



Cecil Soil Conservation District

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Board of Supervisor's Meeting August 20, 2025

The Cecil Soil Conservation District held a Board of Supervisors meeting with a Zoom call-in option. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by Chairman – Bruce Yerkes. Attendees Supervisors – Van Funk, Willie Ewing, Vic Priapi and Jonathan Quinn, Associate Member Alice Crothers. Other attendees: District Conservationist – Rob Weaver, District Manager - Chris Brown, MDA Area Coordinator - Darren Alles, and District Coordinator – Tracey Rach. Visitors: John Gonzalez

- Van Funk made a motion to accept the July 16, 2025 Board meeting minutes. Willie Ewing seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Bruce Yerkes asked if the board had reviewed the treasurer's report, expenses, and supplementary emails. There were no questions. Vic Priapi made a motion to file the treasurer's report, pay bills and finalize the 2025 Maryland Department of Agriculture Annual Compilation. Willie Ewing seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- Chris Brown reported that Children's Day on July 21st had a very large turnout. District staff members Ryan Fisher, Gerry Powell, Patty Pierce and three students from the School of Technology assisted children with a choice of three different crafts. The 80 craft kits were gone by approximately 10:30 am so next year we will increase the number on hand. Ag Showcase was held July 22nd with a fairly decent turnout. Several staff members sign up and attended the Stop the Bleed training. CC Emergency Services donated "Stop the Bleed" kits that were handed out to participants.
- The FMC Tour for CSCD Board and Staff was held Friday August 8th. Several staff members and board members attended the half day event. Chris shared that Bill Cissel graciously opened the doors of the Stine Research Center to allow staff to see what research and development takes place there. Bill Cissel provided a tour of the test fields and outlined day to day operations. All in attendance were impressed with the operation and the uniqueness of the farm.
- A recap of the MASCD Annual Summer Meeting was discussed amongst the group. Alice Crothers provided an energizing and educational talk with positive feedback from many districts and attendees. CSCD won the Outstanding Education Award for the fourth year in a row and Sean McCandless received honorable mention for Outstanding District Employee. Issues with the MACS program were discussed at the meeting and Jason Kepler indicated that there would be adjustments based upon district's feedback.
- Chris Brown provided RSVP updates for the legislative Ag Tour scheduled for August 27th. Right now, he has approximately 26 attending and we will have 3 staff running separate support vehicles for lunch. Lunch will be held at Bohemia River State Park and catered by Your Personal Chef. Tour

stops will include Cal-Main, Tidal Creek Growers (future home), Sheeler Seeds, and Bohemia River State Park.

- Cecil County Economic Development will be holding the Annual Harvest Dinner on September 24th at the Wellwood in Charlestown. CSCD will be providing a sponsorship (\$600) as well as purchasing a table for staff/board to attend. Chris asked that if board members wish to attend to please let him know by Friday. After Friday, Chris will open up tickets to staff members. Chris also indicated that Ariel Balog from Economic Development who runs the event, has resigned from her position with the county. The event will go on under the direction of Sandra Edwards from Economic Development.
- Chris Brown reached out to Darren Alles regarding MDA Agreement 1821-G-FY25 renewal and the DiCarlo Survey Equipment Subscription renewal. The finalized agreement (1821-G-FY25) was sent to Chris this morning.

New Business

- Rob Weaver presented the District Activities Report. Staff visited farms for Inventory & Evaluations for various practices. Several people have called regarding farm ponds. However, in the past designs have been completed and the projects never go anywhere. Rob indicated that the best bet now is that folks have the pond repairs designed outside and NRCS then come for cost share. Eight projects were I&E'd. Four design was reviewed "in-house". Five projects are in progress. One application for best management practices was submitted to MDA/MACS for cost share. One Claim and one Status Review was submitted to MDA. WIP reconciliation round 29 was completed. Rob Weaver shared NRCS financial assistance conservation program activities. Farm Conservation Plans completed and annual goal / year to date acres information was shared with the group. Chris Brown shared information regarding the planning activities and how they will plan into the new year. Historically taken from tracker the largest tract of acres but multiple meetings with cooperators. Chris and Rob working with planners regarding better use of time and efficiency and meeting with cooperators through running producer reports. Twenty-six urban E&S plans were reviewed and seventeen urban E&S plans were approved. Three 378- Small Pond plans were reviewed. Two urban meetings were attended. One stream restoration/wetland creation projects are in progress. Four information and education events were attended by staff. Staff attended eight trainings and twelve-monthly meetings. Chris Brown, Bruce Yerkes and Van Funk attended the MASCD Central Area meeting. Willie Ewing made a motion to accept the activities report as presented. Jonathan Quinn seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- District Project Tracking/Planning Report – No changes/issues
- Rob Weaver gave the NRCS updates. NRCS has been approved for interdepartmental transfers and we will be getting a new NRCS Soil Conservationist. Sonya Matlack will be starting next week. She came last Monday to see the office. NRCS lost three employees and gained three employees throughout the state. Rob reviewed other changes at the state office level. Chris Brown added that Chris Shelet had come into the office to determine if there was more room for other USDA employees. We do not have any more room but may have to entertain one more. The state office will be moving back to Annapolis on Riva Rd. The NRCS quality review will take place on 9/23/25.
- No new cooperators this month.
- Tracey Rach reviewed the District Compilation Update. The compilation has been completed and Tracey has forwarded it to everyone for review. It is due to MDA by October 1st. She has given it to Van for signature.

- Chris updated the board on Maryland Department of Environment CAFO challenges and inspections on dairy operations. MDE has been identifying resource concerns associated with trench silos and leachate. They have not been recognizing the NRCS standard for High flow/ Low flow systems (Approved in PA) as they would not be considered zero discharge. MDE has been reaching out to the District and NRCS asking for information that would be covered under the 1619. The agreement between MDE/MDA/Districts outlines that MDE has access to Conservation Plans but does not outline status of cost share, etc. The group discussed issues with holding dairy farms to zero discharge. The new General Permit is expected to be issued later this year.
- Chris Brown spoke about getting an Associate Board Member onboarding process finalized. Farm Bureau has gotten 3 applications submitted to state committee for Jonathan Quinn's board position. There are several applicants that would like to be on the board that may be interested in an Associate position if not chosen.

The next meeting will be held on September 17th at 8:30 AM. The meeting will be held at the office with a teleconference option. The teleconference option will continue to be offered for those working in the field.

As there being no further general business, Bruce Yerkes called for a motion to adjourn the general meeting. Willie Ewing made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Van Funk seconded the motion. The general meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A Pierce
Administrative Assistant