Kent Soil and Water Conservation District
Draft Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
February 26th, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, February 26th, 2026, at 12:00 Noon in the Kent Co. USDA Service Center conference room.

The following individuals were present at the meeting Charlie Miller, Chair, Lewis McDonald, Tim Redman, Treasurer, Frank Barnes Jr., Board Supervisor, Bill Langenfelder, Board Supervisor, Jim Miller, Associate Supervisor, Alice Mason, Associate Supervisor, Sean Jones, Associate Supervisor, Corrie Hopkins, Associate Supervisor, Eddie Taylor, Associate Supervisor, Dwayne Joseph, UME Ag. Ext. Agent, Nancy Metcalf, District Conservationist, Sam Leaverton, MDA Planner, Jenny Freebery MDA Planner, David Mister MDA Area Coordinator and Robert Baldwin, District Manager.

I. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.by Chair, Charlie Miller

II. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of January 15th, 2026, meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 15th, 2026, meeting as amended by Tim Redman, Bill Langenfelder seconded the motion. The motion passed

III. Plan of Work

Included in the Board Packet was the Plan of Work for February and March. Robert reviewed this in the meeting discussing some of the upcoming notable events.

IV. Financial Statements, Bills and Cash Management

Robert reviewed the reserves, budget sheets, bills, and reviewed the present cash management details. **A motion was made by Frank Barnes Jr. to accept the financial statements, and to pay the bills; Tim Redman seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

V. Introduction of Guest-David Mister, Area Coordinator, MD Dept of Ag.

Dave discussed the State District Manager position that is being developed for KSWCD. He said that the position is being "fast tracked" and that they hope to have the position announced soon. Dave discussed several bills that have been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly. Dave also stated that 4 farms have tested positive for Avian Influenza in Maryland.

VI. Erosion and Sediment Control Program

Robert reviewed the Erosion and Sediment Control report that was included in the Board packet. He stated that he's been very busy this month, mostly people getting permits getting ready for construction to start in the spring.

VII. Supervisor Activities

Charlie Miller and Jim Miller attended the Cecil SCD Cooperators Dinner on January 16. Charlie (Robert and Kelsie) attended the MASCD winter meeting in Annapolis on Feb. 9-10.

VIII. Extension Report

Dwayne thanked the District for sponsoring the Kent ag breakfast, he said about 60 people were in attendance. Dwayne gave a staffing update regarding several staff positions.

- Master Gardener Coordinator – Contract was not renewed
- SNAP Educator - Position was lost from budget cuts
- Nevin Dawson – NE SARE Coordinator, moved from Denton to Chestertown

Dwayne discussed the changes in the approved use of Dicamba on Soybeans. He mentioned that the Micro Ag Grant applications are due tomorrow (2/27/2026) and he stated that Temple Rhodes had passed and that we will be missed. Dwayne stated that the MDA Annual Implementation Report due date has been extended to 4/1/2206. He also discussed a Bill that had been introduced in the General Assembly regarding controlling Palmer Amaranth and that Jay Bennett is the Kent County noxious weed program coordinator.

IX. Conservation Plans & Field Work

The field work report was included in the Board Packet.

X. NRCS Report

XI. Nancy updated the Board on her activities including the hiring of the Program Support Specialist to be split between Kent and Queen's Districts.

XII. District Managers Report

NACD Annual Meeting – Jenny, Sam and Robert gave their individual reports regarding their attendance at this years NACD Annual Meeting. Jenny was very impressed with the variety of outreach efforts that Districts around the Country were engaged in and how they stay relevant in their community. She was very excited about all the information and resources available for the Envirothon. Sam couldn't believe how different Districts are around the Country and what some of the drivers were for local conservation programs. He was also excited about the possibilities of administering grants and creating a 501 c 3 to participate in competing for larger grants. Robert echoed Sams comments about creating a non-profit to compete for grants.

FY 2027 County Budget Submission – Robert stated that he had shown Charlie the draft of the Districts proposed County budget request. He said that he kept it as lean as possible and the increase amounted to +3% over the FY 26 request.

New Workflow Model – Robert discussed a new cloud-based software that he learned about at the NACD Annual meeting called "Smart Sheet". It is a subscription, cloud-based software for tracking workflow, projects, etc. across an enterprise that doesn't present the issues with firewall protection and system incompatibility that keeps us from using a common computing platform. Robert and staff are going to take a deeper look into this software to see if this is something that we can use in KSWCD to track workflow and projects.

What Have We Missed? (or could do better) – Robert used this again as KSWCD is beginning to transition out of current District Manager position and ultimately handing off to a new State District Manager. He said he didn't want an answer today but asked the Board to think about this and to give him some ideas soon, including calling him, texting him, emailing him or in upcoming Board Meetings.

XIII. New Business/District Activities Report – The following items, reports and meetings were discussed.

Proposed E & S Fee Increase – Robert will present this to the County Commissioners at their 3/3/2026 meeting.
Telework Policy for Weather Related Office Closures -Robert discussed the inconsistency that exists between the District and the County. The Board like the way it currently is and took no action.
MDA Report – The report was included in the board packet
NACD Dues - Funds have been approved in the budget to pay it at the $750 level.
NACD Fly-In – Robert asked in anyone would like to attend? It will be March 25th, 2026, in DC.
MASCD 2026 Annual Meeting – The new location of this meeting will be the Hyatt in Cambridge, August 3-5, 2026

XIV. Old Business

There was none.

XV. Closed Session

Statutory authority to close session General Provision Art. § 3-305(b) (1) This exception allows a public body to close a meeting to discuss various personnel actions with regard to, or the evaluation of, "an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction" or "any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals."

A motion was made by Frank Barnes Jr., to go into closed session; Bill Langenfelder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Bill Langenfelder to come out of closed session; Frank Barnes Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was an update with the Board on an ongoing personnel issue with a former employee of the District.

XVI. Adjourn

A motion was made by Tim Redman to adjourn the meeting; Bill Langenfelder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:15 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be on *Thursday, March 19th, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.* Dinner will be available at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Baldwin

Digitally signed by Robert Baldwin
Date: 2026.04.06 08:05:40 -04'00'

Robert Baldwin