationist in Ballston Spa is taking a new position in the Middletown Field Office. Matt will be leaving in mid-August 2024.
  4. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) applications:
    - a. Round 1 & 2: Applications are preapproved.
    - b. Round 3: A team of NRCS staff and planners are working on application planning and ranking now thru mid-July.
  5. EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) applications: Preapprovals are released, we will be working on contracts for these projects after the CSP Round 3 application rankings are complete.
  6. Thanks for bearing with us as we try to cover all of the NRCS workload while we are short staffed!
- If you have any questions or need anything, reach out to me on my work cell at 518-598-2344 or at [dianna.stanton@usda.gov](mailto:dianna.stanton@usda.gov).

Dianna Stanton

District Conservationist

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

**FSA: No Report**  
**AEM: No Report**

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned @ 8:32 PM  
**NEXT MEETING:** July 22, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

*Respectfully, Karen Klemczak*

DRAFT