

**REGULAR MEETING -- Board of Supervisors  
Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District  
2662 Riva Road, Ste. 150  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
April 19, 2023  
7:30 AM to 8:00 AM Closed Meeting  
8:00 AM to 10:00 AM Open Meeting**

<b>Supervisors Present:</b>	Brian Riddle, Chair 03.17	1/1
	Gary Palmer, Vice- Chair 02.18	2/2
	Vaughn Foxwell, Treasurer 06.17	9/10
	Donald Entzian, Member 7.19	8/9
	Mike Superczynski, Associate Supervisor 01.15	3/3
	Billy Ford, Associate Supervisor 5.22	9/11
	Mark Hopkins, Associate Supervisor 5.22	10/11
	Robert Schaefer, Associate Supervisor 3.22	1/1
<b>Others Present:</b>	Mitch LeMueix, District Conservationist, NRCS	
	Dave Myers, UMD Extension	
	John Czajkowski, District Manager, SCD	
	Shelley Garrett, Soil Conservation Specialist, SCD	
	Keli Kirby, Office Manager, SCD	
<b>Absent:</b>	Christine Catterton, Member 7.19	8/9
	Lisa Barge, Associate Supervisor 5.22	8/11
	Adam Lyon, Area Coordinator, MDA	

**Closed Meeting**

Time of Session: 7:36 am (Foxwell) *All in Favor* – 7:41 am (Entzian) *All in Favor*

Location: AASCD Office/ Virtual

Purpose: To vote on Cooperator’s Agreement, SWQPs, & Ag Structures

Members who voted to close: G. Palmer, V. Foxwell, D. Entzian

Persons attending closed session: G. Palmer, V. Foxwell, D. Entzian, D. Myers, B. Ford, M.

Hopkins, M. Superczynski, R. Schaefer, J. Czajkowski, S. Garrett and K. Kirby

Topics discussed: Cooperator’s Agreement, SWQPs & Ag Structures

Each action taken: Cooperator’s Agreement (Entzian, Foxwell) *All in Favor*

SWQPs Approved (Entzian, Foxwell) *All in Favor*

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by B. Riddle (Foxwell, Palmer) *All in Favor*

**MINUTES:** (Palmer, Foxwell) *All in Favor*

- The March Meeting Minutes were accepted.

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

- The District financial reports were approved.
- The MDA financial report was approved.
- Discussion on moving funds to different banks/ CD options with a higher yielding interest rate. V. Foxwell recommends that we implement the CD changes as outlined in the supporting paperwork. Recommend that changes are effective by May 1<sup>st</sup>. (Palmer, Entzian) *All in Favor*

**REPORTS:**

**Extension, D. Myers**

- No changes in the program area.
- Urban Farm Project – peaches, apples, wine grapes, blackberries are budding; hops will go in next week; getting high tunnel completed.
- Hiring – Currently has 2 candidates for 4-H program Assistant; new Nutrient Management Advisor Maxine Yoon; open administrative position with bookkeeping experience to be filled within the next 4 weeks; Master Gardner position open; D. Myers is acting as Area Extension Director for PG Co. as well as AA Co.
- AACo. has the second largest Master Gardner program in the state; 215 members; 38-40 projects; started in 1998.
- PG Co. Extension office has been closed for mold abatement since Dec.15, hoping to open next week.
- New Lease agreement between AA Co. and Frye's. The 3- year lease says Frye's will just maintain the farm property and building associated with farm operations. Co. will maintain land around all other structures; however, Co. has yet to do any maintenance.
- *Box Tree moth – Northern infestation in box woods, especially Asian variety, remedy seems to be 6 treatments throughout the year.*
- *Harvesting oaks between 120 and 180 years (standard lifespan) would decrease the amount of disease seen in the species.*
- *D. Myers has been teaching Envirothon 5<sup>th</sup> Issue for Anne Arundel County.*

**Urban, K. Holland**

- See attached Urban report.
- I&P request for quantities and velocities on sediment control structures.
- Pond consulting fees responsible individual – MASCD is working with MDE to change policy to allow the fee for professional consultation to be passed onto pond owner; COMAR says we can only charge for sediment and erosion control not storm water management.

### **NRCS, M. LeMueix**

- See attached NRCS report.
- Proposed that the state headquarters office move temporarily for two years out to College Park/ Beltsville and then relocate to Annapolis. There are 8 viable locations with a 2-year renovation.
- “Restructure’ will align more with SSCC and have regional staff for additional assistance.

### **Agriculture, J. Superczynski**

- See attached Agriculture report.
- *Judy Tice was interviewed/ videoed by MDA; representing underserved farmer w/ small farming operation; John Czajkowski, Shelley Garrett, Joseph Superczynski, and William Hammond were also present.*
- *Eddie Robidoux has completed training and has actively started planning.*
- *Discussion on working with farms that have expired plans.*
- *Ag Preservation discussion - Ag preservation has struggled with bringing new cooperators onboard for a few years; looking to move Ag preservation from Parks & Rec to I & P; new director is program driven; current program seems restrictive.*
- *Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture wants Pennsylvania to become the #1 organic producing state in the country, currently they are 3<sup>rd</sup>. Conventional farmers pushing back. The mushroom industry propels their success.*
- *Discussion on the public perception of the benefits of organic farming vs the number of organic producers. Many organic farmers don't participate in programs which allow them to work highly erodible land.*

### **Ag Commission Legislation Committee, S. Garrett**

- SCD's role in dual use allowance for both agriculture and non-ag related business operations; in collaboration with Office of Law and Planning & Zoning; SCD will become authority on deciding if property is actively farming; violation process in proposed bill.
- Ag structure updated to include the 5-acre limit and/ or tax accessed as ag, in addition there must be active farming on the property to receive exemption, if conversion of property fence must be in place,
- Planning & Zoning worried that individuals will use the exemption to bypass the new accessory dwelling legislation.
- New additions: if a farm has a complaint and SCD is unable to respond within 10 days, it will automatically go to an active violation. This will help to alleviate the public misperception of BMP installation.
- Agricultural Education Committee – working on Ag Summer Camp at Rockhold Creek Barn.
- Concern that Farmer's Market Board is playing favorites to those who serve on the board or those individuals that are more influential over allowing Anne Arundel County Farmers to participate. Ag Commission and Farm Bureau have sent correspondences for cooperation.
- Special Events Legislation – Proposed to have permits for large gatherings; feeling is it will not pass due to number of amendments. Originated over public safety concerns.

## **New Business**

- MASCD request for sponsorship to support events such as the summer meeting – J. Czajkowski will resend the email with the link to the needed information.
- MASCD Endowment Auction item for summer meeting – members agree to donate items to make basket, like last year.
- U. of Maryland Soil Judging Team Donation, we will support “the estimated cost” to send one student as in previous years, \$1280.00 (Foxwell, Palmer) *All in Favor*
- Review of RC&D Projects in Anne Arundel County
- *Application for Associate – Ted Newman; served on Board of Supervisors in Montana 17 years, moved to Maryland 30 years ago, member of Montana House and Senate, currently works on stream restorations. Extend an invite to next meeting for introduction.*
- *Cover Crop meeting on April 6<sup>th</sup>; summary provided – AA Co 3,500 reported acres, PG Co - ~1,600 acres, St. Mary’s – 4,700 acres, Calvert - +1,000 acres.*
- *Harvested crops are not eligible for cover crop but are counted towards commodity cover.*
- *MASCD Summer Meeting (August 27-29) – website currently available to reserve hotel room.*
- *MDA would like to review WIP progress on April 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:00 pm in the AASCD conference room.*
- *Update on Lisa Barge’s health and offered assistance.*
- *G. Palmer proposes training - Farm & Harvest 10-minute presentation from Soil Specialist - types and function of soils in Maryland.*

## **Supervisor Involved Dates to Remember**

- **April 18, 2023** – Envirothon Competition at Arlington Echo
- **April 19, 2023** – Prince George’s Cooperator of the Year Dinner
- **May 24, 2023** – Charles SCD Cooperator of the Year Dinner
- **October 19, 2023** – Southern Maryland Dinner hosted by St. Mary’s SCD

## **Other Dates to Remember**

- **August 27-29, 2023** – MASCD Summer Meeting
- **October 12, 2023** – Anne Arundel Conservationist of the Year Dinner
- **October 24, 2023** – MASCD Board of Director Meeting

## **SET TIME AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

- The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m. (Foxwell, Palmer) *All in Favor*
- The next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.