

Kent Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 12:00 noon.

The following individuals were present at the meeting Lewis McDonald, Vice Chair, Tim Redman, Treasurer, Frank Barnes Jr., Board Supervisor, Jimmy Miller, Associate Board Member, Alice Mason, Associate Supervisor, Sean Jones, Associate Supervisor, Dwayne Joseph, UME Ag. Agent, Nancy Metcalf, District Conservationist, and Robert Baldwin, District Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Vice Chair, Lewis McDonald.

- I. Review and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes from the December 19, 2024, meeting and the January 16, 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 February and March 2025.

III. Financial Statements, Bills and Cash Management

Robert reviewed the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, reserves, budget sheets, the bills, and reviewed the present cash management details. **A motion was made by Tim Redman to accept the financial statements and pay the bills. Frank Barnes Jr. 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 gave an update of the Morgnac Solar Project that was submitted recently for review. Robert noted that there has been an uptick in the workload, primarily single-family home permits.

V. Supervisor Activities

Charlie Miller attended the February Staff Meeting, Cooperators Dinner Planning Meeting, the MASCD Winter Meeting and the NACD Annual Meeting.

Charlie Miller, Lewis McDonald and Jim Miller attended the Cecil Soil Conservation District Cooperators Dinner.

VI. Extension Report

Dwayne shared that their ½ time Master Gardener Coordinator has starts on 2/29/25. He reminded everyone that the AIR's are due to MDA on 3-1-25. He mentioned that the Queen Anne's Agronomy day is 2/28/25 and that he has extra PPE if anyone needs any, just stop by his office to pick it up.

VII. Conservation Plans & Field Work

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

VIII. NRCS Report

Nancy reported on the recent activity with USDA NRCS. A hiring freeze was put in place we lost the QA GS11 Soil Con hire that had been in process.

IRA funding was paused until 4/20/25. We were told we couldn't pay on previously obligated IRA funded contracts but that was reversed allowing us to pay on implemented practices in existing contracts.

All telework was revoked as of 2/18.

Both probationary employees, Peggy Lowman and Brandon Eaton were terminated on 2/13/25 by way of an email they received directly from OPM without USDA or NRCS involvement. The email stated they were terminated as of 11:59pm 2/13/25 for performance reasons. They both reported on the 14th and turned in their federally issued equipment.

Sharon Calisto, Soil Con in QA decided to move up her retirement date to 2/28/25. To cover the workload, I reassigned Jason to QA. NRCS is working on a plan to have someone detail to Kent, possibly starting next week.

RC&D staff are funded till the end of April.

Kendrick Flowers has returned as Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. He is also covering the Area Resource Conservationist duties while Heather Beaven is Acting DC in Dorchester and Wicomico.

IX. District Managers Report

Morgnec Solar – Robert stated the E & S plan had been approved and updated the Board on the approved plan and the project.

County Budget – Robert shared with the Board that the County budget was due on 2/28 but he would be submitting it earlier than the due date. Robert stated that he is concerned about what this year's budget could be. There could be cutbacks at the Federal and State level which may ultimately affect KSWCD.

Robert said that he will be on vacation 2/24 through 2/28.

X. New Business/District Activities Report

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

Cooperators Dinner – Robert discussed that the staff has held an initial planning meeting and that Charlie did attend it. Brooke will distribute a list to the Board of people/businesses that they contacted last year for sponsorships and donations.

XI. Old Business

None

XII. 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 Frank Barnes Jr. to come out of closed session. Tim Redam seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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

XIII. Adjourn

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Kent Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors will be on Thursday, March 20th, 2025 @ 7:00 pm. Dinner will be available at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert Baldwin