

Kent Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting Charlie Miller, Chair, Tim Redman, Treasurer, Frank Barnes Jr., Board Supervisor, Bill Langenfelder, Board Supervisor, Jimmy Miller, Associate Board Member, Alice Mason, Associate Supervisor, Sean Jones, Associate Supervisor, Dwayne Joseph, University of Maryland Extension Ag. Agent, Nancy Metcalf, District Conservationist, and Robert Baldwin, District Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair, Charlie Miller.

I. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from the March 20, 2025 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes from both meetings as presented by Tim Redman, Bill Langenfelder seconded the motion. The motion passed

II. Plan of Work

There was a brief discussion of the Plan of Work for the months of April and May 2025. April is a very busy month.

III. Financial Statements, Bills and Cash Management

Robert reviewed the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, reserves, budget sheets, bills, and reviewed the present cash management details. **A motion was made by Tim Redman to accept the financial statements and pay the bills. Bill Langenfelder seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

IV. Erosion and Sediment Control Program

Robert reviewed the Erosion and Sediment Control Plans that had been submitted for the month. He said that things have been slow this month, not exactly sure why, but one month doesn't make a trend.

V. Supervisor Activities

Charlie Miller attended the March Staff Meeting and the Cooperators Dinner Planning Meeting. All Supervisors and Associate Supervisors attended the Cooperators Dinner

VI. Extension Report

Dwayne said that Area Extension Director Paul Rickert attended the Cooperators Dinner and said that it was a very nice event. Dwayne also discussed the upcoming Cover Crops and IPM Field Day on May 1st in Queen Annes Co at Mason's Heritage Farm. Dwayne mentioned the Ag. Awareness Day for 7th Graders in Queen Anne's Co. Dwayne discussed the ongoing search for the new Dean of AGNR at the University of Maryland.

VII. Conservation Plans & Field Work

The Report was included in the Board Packet and reviewed by Nancy.

VIII. NRCS Report

Kent County Weed Control – Nancy informed the board that the Weed Control program headed up by Jay Bennett is back after an 18 month hiatus. He asked if we could put the word out that they are back in business and I told him the District could add it to our newsletter and website. They held their annual meeting April 10th and voted to raise the farm rate to \$60/acre. There was discussion about the kudzu problem in Still Pond, the palmer amaranth concerns in the county and DNR no longer having a phragmites control program.

NRCS Update – Nancy reported the second Deferred Resignation Program ended April 8th. NRCS is waiting on the reorganization plan to see what additional cuts may be needed. We are still waiting on whether the RC&D and MASCD agreements will be honored since they are funded with the frozen IRA money. Peggy and Brandon, terminated probationary employees, returned to the office. Brandon chose to take the DRP and was rehired by MDA in his old position so we have a vacant Soil Cons Tech position in QA, the vacant SCT in Kent and a vacant Soil Conservationist position in both counties. Tyler Witkowski, Soil Scientist from the Central region is continuing to help us.

IX. District Managers Report

Cooperators Dinner Recap. – Robert discussed the handouts showing the costs and the income from the event as well as the income from the silent auction that benefits the S. Wickes Westcott Scholarship. Despite the heavy rains, Robert felt that the event was still a success and that attendance was excellent. The staff will be performing an after-action review of the event at their May staff meeting, the draft report will be available at the May Board Meeting for everyone's review.

Legislative Review – Robert discussed some of the larger pieces of legislation that affect agriculture and Districts. Robert stated the bill synopsis put together by Provident Strategies was too large to include in the Board Packet and that he will e-mail everyone that document for their review.

Kent County Commissioners' Joint Tour with KSWCD and Kent Co. Farm Bureau –Robert stated that the reply they got from the Commissioner's office stated that because of the open meetings rule, if the three Commissioners went on a tour, it would have to be considered a meeting, and open to the public. Therefore, they are declining to go on a tour but offered to have Commissioner Nickerson meet with us or we could do a presentation at a regularly scheduled Commissioners meeting.

MASCD Grant – Robert stated that our MASCD reimbursable grant has been released and that we have received one quarters payment as of now.

NACD Fly-In – Robert, Jenny and Sam attended this year's NACD Fly-In in Washington on March 26th. It was a one-day meeting with no registration fee. Robert, Sam and Jenny met with Staff from Senator Van Hollen, Senator Alsobrooks, Senator Crapo, Representative Harris and

Representative Dulaney to discuss the support needed for a Bipartisan Farm Bill and continued funding for NRCS through the regular budget process.

X. District Activities Report

Scholarship Selection – After review of the applications, the Board decided to grant \$1500 each Scholarships to Paige Miller and David Harry Daniels Jr. **A motion was made by Frank Barnes Jr. to grant \$1500 Scholarships to Paige Miller and David Harry Daniels Jr., Tim Redman seconded the motion. The motion passed**

MASCD Monthly Report – The MASCD Monthly report was included in the board packet.

MDA Monthly Report -MDA (Resource Conservation) has put together a Monthly report, a copy was included in the Board Packet.

NACD Update on Executive Actions – NACD has been sending regular updates on Presidential Executive Orders and other Executive Actions. A copy of this was included in the Board Packet.

XI. New Business

Action on Potential new Associate Supervisor -The Board has been aware of the interest of a potential new Associate Supervisor. Charlie has spoken to this individual and has received positive feedback on their interest.

A motion was made by Tim Redman to approve Corrie Hopkins as a new Associate Supervisor, Bill Langenfleder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

New Vacuum Cleaner-Robert asked the Board to consider the purchase of a new office vacuum cleaner to replace the old one.

A motion was made by Tim Redman to authorize Robert to spend up to \$300 for a new vacuum cleaner for the office. Bill Langenfleder seconded the motion. The motion passed.

County Envirothon T-Shirts- Jenny is asking the Board to consider the purchase of 15 T-shirts for the County Envirothon Team, and Staff who also want one.

A motion was made by Bill Langenfleder to approve the purchase of 15 T-Shirts for the County Envirothon Team and Staff. Frank Barnes Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

XII. Old Business – There was no old business.

XIII. 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 Bill Langenfelder to go into closed session. Frank Barnes Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Frank Barnes Jr. to come out of closed session. Tim Redman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was an update in the Closed Session on an ongoing personnel issue with a former employee.

XIV. Adjourn

A motion was made by Bill Langenfelder, to adjourn the meeting, Frank Barnes Jr. seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be on Thursday, May 15th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm. Dinner will be available at 6:30 p.m. Scholarship presentations will be at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Baldwin