



Cecil Soil Conservation District

105 Chesapeake Boulevard, Suite B-3, Elkton MD 21921

(410) 398-4411 Ext.3

Board of Supervisor's Meeting July 15, 2026

The Cecil Soil Conservation District held a Board of Supervisors meeting with a Zoom call-in option. The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM by Chairman – Bruce Yerkes. Attendees Supervisors – Van Funk, Willie Ewing, and Alice Crothers. Other attendees: District Manager - Chris Brown, NRCS District Conservationist – Robert Weaver, Administrative Assistant – Patty Pierce, District Coordinator – Tracey Rach and Darren Alles, MDA Area Coordinator. Guests include Mark Dobbins, ENERWA, and David Dale, David Reisler, and Don Jackson.

Mark Dobbins from the Elk and Northeast River Watershed Association introduced himself to the group. Mark provided an overview of their organization's water quality monitoring program, which involves 14 volunteers sampling 20 sites monthly and publishing report cards based on MTAC protocols. The group discussed their aging equipment needs, with full sampling kits costing \$4,500-5,000, and explored potential grant opportunities to fund BMPs in the area using their collected data. The group discussed the Chesapeake Bay report card grades and the organizations efforts to align data with other watershed scoring organizations. Mark has submitted a donation request form to the district for the equipment needed for continued sampling.

- Van Funk made a motion to approve the donation request and purchase the equipment for the watershed association. Alice Crothers seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Van Funk made a motion to accept the June 25, 2026 Board meeting minutes. Alice Crothers seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Bruce Yerkes asked if the board had reviewed the treasurer's report, and expenses. There were no questions. Bruce Yerkes made a motion to file the treasurer's report and pay bills. Van Funk seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Chris Brown provided updates on the following education and outreach events:

- Cecil County Fair
 - Children's Day is Monday July 27th. As discussed at the last meeting there will be 150 fabric bags with a conservation image for the children to decorate and take home. There will be three staff members and two to three CCST Ag Science Program students to help manage the event.
 - Ag Showcase Day is Tuesday, July 28th. with a modified format. There will be a field tent for attendees to walk around to speak directly to the agriculture agencies. It will run from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm with lunch during that time period. Open showcase vendors can bring tables but no guest speakers.

- Patty Pierce and Chris Brown provided updates on the Cover Crop FY27 sign up status. The deadline to signup is this Friday July 17th. There are 63 applicants so far with an expected total of 67 by the Friday deadline.
- Chris provided an update for the Ag Tour and Council Work Session from discussions at last months board meeting. Possibly scheduling an ag tour for March 2027.
- The group discussed Economic Development and how agriculture plays a significant role. The discussion also covered an upcoming economic development study and its questionnaire, which some participants felt focused too heavily on Route 40 business development rather than rural character. The office of economic development will forward hard copies of the questionnaire for the district to distribute.
- Chris updated the Board on the 378 Pond Review Fee Schedule. the group explored the possibility of implementing fees for 378 pond review services, with Gerry suggesting a per-facility rather than per-plan charging structure. Chris reached out to Heather Hutchison as she had collected information from all districts on fees before. Chris has a list of what each district is doing. The group discussed concerns about potential changes to stormwater ordinances. When the new ordinance is approved would be a good time to update fees.

New Business

- Rob Weaver presented the District Activities Report. He presented a comprehensive activities report covering outreach events, technical requests, staff training, and conservation planning activities. The group reviewed several ongoing projects including waste storage facilities for new dairy operations, MACS program applications, and EQIP contracts, with updates on funding allocations and challenges with certain applications. Rob explained the technical assistance request completed for a waste storage facility with a meeting on-site. Staff attended several trainings and meetings. They discussed the progress of resource conservation plans. Conservation planning activities included four inventory and evaluations. Twenty-eight resource conservations plans are in progress. Ten full resource conservation plans were completed. Engineering activities included a fencing design approved “in-house”. Four projects are in progress. One as-built survey was completed by staff. Thirty-nine conservation practices were applied in ACRES. Additional information for one application for best management practices was submitted to MDA/MACS for cost share. Two claims for best management practices were submitted to MDA/MACS for cost share. Rob shared NRCS financial assistance conservation program activities with twenty-nine program contracts with seven pending obligations. NRCS monthly activities included final EQIP obligations and documents, preparing CREP plans for Re-enrollments meetings next month, and site visits for expiring contracts. Rob provided updates on various urban plan reviews and approvals. Twenty-five urban E&S plans were reviewed and thirteen urban E&S plans were approved. Seven urban E&S meetings were attended. Seven 378- Small Pond plans were reviewed and one 378-Small Pond plan was approved. Four forest harvest plans were reviewed and two forest harvest plans were approved. Staff completed one Inventory and Evaluations for Agricultural Stormwater Management and Erosion and Sediment Control. Three Agricultural E&S/SWM Plans are currently under CSCD Development and six Agricultural Stormwater Management and E&S/SWM projects are in progress. Van Funk made a motion to accept the activities report as presented. Alice Crothers seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Van Funk Made a motion to accept Friends of Mount Harmon as a new cooperator. Alice Crothers Seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Darren Alles provided an MDA update on various programs and initiatives. MDA staff performance reviews and professional development efforts were July 1st for Cecil. All information has been entered into the Workday system and technical and professional development discussions are ongoing with NRCS partners.

- Van Funk provide an SSCC meeting update. The next meeting is July 16th in Annapolis. Van is finalizing the agenda. MACS updates and record retention.
- Chris Brown provided updates on the Chesapeake Club development project, noting that while initial concerns about stormwater plans were resolved after meeting with new county official Jay Hayes, the project continues to face challenges with erosion and sediment control plan submissions. The developer's engineer Kimley Horn has also taken on the Charlestown Crossing project, raising concerns about following proper review protocols. Emphasizing that future submissions will require administratively complete plans, as incomplete submissions like the initial Chesapeake Club plan that had over 200 comments will not be accepted for review. Chris discussed plans for quarterly meetings to coordinate between departments and mentioned an upcoming Amish outreach meeting, though scheduling challenges in August may delay it to September.
- Chris Brown provided information about board applications and explained the organizational structure involving county, state, and federal levels, offering David Reisler and David Dale the opportunity to apply for a board or associate position.

The next meeting will be held on August 26, 2026 at 10:25AM. 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Pierce

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Administrative Assistant

Board Member Current Attendance Record July 2025 to July 2026

Bruce Yerkes, Chairman	100%
Willie Ewing, Co Chairman	83%
Van Funk, Treasurer	100%
Alice Crothers, Member	75%