



October 1, 2009

SOUTHERN MARYLAND RC&D, INC.
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – JULY 16, 2009

Chair Patricia Pinnell called the RC&D Council meeting to order at 7:06 PM. The following members were in attendance:

RC&D Members:

Jim Bardsley, Anne Arundel Forest Conservancy District Board
Stanley Boothe, St. Mary's Soil Conservation District
Bill Clark, Calvert Soil Conservation District
John Czajkowski, Anne Arundel Soil Conservation District
Jennifer David, Tri-County Council - Charles
Phillip Jones, Southern Maryland RC&D Board Appointed
Michael Pellegrino, Charles County Commissioners
Patricia Pinnell, St. Mary's Forest Conservancy District Board
Jennifer Snoddy, Southern Maryland RC&D Board Appointed
Olga Walter, Southern Maryland RC&D Board Appointed
Bruce Young, St. Mary's County Commissioners

Others:

Denitra Brawner, Southern Maryland RC&D Office Associate
Franklin Holley, Southern Maryland RC&D Program Officer
Jeremy West, USDA, NRCS, Southern Maryland RC&D Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Pat Pinnell thanked Denitra for the food preparation. (There was a small reception to welcome Franklin to the Board) Pat said that the Board is very pleased to have Franklin Holley and she has hit the ground running. Pat said the selection committee should be commended for their work on hiring Franklin. Franklin thanked everyone for having her.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Denitra Brawner read the Treasurer's Report for the fourth Quarter. Bruce made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and file for audit. Bill seconded. Motion was passed. Denitra also mentioned that one CD is up for maturity in September. Olga Walter asked the board what they wanted to do. Bruce Young made a motion to roll it over. Bill Clark seconded. Motion was passed.

Review Previous Minutes

Olga made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. Jennifer David seconded and the motion was passed.

Anne Arundel County Support

Pat Pinnell said that Mark hopes to have more information on this situation at the October Board Meeting. She told Denitra to ask Mark to come to the meeting to explain what information he has.

Anne Arundel Dry Fire Hydrant Support

Jeremy West said that there was no progress on the Dry Hydrant situation in Anne Arundel County. There were two surveys done in Calvert County. He said there are four sites in Charles County. He will keep the board updated via email regarding Anne Arundel County.

FY 2009 Operating Budget

Olga Walter read the operating budget. She asked the board how they felt about not renewing the memberships to the four chambers of commerce. There was more discussion on the budget.

Purchase of new car

Pat said that she went to a few car dealers and she found that brand new cars run from \$13,000 to \$16,000 and used from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Bruce recommended getting a new car and go to the MVA yourself for the tags. Jim made a motion to purchase a new vehicle but not to exceed \$15,000 total expense. Bruce seconded. Motion was passed.

Committee List

Pat said that everyone has a committee list in their packet. (The list was previously emailed) She asked that everyone look at it and decided if they want to stay on the committee they are currently on or change. Jennifer Snoddy asked to be on the Ag and Natural Resources committee. Bruce wants to be taken off the Ag & Natural Resources Committee and put on the Navy Committee. John wants to be put on the Historic Preservation Committee. Phillip wants to be put on the Ag and Natural Resources Committee. Bill said to take him off the Agriculture and Natural Resources and put him on the Navy Committee.

Navy Committee

Franklin wanted to have a Navy Committee formed. Jeremy thought it was a good idea not to have SCD representatives on the Navy committee. Bruce clarified that he represents the County Commissioners. After additional discussion it was agreed that SCD representatives should be on the committee. Olga, Pat and Jim would like to be on the Navy committee. Stanley Boothe made a point that if a SCD person has a navy project in their county they have to recuse themselves from any decision making. Jen David said that a policy should state that the person cannot be the sole person at any meetings. Jim said to take him off the Agriculture and Natural Resource Committee and put him on the Navy Committee. The power to authorize Navy cooperative agreements will go through the Executive Committee. Pat said that the more board members become involved the more successful RC&D will be.

Credit Card for Car

Bruce said without a credit card it will be difficult. He said you could get one only for gas. Bill said get one with a maximum limit of \$2,500 that will be used for gas, tires etc. Bruce recommended a Visa or MasterCard and he said to go through the bank. Jim made a motion to get a Visa or MasterCard with a \$2,500 limit for the car. Olga seconded. Motion was passed.

NEW BUSINESS

FY2010 Operating Budget

Olga read the 2010 operating budget. Discussion was had with some changes recommended. Jennifer David made a motion to accept the 2010 operating budget as amended. Bruce seconded. Motion was passed.

Annual Plan of Work

Jeremy said that everyone had a copy of the plan of work in their packet. He said that every project in the operating budget is in the Plan of Work. Bill said that there have been two projects on hold for several years and he wanted to know if they could be put on the Plan of Work. Jennifer David said a note should be sent to all SCDs to see if they have anything that needs to go on the Plan of Work. Jeremy will update the Plan of Work and email the Board and have them vote.

Letter from NY RC&D State Association

Pat read a letter from the NY RC&D State Association. They are unhappy with the National and Mid-Atlantic RC&D. They want to dissolve the Mid-Atlantic. A copy of that letter and a copy of the Endless Mountain RC&D response was emailed out to Board members prior to the meeting. At the Mid Atlantic Business meeting in New Mexico everyone was asked to share with their council to see what they thought of the situation. Olga said that New York should have sent their letter to the National RC&D Office first and discussed it with them.

2010 Mid-Atlantic RC&D Conference

Pat said that the 2010 Mid Atlantic RC&D Conference will be held September 15-17, 2010 in Annapolis, MD. She will call on Board members to help out. The theme is "Energizing the Future of RC&D". Pat noted that there were not enough members to conduct a meeting at the National Conference so she & Olga will serve another year as Treasurer and Vice Chair, respectively.

Promotion of RC&D Week

Pat said that RC&D week will be September 20-26, 2009. She wants to promote RC&D on the radio and in the newspapers. Franklin will work on it. She welcomes any ideas and suggestions. Bruce said to get the commissioners to proclaim RC&D week. He said that you could also email 98.3 and they will read something on the air.

New Coordinator Items

Jeremy West discussed the following items:

He announced that he is now a registered licensed forester in the state of Maryland.

Forestry MOU

DNR may be in a position to give RC&D money to hire foresters. The RC&D could hire one or two full time foresters that would be RC&D employees stationed at the DNR office. The Board may be receiving a Request for Assistance (RFA). Bruce wanted to know if RC&D would receive an Admin Fee. Jeremy said it could be possible. NRCS wants to develop workshops for Maryland Foresters. NRCS will pay for all costs. Jeremy did include this as one of RC&D's projects in the budget because he will be using fair amount of his time. He put a cost of \$500 just in case there is a need for RC&D to cover an element of the workshop. Olga would like more information. Jeremy will share details. Jeremy explained that there is a pot of money associated with the Farm Bill through a program called EQIP. The money will fund a landowner to pay for a Forest Management Plan. Jeremy's job is to develop a workshop to certify Foresters so they can be hired using these EQIP dollars.

Forestry for the Bay

Jeremy said that there was an RFA from Forestry for the Bay to partner with RC&D. He sent the request to the appropriate committee. Forestry for the Bay wants to partner with RC&D to develop and implement a workshop for forest landowners and farmers. Jeremy asked if the board is interested in supporting the activity. Supporting means Jeremy's time and maybe going there helping with whatever their agenda is and promoting the event. Someone suggested getting items donated to use as door prizes. The Board decided to go forward with the project.

Policy

Jeremy said that there was no need to change to the Employee Handbook. He misread a paragraph about Comp time and removed Credit time form the timesheets.

NRCS Cooperative Agreement

Web Based Forage ties into Forage Agronomy Phase III. There is an opportunity to pursue a third year of funding. It will be \$55,000 for another 12 months. There is a wealth of information Les Vough has developed and found relating to forage agronomy. What NRCS would like to do is work with Elmer Dengler, NRCS Resource Conservationist, Les and the Plant Material Center is to consolidate all the information onto one webpage. If the board decides to cover the cost of the website it should cost no more than \$1,500.00. Jennifer David made a motion to accept and pursue the project. Jennifer Snoddy seconded. Motion was passed. Olga asked for more information. Bill would like to have RC&D's name on the web page.

African American Heritage Society

Jeremy noted that the African American Heritage Society house (AAHS) has been going through some structural renovations. He also said that in the operating budget there is a \$15,000 line item for this project. The board approved the AAHS as a project. The level of involvement is not clear at this point. The AAHS structural renovations funding stopped short of a much needed elevator shaft and elevator that would allow access for people with disabilities. There is possibility that Mirant, the power company, who are already on site is willing to provide material valued at \$45,000 to build the elevator shaft if they can find a match of \$15,000. The elevator would come at a later date. Mike described AAHS to the Board. Bill said that there should be grant money available. Pat asked if anyone contacted any elevator companies. Jeremy will get details and get back to the entire board. Franklin said she will talk to Roz from Southern MD Heritage Area to see if she could help.

NRCS Contribution Agreement

NRCS has a contribution agreement that was discussed with the board while Jeremy was on vacation. It is for \$35,000. \$5,000 would be for a poultry injector, \$22,000 for Franklin's salary and the remaining balance the board can use to reimburse board member attendance at the National Conference. The document is ready for Pat's signature if anyone wants to review it.

New Program Officer Items

Indian Head Phase II - Franklin stated that she and Jeremy were asked by Bob Murphy of Ecosystem Solutions about a possibility of advance payment for Phase II of the Indian Head project for which he is doing a survey. In everyone's packet is a document explaining the situation further. Franklin has discussed this situation with most of the Executive Board. It was suggested that Bob Murphy invoice the RC&D as tasks are completed. \$22,000 has been paid already, he has invoiced \$10,500 and has \$27,000 left to invoice for work to be completed. After further discussion Bill made a motion not to advance payment. Olga seconded. Motion passed.

Potomac Heritage Trail – Franklin showed a poster that was displayed at the National RC&D conference that she and Jeremy designed. She described the trail. She said there are opportunities for hiking on the trail. Olga said she would help Franklin with the trail project. Franklin said she has been working with Jim Hudnall and Don Briggs. The next step is to go to Charles County and set down with partners and make sure they are all in agreement of the best roads and routes for cyclists, also which points of interest along the trail they want to highlight. Franklin will be meeting with Roz Racanello from Southern MD Heritage Area to see if they can partner with the Religious Freedom Byway. Pat said that this is going to be one of RC&D's major projects and that there is grant money out there for it.

Parlett Farm

Jeremy & Franklin went to visit the Parlett Farm recently for a stakeholder meeting to discuss the future of the Parlett collection. Jeremy stated that John Parlett had died and left an enormous legacy to his family in the form of a huge collection of rural way of life assorted tools. The family is trying to decide what to do with all the objects. They have put

together a task force of county, federal, state and local groups to try and work with them to walk through an identifying process. Jeremy asked if the RC&D would have an interest in being involved. Olga said no. She asked Jeremy to explain a little more about what he means by being involved. He said that he means supporting the process which means he and Franklin take part in the groups brainstorming sessions & help identify grant resources. Olga said that this is a private farm. She thinks that this would be too big for RC&D. Bruce said that he thinks the Parletts want to try and preserve the equipment and show as a museum. It costs them about \$100,000 a year to maintain the display at the Farm Life Festival. Stanley made a motion to move forward. Jennifer Snoddy asked what kind of benefit would the community get from it. Bruce said it would keep rural character in Southern Maryland. Bill asked if the Parletts were looking to get rid of some of the items because Calvert County just purchased a farm that they are going to convert to a 1950s era farm and will be looking for 1950 equipment. Jeremy and Franklin will continue to be involved in it and relay information to the Board. Pat said she doesn't think that the board wants to be involved with something that's personal gain. Bill said they could start a nonprofit foundation so that they could get donations and build from that.

Millbrook Farm Grist Mill

John Downs was not present to discuss this subject.

Forestry Partnership

Jim Bardsley said that he is getting a RFA together for the next board meeting for a program that is held every year that a few high school students from every county attend at the Hickory Environmental Education Center in Garrett County. He said marine biologists, wildlife professionals and foresters go out and volunteer their time with students. Students take an exam at the end of the session. The professionals are looking for talent to see if there are any students that want to pursue career in natural resources. They do this every year but it's suffering more and more. Cost is \$300 for each student and counties are asked to provide the funds. The forestry boards generally pick up the costs. Jim is researching to see if maybe the RC&D would participate in offering a 50% tuition per one student coming from each of the four counties for next year's event. He passed out a handout and said that he has talked to the committees. There are 50 slots and only 37 students participated. Pat said that RC&D needs to get more involved with the schools. The project will be discussed at a later board meeting.

Industrial Pier

Bill Clark said that the pier was on the list of projects back in 2001 and 2002. He said two surveys were done by private firms. Calvert SCD designed the plans to rebuild pier. The permits are still on hand. In January 2008, when the estimates were done it cost \$4 million. Between the Navy in Washington and Pax River no one knew who was going to do it so it just sat there until it burned done a few months ago. Copies of the plans and contracts documents were sent to the Navy, Public Works in St. Mary's County and Environmental people. Calvert SCD is waiting on word from the Navy to see if they can move forward. The project has to fall under the Sikes Act. Bill will keep the board posted.

Dues

Denitra said that the NACD Dues are \$300. Bruce made a motion to pay. Bill seconded. Motion was passed.

Maryland Forests Association

Denitra said that the MFA is asking for sponsorship for the 2009 Annual Conference. Jennifer David made a motion to pay \$100. Mike seconded. Motion was passed.

County Fairs

Denitra asked if the SCD would be setting up a display and if RC&D could put out some material. The Schedule is as follows:

- Anne Arundel County – September 16-20, 2009
- Charles County – September 16-20, 2009
- St. Mary's County – September 24-27, 2009
- Calvert County – September 30-October 4, 2009

St. Mary's will be setting up a display and will let the board put out material. Calvert will not be putting up a display. Denitra will ask Luis if Charles SCD will be setting up a display.

For the Good of All

Pat mentioned that the Board received its Circle of Diamonds plaque at the National RC&D Conference.

Pat said that the Board needs to think about having more meetings, maybe monthly instead of quarterly. She asked that they think about it before the next meeting.

Pat said that the board members might want to check out the recent newsletter.

Olga suggested that an article about circle of diamonds and an article on Franklin should be put in the newspapers.

Bruce said that St. Mary's County came in third at the State Envirothon.

Bill made a motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 PM.

The next meeting will be October 15th. More information will be sent out later.

Submitted for Council Approval



Olga Walter
Treasurer/Secretary