

## State Soil Conservation Committee (SSCC)

Minutes  
Aug 15, 2024

Van Funk, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

The minutes of June 2024 were approved. (Swaine/Freeman)

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

Charles SCD (FB) – Charles Rice (Posey/Feldt)  
Howard SCD (UME) – B. Justin Brendel (Swaine/Freeman)  
Queen Anne’s SCD (At-Large) – Scott MacGlashan (Jarboe/Swaine)  
Somerset SCD (FB) – Amy Rowe (Swaine/Jarboe)

### **PRESENTATIONS: Advancing Tree Plantings**

#### **Strategy for DNR State Lands: Tree planting and management**

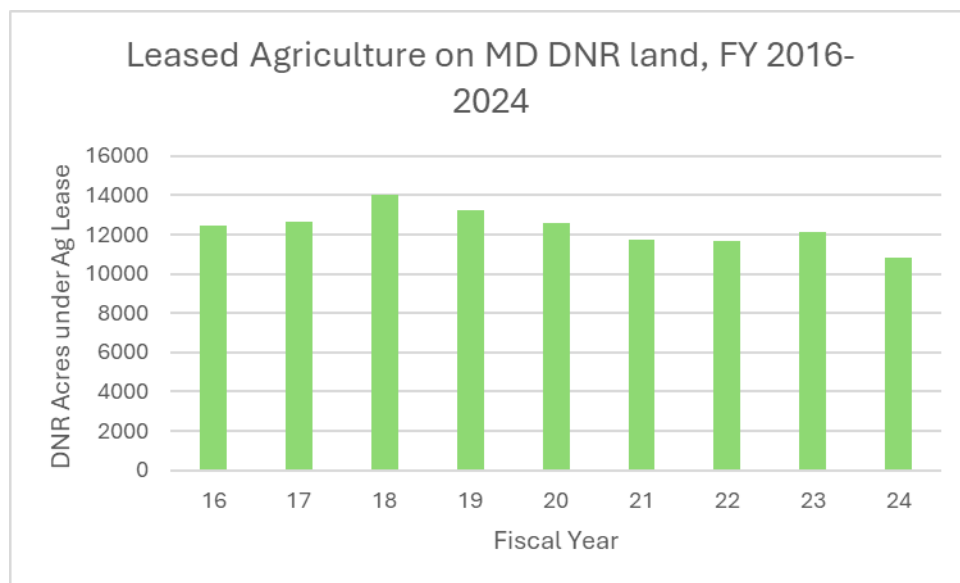
Guest Speaker: Anne Hairston-Strang, DNR. Talking points from DNR below:

Ag leases remain an important part of DNR land management approaches to:

- maintain rural character,
- support renewable resource-based economies, and
- an effective land management business model.

DNR looks to retain agricultural opportunities while simultaneously working to meet DNR’s broader resource management goals

Currently 10,850 acres in ag leases



#### Changes in leased acres

- Honoring contract requirements from land acquisition agreements, particularly for lands acquired through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, to support natural land covers.
- Best meet DNR goals:
  - Climate mitigation and adaptation (carbon sequestration, flood mitigation, temperature)
  - Chesapeake Bay and local stream water quality and habitat improvements
  - Biodiversity and rare species habitat
  - Pollinator and other habitats
  - Soil erosion control
  - Equity concerns
  - Public recreational access and trails, including water access

Transitions to tree planting, wetlands, and meadows – planning led by local park managers factoring in restoration opportunities for climate and habitat, recreation needs, and ability to maintain quality agricultural practices and productivity.

#### Changes seen from:

- natural forest edge succession and invasion by autumn olive and other invasive plants
- tree plantings or meadow conversion in low-yield areas, enhancement of riparian buffers
- implementation of various NRCS/SCD recommendations to address erosion,
- installation of public access points and trails, considering interface of chemical applications and visitors

#### New Lands

New acquisitions are evaluated for priority goals, and for practical land management options, with a focus on identifying lowest productivity areas if anything is changed from ag leases

Most interested in considering other land management in areas identified as less productive for agriculture, for example:

- depleted soils,
- heavy browse pressure,
- steep slopes,
- equipment access and public interface challenges,
- riparian areas

Seen in recent acquisitions at St. Inigoes State Forest, Newtowne Neck State Park, and Bohemia State Park, where ag leases have been substantially maintained outside of areas planted for riparian buffers.

DNR also considers:

- Diversifying ag opportunities consistent with soil health and agroforestry initiatives
- Management approaches to address habitat concerns, keeping acreage under lease
  - E.g., sharply declining grassland nesting bird populations (bobolinks, grasshopper sparrows, and meadowlarks) aided by placing restrictions on the timing of harvests in prime nesting fields to allow for successful fledging of young before hay harvest.

#### 5 Million Tree Targeting

- DNR mapping excludes prime ag soils outside of stream/waterway 100-foot buffers
- Programs emphasize residential and non-ag lands
- Efforts include agroforestry using native trees
- Efforts include shrubs as part of diversity even if not counted towards 5MT tracking.

**Select Post-Presentation Discussion and Q & A:**

*Q: How are decisions made in converting land out of agriculture? A:* Land use change decisions are initiated by park managers and decisions are made at that secretary level. Also indicated that DNR tries to maximize BMP implementation on public lands to achieve state-level resource conservations goals and subsequently reduce need to do so on private lands.

*Q: What is the impact of the Land & Water Conservation Fund's perspective that ag lands are not natural? A:* DNR indicated that most of its land purchases are not under this funding source.

*Future Follow-Up: How could the ag sector be included in the process of land use change decisions?*

**MDA Tree Planting Incentives**

Guest Speaker: Jason Keppler, MDA

Jason reviewed tree planting programs and incentives provided by MDA: In 2021, the Maryland legislature set a goal of planting 5 million native trees by 2031 including 500,000 in urban settings via the Tree Solutions Now Act. How do we best do this while maintaining viable agricultural production? 2.5 million dollars is being provided annually to address tree-planting on ag lands. Expected to be used as incentive on top of existing cost-share programs. Focus for tree-planting in on non-prime farmland.

Talking points based off document below:

[https://mda.maryland.gov/resource\\_conservation/counties/MDA-Tree-Planting-Incentives-WEB.pdf](https://mda.maryland.gov/resource_conservation/counties/MDA-Tree-Planting-Incentives-WEB.pdf)

Jason also mentioned the [Keep America Beautiful Grant Program](#), a partnership between the MD Environmental Trust, MD DOT, MDA, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust that can provide financial supports to land trusts and other organizations that are bundling individual projects together. MDA is providing \$250,000 per year from the Tree Solutions Now Act funding to help organizations working on tree-planting on ag land through this program.

**Select Post-Presentation Discussion and Q & A:**

*Q: What is the source of the trees for the MDA tree planting incentives? Are these coming strictly from DNR- are trees specifically suited for silvopasture and alleycropping initiatives in good supply? A:* [DNR] Trees are from DNR nurseries, and all are native. Production has and will increase to meet demand. There is not a supply of species specifically suited to silvopasture and alleycropping but DNR is working towards that with respect to timing and other factors. [MDA] Maintenance, as an eligible practice for funding, is still under discussion. CBI does offer some maintenance payments in the first 5 years of planting. [DNR] After 5 years, most trees are well-established.

Q: How do we know the progress towards the 2031 goal? A: Maryland's Five Million Trees Initiative: [Tracking Tool](#)

Q: Is anyone looking at opportunities or targeting tree planting on turf grass open space areas in HOAs? A: [DNR] They are on the radar, but unknown if anyone is focusing on that. There is 5 million tree staff available that can follow-up on leads. [MDA] The Chesapeake Bay Trust manages the 500,000 tree-plantings focused on urban landscapes.

Q: Has MDA spent \$2.5 million per year on tree plantings in 2023? A: [MDA] No. It was an ambitious goal to get all of the money spent at the start, given that this is additional money on top of existing cost-share.

Q: The CBI sign up window has been so short and my understanding the budget is capped at \$400,000. Will this sign-up period change given this larger funding of \$2.5 million? A: This is correct. The budget is limited and the \$2.5 million cannot replace that but be used on top of existing cost-share.

Suggestion from [chat]: *One option would be to have more of the CBI payments go to forest planting. A majority of acres in that program go to grass buffers, currently 10 :1 grass buffers to forest buffers. Hold half the acres and associated funding for forest buffers. This would help take advantage of the \$2.5 million incentive funding, and not lose this funding.*

### **Agroforestry Interest**

Guest Speaker: Alisha Mulkey, MDA

Alisha summarized initiatives related to the Healthy Soils Program, which has a long-list of eligible practices geared towards in-field and productive soils (rather than land retirement). The program is going into its 3<sup>rd</sup> year. There has been strong applicant interest in agroforestry practices. Most interest has been in tree and shrub establishment, silvopasture and some alley cropping. Producers are looking to diversify revenue in the farm setting. The Healthy Soils Program is leveraging the CBI and MACS funding where possible with the interest in tree-planting as it relates to agroforestry. The demand for the program is larger than the budget, so additional dollars elsewhere are helpful. Collaboration with DNR is on-going. A new 5 million dollars has been secured for agroforestry from EPA through their Climate Pollution Reduction Grants to be applied both on private and public lands. Nick Miller, MDA, is coordinating all these efforts.

### **Select Post-Presentation Discussion and Q&A:**

Jason Keppler: There is a form that farmers can complete to get the additional \$2 per tree incentive. It is in addition to the MACS or Healthy Soils enrollment that Jason will send out the District Managers.

Alisha Mulkey: MDA has had discussions in reference to the native tree requirement in the 5 million trees goal. It is sometimes a barrier for producers looking to get into agroforestry via

something like fruit production. There is perhaps room for discussion on future flexibility in the programs with DNR.

*Q: If the \$2.5 million per year can only go to incentives, not to implementation or maintenance, AND the money is not being spent maybe we look at adding flexibility into the use of funding towards maintenance of new CREP projects or expand CBI. If there are limiting factors that keep the whole \$2.5 million from being spent, can we put more money to the limiting factors? Is there anything we can do to prevent losing that money?* A: [MDA] We are only authorized to do what is written in the legislation.

## **SSCC Admin**

**Annual Chair Selection:** Van Funk was appointed to another 1-year term as SSCC Chair upon proper motion, second, and vote. (Posey/Freeman)

**Area Representatives:** Interested names for Area representation on the SSCC will be presented to Secretary Atticks for consideration and appointment.

Area 1 (Western MD): Edward Wurmb's term expired June 2024. He will continue in his duties until another supervisor appointment is made. Alisha and Loretta will send out an e-mail shortly to Area 1 District Managers and Board Chairs to solicit current Board supervisors.

Area 3 (Upper Shore): Steve Freeman, term expiration July 2024. Steve expressed willingness to serve another 4-year term. His name will be submitted to the Secretary for consideration.

SCD Minutes: Please include Loretta Collins ([loretta.collins@maryland.gov](mailto:loretta.collins@maryland.gov)) when submitting approved monthly minutes to the SSCC for archiving.

## **MASCD Training Session: Reflections & Next Steps**

Facilitator: Van Funk, Chair

At the annual MASCD meeting in July, keynote speaker Brad Gringas talked about generational differences in communications and expectations and provided a state committee training. Many good questions and points-of-view were expressed at the meeting. From there... what next? What do we do with that information to move forward?

Opened the floor for comments:

- *It's a pertinent topic given the generational range of the SCD Boards.*
- *Several folks identified with challenges of understanding and communicating with different age groups and wondered, 'Is there something I can do differently?'*
- *Slides from Gringas presentation provided an opportunity for further discussions with those that could not attend. [Keynote speech slides and training session slides available on the MASCD website: <https://mascd.net/2024-mascd-annual-meeting/> ]*

## **REPORTS**

### MD. Department of Agriculture – Byron Petrauskas w/ Jason Keppler:

- Nutrient Management Program: Food Processing Regulations delayed due to a hearing request. New anticipated date is Sept 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Approval letters for cover crops have been going out this week. The late termination incentive was removed due to budget constraints. There has been a record sign-up anticipated and the removal was needed to stay within budget.
- District operations: A new process requires that fiscal services review position vacancies before going to HR. Paperwork for all the positions in the SCDs is now at HR and hopefully all vacancies will be advertised within the next month.
- Budget cuts: District operations impacted and anticipating some further constraints leading into the end of this year. So far there have been no major issues, and cuts have been absorbed with little disruption.
- Small Farm and Urban Ag: 100,000K was cut from budget so looking for alternative funding.

*Q: Has everyone been paid from last year [in the cover crop program]? A: [Jason] There is only one outstanding payment from last year, due to a nutrient management issue, but all others should have been processed.*

*Q: Is there any way to get payments out faster? A: [Jason] Several factors can affect speed of payments, including farmer timing with reporting, processing time at SCDs, and processing time at MDA. We have two full-time employees that exclusively look at claims for payments which can be around 1,300-1,400 records. This year MDA implemented an automated payment processing system, which makes processing much faster. MDA is always looking for ways to make it more efficient. MDA has also temporarily detailed newer MACS employees to help during the busy processing season. The aim is to have payments done within 30 days of receipt.*

### MD. Department of Natural Resources – Rob Feldt:

- Over 400K trees planted in FY 2024 by DNR staff across MD, including 340 acres of buffers installed which is the most in recent years.
- Budget: Reductions in general fund will affect the MD Forestry Education Fund that may impact partners, somewhat hampering forestry education efforts. There were also small reductions to some urban tree planting projects, but planting is still occurring.

### MD. Department of Environment – Jim George:

- Darren Alice, MDE's Chief of Animal Feeding Operation Division left in July. Replacement TBD.
- The MDE Land Management Administration's Animal Feeding Operations Division is going to be conducting a listening session for the next general discharge permit at UMES on Sep 23, 2024 from 5pm-8pm. Another listening session is being planned in either Frederick, Carroll, or Baltimore County. A venue has not been finalized. Contact: Bradley Baker -MDE- <bradley.baker1@maryland.gov>

University of Maryland Extension – Darren Jarboe:

The Agricultural Nutrient Management Program (ANMP) FY 2024 accomplishments were:

- 244,716 acres planned for 2024
- 312,592 total acres (includes acres for plans written for 2025 and 2026)
- 19,538 fields planned
- 1,125 farmers served
- All farmer requests with complete data received a plan

AgFS Extension and 4-H have been working with State Public Health Veterinarian Dr. David Crum to distribute personal protection equipment to dairy farmers and their employees to protect them from highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cattle. Pallets of materials are moving through the Extension offices to fulfill farmer requests for PPE.

Drone schools for ornamental horticulture and row-crop producers, and a Tech Day in collaboration with Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Association were conducted the past two months. The Tech Day was held at Ruppert's Nursery in Laytonsville on June 20 with over 100 participants.

Twelve Extension Workforce Development interns completed their internships in early August. They gave final presentations about their experiences on August 1 at the Central Maryland Research and Education Center at Clarksville. All 12 learned about the role of an Extension agent and had a good experience.

The 2024-2025 Maryland Association of County Agricultural Agents Officers were elected at the Annual Meeting in June.

- Kelly Nichols, President
- Dr. Sarah Hirsh, Immediate Past President
- Erika Crowl, President-Elect
- Dr. Amanda Grev, Vice President
- Emily Zobel, Treasurer
- Dr. Dwayne Joseph, Secretary

LEAD Maryland Class XIII's international study trip will visit Portugal.

The Agriculture and Food Systems (AgFS) Program has nine open positions. Candidates have accepted the AgFS vegetable production specialist and ruminant livestock specialist positions. The Caroline County AgFS educator position will be reopened for recruitment of candidates. A new faculty specialist for local foods and entrepreneurship has been developed and submitted into the University of Maryland human resources system.

The ANMP program director and faculty specialist candidate presentations and second interviews are in the process of being completed. The nutrient management advisor positions in Anne Arundel, Carroll, and Charles Counties will be posted on eTerp soon.

Andrea Franchini was selected as a Regional Network Coordinator for the AgriProspects Workforce Development Network.

Dr. Nat Tablante was appointed professor emeritus in Veterinary Medicine due to his long-time service to poultry industry.

Francis Warring, the Nutrient Management Advisor in Charles County, retired.

### Awards

Dr. Amanda Grev received the AGNR Off-Campus Junior Faculty Award.

Paul Goeringer, legal specialist with the Agriculture Education Initiative, received the UMD 2024 Professional Track Faculty Excellence Award for Service.

### National Association of County Agricultural Agents Awards

Dr. Sarah Hirsh, Achievement Award

Paul Goeringer, Distinguished Service Award

Emily Zobel, Audio Recording, National Finalist, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Shannon Dill, Search for Excellence in Crop Production National Finalist, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Andrea Franchini, Event Promotional Package, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Dr. Haley Sater, Fact Sheet, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Dr. Drew Schiavone, Newsletter, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Dr. Amanda Grev, Personal Column, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Jennifer Rhodes, Publication, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Dr. Haley Sater, Published Photo, Regional Winner, and State Winner

Paul Goeringer, Educational Video Recordings, State Winner

Paul Goeringer, Learning Module/Notebook, State Winner

Paul Goeringer, Website/Online Content, State Winner

### Grants

University of Delaware and Jon Moyle. 2024. Implementing the Lessons Learned from the 2022-2023 Delmarva HPAI on Farm Response: Managing On-Site Mortality. USDA-APHIS. \$310,998.

Ristvey, A.R., S.A Gill, D.L. Clement, and H. Kumar. 2024. Precision Horticulture using Unpiloted Aerial Vehicles as part of an Integrated Plant Management Approach for Ornamental Nurseries. Extension Foundation New Technologies for Agriculture Extension. \$97,476.

H. Kumar. Optimizing Watermelon Spraying: Assessing Drones for Effectiveness and Efficiency. Mar-Del Watermelon Association. \$14,945.

Jarboe, D. 2024. Agricultural Nutrient Management Program. Maryland Department of Agriculture, \$1,271,000.

Jarboe, D. 2024. Agricultural Nutrient Management Program. Maryland Department of Agriculture, \$475,000.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Sherri DeGraphenreed: [post-meeting adjustments per NRCS]

- A record year [in funding] is on pace to obligate about \$19.98 million for EQIP as of this meeting; \$8.6 million obligated to RCPP Classic; \$11.7 million currently obligated from Inflation Reduction Act (ACT), but on target to reach \$13.8 million.



- Planning a huge program roll-out in ~~October or November~~ [1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December]. This will include training via general sessions and breakouts on programs and allocations and how to market conservation. An important aim is to combat misunderstanding about how programs work.
- CSP minimum payments have increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000 per year. Minimum payment for an entire 5-year contract is \$20,000 for newly approved contracts. For all current active CSP contracts starting with FY24 the payments will be adjusted moving forward so that all current contracts will have the new minimum payment from FY24 until the contract expiration. New minimum also applies to re-enrollment.
- The CSP program is being streamlined to allow for easier producer participation, as well as to educate producers on how to utilize both EQIP and CSP on the ground at the same time to address/enhance different resource concerns. Contract modifications can be made for CSP payments based on changes in an operation during the lifetime of the project. Producers can request modifications any time there is a change to their operation or management that has the potential to impact their ability to fulfill their contracts. Participants may decide the timing of payments in CSP (e.g., receiving payment this year vs. next year for tax reasons).
- Farm Bill still under negotiation. NRCS is working collaboratively with FSA on issues with payment limitations and eligibility challenges.
- NRCS is looking at launching a CSP urban program to target smaller, urban producers. Farm Bill Program sign up will open earlier this year about Mid-September and run through end of October, please encourage all landowners and producers who wish to apply for assistance to go ahead and do so now, expecting another year of record funding and record number of applications. Maryland will utilize the ACT NOW funding process applications more efficiently, inquire with your local field offices to about these opportunities and others.
- Sherri DeGraphenreed is now the permanent Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Maryland.

Farm Services Agency – Laura Pleasanton:

- The Grassland CRP sign-up recently ended. Waiting to find out if 7 offers in MD will be accepted. The program has had muted interest because as of the last sign-up it was announced that enrollees can no longer hay in the primary nesting season. This has reduced interest in the program and may result in FSA asking for some last-minute conservation plans from NRCS and MDA in the next month.
- It's CRP reenrollment season now. FSA is grateful for all the status views completed and the conservation plans that are in the works.
- As the end of the fiscal year approaches, offers could be in limbo if the Farm Bill lapses. FSA is waiting on authority to enroll those new CRP contracts. In the past the lapse has not been long. FSA can't predict what is going to happen. Please communicate with your producers, because this could delay ability to pay producers or get new contracts moving.
- 2024 Organic Certification Cost-Share program sign-up runs until Oct 31. It covers expensed for obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the national program.

- Drought conditions are still hurting producers. *The Livestock Forage Disaster Program* has kicked off in Garrett, Allegany, Washington and Frederick Counties due to their status on the US drought monitor. Payments are based on number and type of livestock and number of acres of pasture. There is an on-line sign-up. If anyone in those counties is interested, they can head to their county office for more info. There is also a low-interest loan available in nine of Western Shore counties based on the national disaster designations due to drought.
- Farm Loans: The recently finalized *Enhancing Access and Delivery for Farms Loan Rule* will result in a lot of changes for the farm loan team and their borrowers. Its intent is to increase opportunities for farmers and ranchers so that they can be financially viable. The most notable changes are the establishment of a new low interest installment set aside program for people in financial distress, more flexible repayment terms and reduction to the amount of loan security and collateral requirements. These changes should not increase delinquencies but improve program performance and benefit the borrower. A few of our office staff will be heading to national training next week and then they will host regional trainings.

MASCD – Jen Nelson:

MASCD hosted our 2024 Annual Meeting on July 8-10 in Cambridge. Thanks to everyone who was able to come out and join us. We had a productive meeting for the MASCD board, members and partners to share updates and information. Our keynote speaker, Brad Gingras, gave us some things to think about related to different generations in the workplace and on our boards. Presentations and other meeting materials are available on MASCD's website. <https://mascd.net/2024-mascd-annual-meeting/>. As always, we enjoyed getting together during the crab feast, celebrating award recipients at the banquet and having a good time at the auction to benefit the Endowment Fund. Thanks again to the Lower Shore for hosting the meeting!

Maryland's Envirothon Team from Harford County placed 3rd at the NCF Envirothon in Geneva, New York – 50 teams competed this year, with students focusing on the current issue topic of "Renewable Energy for a Sustainable Future. Congratulations to the Maryland team!

NACD Summer Meeting and Northeast Region Meeting was held August 9 – 14 in Boston, MA. This year's meeting offered several tours and time on the agenda to get out and explore the city. As always, it was a great opportunity to meet with colleagues from across the country.

Maryland Bay Friendly Farming Program- Chelsea Gebbia is preparing to send out letters to past participants of the FSCAP Program to invite them to be recertified under the new program. We are also working to coordinate a farm visit with MDA and NRCS staff to review the certification protocol, and how well the evaluation aligns with the evaluation for the CSP Program. If the process for eligibility is similar, we can offer the evaluation as a potential option for farmers to participate in both the Maryland BFF and CSP programs if they are interested.

Partnership Press- a new issue of the Press is out! You can find the current issue at <https://mascd.net/partnership-press-3/>

Area 1 (Western) - Ed Wurmb: NO REPORT

Area 2 (Southern) - Amy Posey:

Bruce Young (St. Mary's SCD) and Steve Darcy (Prince George's SCD) have volunteered for the Forest Clearing Workgroup being organized by SSCC Chair Van Funk.

Charles County:

Over 10,000 acres were enrolled under latest cover crop sign-up.

St. Mary's County:

District/NRCS/MDA staff and Earth Team volunteers are volunteering to distribute food at two Farmers Feeding St. Mary's events. Produce will be purchased from the Loveville Auction House and made available to St. Mary's County citizens. Funding to purchase the food is from the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, St. Mary's County Department of Economic Development, and St. Mary's County Department of Aging & Human Services. Other partners are the University of Maryland College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Feed St. Mary's.

The 2025 annual plan is under development and will be approved at the September district board meeting.

Hog Point Shoreline Stabilization plan on Patuxent River Naval Air Station has received the Maryland Water Quality Certification and Wetlands license. Waiting on Corps of Engineers permit for a fall construction start.

Area 3 (Upper Shore) - Steve Freeman: no report

Area 4 (Central) - Van Funk:

Cecil:

- An info booth to spotlight BMPs, educational highlights, and cooperators of the year videos. Provided district MDA conservation grant updates during the ag showcase event and provided outreach during the children's day events.

Harford:

- North Harford HS represented MD at the 2024 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon in Geneva, New York. Harford placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, TN was 1<sup>st</sup> place and NY 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Congratulations to them and all that helped to prepare them.
- On July 2<sup>nd</sup> board members met with county executive Rob Cassilly and discussed the prospects of the SCD rejoining and co-locating with FSA and NRCS at a new location. Cassilly acknowledged the SCD's committed efforts to co-locate at the Ag Center over the last 5 or 6 years. Due to these efforts, Cassilly has released Harford SCD from its obligation to remain at the Ag Center. The Harford SCD Board, in consultation with FSA, NRCS, and MDA, has initiated a process to co-locate with FSA and NRCS at a new location.
- Annual cooperators dinner is being planned for the fall. Stay tuned for details.

Area 5 (Lower Shore) - Terry Nuwer:

The drought has broken on the Eastern Shore.

Dorchester:

- Adopted its by-laws as of June 12<sup>th</sup>

Worcester:

- Hosted staff outreach table for the Blessing of the Combines in Snow Hill on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>

Somerset:

- Partners are working on conservation farm plans and answering questions about the FY 2025 cover crop program.

Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset:

- Hosted an outreach table at the UMES Lower Shore Ag Showcase in Princess Anne sponsored by Simplot and John Deere.
- Donated \$2500 to the Worcester County FFA Horse Judging team for their national trip to Indy where they won the state level competition for the second year in a row.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Loretta Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Loretta Collins  
Executive Secretary

**SSCC Attendance: August 15, 2024**

\*In-person

**Members:**

Van Funk\*  
Amy Posey  
Steve Freeman\*  
Ed Wurmb  
Terry Nuwer  
Byron Petrauskas (proxy for Hans W. Schmidt)  
Rob Feldt\*  
Jim George  
Darren Jarboe\*  
John Swaine\*  
Sherri DeGraphenreed\* (proxy for Suzy Daubert)  
Laura Pleasanton (proxy for John Sullivan)

**Absent:**

John Murphy

**SCD Representation:**

Allegany: None  
Anne Arundel: None  
Baltimore County: None  
Calvert: Jason Leavitt  
Caroline: None  
Carroll: None  
Cecil: None  
Charles: Dee Dee Saunders, Luis Dieguez, Tim Wells  
Dorchester: Karen Houtman  
Frederick County: Heather Hutchinson, Diane Flickinger  
Garrett: None  
Harford: Ruth Cassilly, Quintin Cornwell  
Howard: David Plummer  
Kent: Robert Baldwin  
Montgomery: None  
Prince George's: Gail Myers, John Tarr  
Queen Anne's: None  
Somerset: Mark Carey  
St. Mary's: Bruce Young, Haley Carter  
Talbot: None  
Washington County: Mark Kandle, Lori Flook-Bishop, Dee Price  
Wicomico: Rick Glasgow  
Worcester: Chelsea Tyson

**MDA Staff:**

Adam Lyon  
Alisha Mulkey

Loretta Collins\*  
Jason Keppler\*  
Elizabeth Hoffman  
Justin Hayes, OAG  
Tom Filbert, OAG

**Other:**

Rob Schnabel, CBF  
Anne Hairston-Strang, DNR\*