

**REGULAR MEETING -- Board of Supervisors
Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District
2662 Riva Road, Ste. 150
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
January 18, 2023
7:30 AM to 8:00 AM Closed Meeting
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Open Meeting**

Supervisors Present:	Brian Riddle, Chair 03.17	8/10
	Gary Palmer, Vice- Chair 02.18	11/11
	Vaughn Foxwell, Treasurer 06.17	6/7
	Christine Catterton, Member 7.19	6/6
	Donald Entzian, Member 7.19	6/6
	Lisa Barge, Associate Supervisor 5.22	7/8
	Mike Superczynski, Associate Supervisor 01.15	8/12
	Mark Hopkins, Associate Supervisor 5.22	8/8
	Robert Schaefer, Associate Supervisor 3.22	8/10
Others Present:	Mitch LeMueix, District Conservationist, NRCS Adam Lyon, Area Coordinator, MDA John Czajkowski, District Manager, SCD Shelley Garrett, Soil Conservation Specialist, SCD Keli Kirby, Office Manager, SCD	
Absent:	Dave Myers, UMD Extension Billy Ford, Associate Supervisor 5.22	6/8

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by B. Riddle

Dick Doug/ Mary Weakley – Ag Building Exemption Request

- Requesting 40' x 30' ag structure.
- Proposing goats and chickens for family purposes.
- Property is slightly over an acre.

Ag structure approval discussion: hobby farming vs. business, minimum acreage requirement, property assessment (ag), mandate setbacks, accounting for urban agriculture, set building size to lot acreage, minimize AASCD involvement, and code change.

MINUTES: (Catterton, Entzian) *All in Favor*

- The December Meeting Minutes were accepted.

Financial, V. Foxwell: (Catterton, Palmer) *All in Favor*

- The District financial reports were approved.
- The MDA financial report were approved.

REPORTS:

MDA, A. Lyon

- New Secretary of Agriculture Kevin Atticks; founder of Grow & Fortify, a consulting firm that supports value-added agriculture, executive director of the Maryland Wineries Association, executive director of the Brewers Association of Maryland and the Maryland Distillers Guild, University of Maryland College of Agriculture's Global Leadership Council, and the boards of Future Harvest CASA and the Maryland Tourism Coalition.
- Edmond Robidoux has been appointed the new MDA planner for Anne Arundel.
- QAR January 23rd – 27th
- Another recruitment to fill gaps from previous recruitment, including both regional and state positions, including training and outreach coordinators to help get new staff trained in time to meet remaining WIP goals in 2.5 years.
- Annual Salary reviews to match Federal and County salaries to go into effect July 1.
- Completed performance evaluations for staff.
- Working with HR to finalize MS-22/ position descriptions geared towards meeting WIP goals and have defined deliverables.
- MDA's new program, Healthy Soils Competitive Fund, supports innovative soil health practices and management, administered at MDA Headquarters. Kevin Antoszewski will be contact for additional questions.
- Nutrient Management Update – February 7th Consultant Testing at 9:00a at MDA Headquarters, Training for recertification credits is Feb 14th and will be virtual.
- BMP verification team hired Christopher Lobe for St. Mary's, Charles, and Calvert.

Urban, K. Holland

- See attached Urban report.
- Training with City of Annapolis on new system for permitting, Bluebeam. However, having difficulties connecting.

NRCS, M. LeMuiex

- See attached NRCS report.

Agriculture, J. Superczynski

- See attached Agriculture report.

AAEDC, L. Barge

- Ag Scrap Tire Program – letter of invitation from MDE and MDS to receive funding (up to \$60k) for program but the program can only run 9 business days sometime between the end of February and April.
- Ticket purchased for Taste of Ag
- State group still working on purchase of Purdue grain elevators, county interested in purchasing property, but discussion is fluid.
- Ag Service Provider Forum coming up February 23rd at Honey Harvest Farm; dinner and networking event.

- Bill Tharpe MDA to discuss Small Urban Ag programs and additional grants that will be available throughout the year.
- Solar has been discussed at the Ag Commission; members were not in favor of transition from transitional farming to solar farming
- Closed Arundel Grown mini grant, received 6 applicants
 - Maryland Therapeutic Riding requested a lawn mower, requesting feedback on approval of funds spent for that.

New Business

- Introduction of Edmond (Eddie) Robidoux
 - MDA, Resource Conservationist
 - Recent Graduate from University of Maryland Global Campus, Environmental Management; Economics/ Business background; carbon capture in soil spurred interest.
- Vote on board positions
 - C. Catterton moves to keep B. Riddle as Chair, G. Palmer as Vice Chair, V. Foxwell as Treasurer. (Catterton, Entzian) *All in Favor*
- Vote on associate supervisors
 - Reinstate associate supervisors: (Catterton, Palmer) *All in Favor*
- Agriculture Pond design discussion – Currently ponds can be acquired through local SCDs or MDE; pond designs do not contribute to WIP credit and are time intensive; Irrigation ponds, sediment basin ponds and pond repairs are normally funded through existing programs; *recommendation would be to receive approval for ponds through MDE, at least until WIP goals are met* - other districts in Southern Area have moved in this direction; B. Riddle motions future pond designs must align with state or federal guidelines/programs (Palmer, Catterton) *All in Favor*; AASCD will complete designs that have been started.

Old Business

- Procedure for ag building exemption
 - Proposal from staff meeting - *to supply an ariel photograph with soils information, standard grading plan, and MDE storm water management plan*; barns are not an BMP, and this proposal will minimize input.
 - Soil Water Management Plan, as required by code, does not exist – B. Riddle would like to pursue code change as this would give the county what is intended/required.
 - *Option to backload: Do the minimal submission and then when it goes to construction the full farm plan is produced.*
 - Fees were put into place to discourage those that wanted to abuse the code.
 - M. LeMuiex's proposal to backload has board approval, J. Czajkowski will work with M. LeMuiex to draft a resolution for presentation at next board meeting.
 - Fee discussion – possibly a lesser fee for those that already have a farm plan, timeline of plan to structure request; estimate of illegitimate ag structures; fee schedule based on length of farm plan, size of structure, plan revision; minimum acreage requirement, 5 acres; eliminate exemption and have setback or threshold;

incentive for fee waiver by BMP installation; until code is changed to 5 acres fee will stay in place.

- Table further discussion until the resolution is drafted.

New Business

- Address position upgrades with S. Pittman, Personnel has confirmed that employment reclassification still in process.
- Discussion about benefits to inviting Jenny Jarkowski to Commission Meeting on February 14th.

Supervisor Involved Dates to Remember

- February 9-10, 2023 – MASCD Winter Meeting at the Graduate Hotel in Annapolis
- April 18, 2023 – Envirothon Competition at Arlington Echo

Other Dates to Remember

- February 2, 2023 – Maryland Taste of Agriculture at Maryland Live Casino
- February 9, 2023 – Southern Maryland Vegetable & Fruit Production Meeting
- February 23, 2023 – Arundel Ag Connection at Honey Harvest Farm
- March 17, 2023 – Envirothon Training at Arlington Echo

SET TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING

- The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m. (Catterton, Palmer) *All in Favor*
- The next meeting is February 15th, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

Closed Meeting

Time of Session: ____ am (____) *All in Favor* – ____ am (____) *All in Favor*

Location: AASCD Office/ Virtual

Purpose: To vote on Cooperator's Agreement & SWQPs

Members who voted to close: G. Palmer, V. Foxwell, C. Catterton, B. Riddle

Persons attending closed session: B. Riddle, G. Palmer, V. Foxwell, C. Catterton, M. Hopkins, R. Schaefer, J. Czajkowski, and S. Garrett

Topics discussed: Cooperator's Agreement & SWQPs

Each action taken: Cooperator's Agreement (____) *All in Favor*

SWQPs Approved (____) *All in Favor*