

**State Soil Conservation Committee**  
Final Minutes  
December 21, 2023

Van Funk, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

The minutes of October and November 2023 were approved (Wurmb/Nuwer)

The following appointments were made upon proper motion, second, and vote:

Allegany SCD – Kevin Trezise (Freeman/Wurmb)

Carroll SCD – James Leppo (Freeman/Wurmb)

**Discussions**

Van Funk (chair) and Alisha Mulkey (Executive Secretary), SSCC facilitated the group's work planning session. Brainstorming topics had been gathered prior to the meeting and were supplemented with discussion among the members present. Topics were prioritized and a draft work plan (below) based on feedback will be presented at the January 2024 meeting for membership approval.

Respectfully Submitted,



Alisha Mulkey  
Executive Secretary

## 2024 Workplan Calendar – DRAFT \*\*

January	<p>2024 Workplan: review/approval</p> <p>Increasing the value and recognition of agriculture in the state – emphasis on “value-added” initiatives</p>
February	<p>Maryland Certified Sod – state laws and enforcement concerns &amp; SCD roles</p> <p>Legislative session updates (TBD)</p>
March	<p>Land use clearing for new production – process, permits, etc., including off-site fill guidance</p>
April	<p>2025 and Beyond: Phase 3 WIP updates (Maryland &amp; watershed) &amp; Conowingo WIP</p> <p>Clean Water Commerce Fund and Pay-for-Performance initiatives</p>
May	<p>Legislative updates (post 2024 session):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deer control on private and state owned lands;</li> <li>• Solar siting;</li> <li>• Farmland preservation program</li> <li>• Native plants</li> </ul>
June	<p>Climate Resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State agency initiatives – agriculture &amp; urban sectors (MDA &amp; DNR)</li> <li>• Climate Smart Ag (USDA)</li> <li>• Maryland BFF (MASCD)</li> <li>• Environmental Justice initiatives</li> </ul>
July (@ MASCD)	<p>Trainings for supervisors, TBD</p>
August	<p>SSCC Chair election (admin)</p> <p>MACS Flat Rates updates, including Western MD pilot</p> <p>Partner Updates – opportunities to coordinate with SCDs and SSCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delmarva Land to Litter Collaborative</li> <li>• DNR Forest Service</li> <li>• Oyster Aquaculture/Oyster Recovery Partnership</li> </ul>
September	<p>Advancing Tree Plantings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CREP and CBI program status</li> <li>• Eligibility of natural regeneration within grass buffers</li> <li>• Invasive species challenges and strategy</li> <li>• Agroforestry interest</li> </ul>
October	<p>Farm Bill programs &amp; USDA updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current status, including programs for nursery industry</li> <li>• IRA funds</li> <li>• Delivering TA (staffing and office space)</li> </ul>
November	<p><i>Reserve for high priority topic</i></p>
December	<p>Work Plan 2025 development</p>

SSCC Attendance: December 21, 2023

Members:

Van Funk  
Amy Posey  
Ed Wurmb  
Rob Feldt  
John Swaine  
John Murphy  
Hans W. Schmidt  
Terry Nuwer  
Steve Freeman  
John Sullivan  
Suzy Daubert

Absent:

Darren Jarboe  
Jim George

Others:

Jen Nelson, MASCD  
Alisha Mulkey, MDA