

AGENDA
SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 27, 2023, @ 7 p.m.
23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE

I Call to Order

II Agenda Modifications

III Approval of Agenda

IV Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

V Recognition of Visitors

VI Correspondence

VII Reports:

- District Accountant's Report – Dan Lee (P 2)
- Equipment Manager's Report – Stephen Gissy (P 5)
- District Conservationist's Report – Thelton "Ziggy" Savage (P 6)
- Sediment & Stormwater Manager's Report – Jessica Watson (P 7)
- DNREC Conversation Program Report – Tyler Brown (P 8)
- Nutrient Management Program Administrator's Report- Chris Brosch
- DACD Executive Director's Report – Jen Nelson (P 11)
- Agricultural Program Report – Debbie Absher (P 12)
- District Coordinator's Report – David Baird (P 14)

VII Items Requiring Board Action

1. Cost Share Payments
 - a. Large Animal Mortality
 - b. Yoder Wildlife Pond and Water Control Structure
2. Local Workgroup Recommendations to NRCS
3. Tax Ditch Commissioner Appointment
4. Equipment Purchases
 - a. Excavator
 - b. Pipe Trailer
 - c. Mowing Tractor
5. September Board Meeting - Date Change

IX Adjournment

Pursuant to 29 Del. C. § 10004 (e) (2), the Agenda items as listed may not be considered in sequence. This Agenda is subject to change to include additional items, including Executive Sessions, which arise during the meeting.

Sussex Conservation District
Cash Report
May 2023

<i>Fulton Bank - Checking</i>	
Bank Balance Per Statement	\$1,354,057.51
Add: Deposits in Transit	\$0.00
Less: Outstanding Checks	(\$34,202.67)
Balance in G/L - End of Month	\$1,319,854.84
<i>Fulton Bank - Payroll</i>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$0.00
Add: Cash Receipts	\$275,530.71
Less: Cash Disbursements	(\$275,530.71)
Ending G/L Balance	\$0.00
<i>Citizens Bank - Checking</i>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$1,931,226.26
Add: Cash Receipts	\$0.00
Less: Cash Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending G/L Balance	\$1,931,226.26
<i>Citizens Bank - Money Market</i>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$3,651,335.38
Add: Cash Receipts	\$30,606.37
Less: Cash Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending G/L Balance	\$3,681,941.75
<i>Fulton Bank - Merchant</i>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$15,854.22
Add: Cash Receipts	\$1,987.50
Less: Cash Disbursements	(\$85.71)
Ending G/L Balance	\$17,756.01
<i>Artisans Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 11/01/23</i>	\$249,135.95
<i>Bank of Delmarva - Certificate of Deposit - 2/28/24</i>	\$249,679.56
<i>County Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 01/28/24</i>	\$247,892.59
<i>Community Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 05/12/23</i>	\$248,959.00
<i>Del-One - Certificate of Deposit - 4/19/24</i>	\$490,443.27
<i>Hebron Savings Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 04/04/23</i>	\$249,138.13
<i>Fulton ICS MM Accounts</i>	\$0.00
<i>WTC Investments</i>	\$3,500,215.35
<i>Petty Cash</i>	\$279.14
<i>Total All Bank Accounts</i>	\$12,186,521.85

**Sussex Conservation District
Cash Report
May 2023**

2023	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
	Sussex Conservation District Funds	<u>\$3,226,710.36</u>	\$3,226,710.36
	RESTRICTED FUNDS		
	Stormwater Management Funds	restricted \$4,073,031.27	
	Stormwater Cash Bonds Held	Liability \$1,928,726.26	
	Cost Share Funding	deferred \$2,220,619.73	
	3921 Funding	deferred \$343,263.56	
	Sussex County Drainage Funding	deferred \$47,980.67	
	Stormwater Management Funds	deferred \$7,500.00	
	Prothonotary Items	deferred \$7,270.00	
	Various projects - 2	deferred \$331,420.00	
			<u>\$8,959,811.49</u>
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$12,186,521.85
2022	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS		
	Sussex Conservation District Funds	<u>\$2,607,606.44</u>	\$2,607,606.44
	RESTRICTED FUNDS		
	Stormwater Management Funds	restricted \$3,361,608.02	
	Stormwater Cash Bonds Held	Liability \$1,928,726.26	
	Cost Share Funding	deferred \$2,112,398.04	
	3921 Funding	deferred \$122,066.55	
	Sussex County Drainage Funding	deferred \$49,910.13	
	Stormwater Management Funds	deferred \$7,500.00	
	Prothonotary Items	deferred \$5,315.00	
	Various projects	deferred \$431,074.96	
			<u>\$8,018,598.96</u>
	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$10,626,205.40
2021	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$ 7,935,858.83
2020	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$ 8,764,268.92
2019	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$ 8,860,757.78
2018	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$ 9,356,039.68
2017	TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END		\$ 8,923,445.81

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY 2023

May had a net profit (loss) of \$54,940 compared to a net profit (loss) of \$184,967 for the same period in 2022. Year to date, the District has a net profit (loss) of \$702,492 compared to a net profit (loss) of \$502,336 for 2022. The following is a net profit (loss) summary by department:

Department	May		Year To Date	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Equipment	\$19,841	\$63,051	\$132,542	\$59,430
Agriculture	(\$67,838)	(\$26,000)	(\$71,951)	\$82,322
Stormwater	\$132,983	\$132,543	\$321,933	\$410,440
Administrative	(\$26,429)	\$14,935	\$154,049	\$124,308
Project Design	(\$3,617)	\$438	(\$4,096)	\$2,645
Operating Profit (Loss)	\$54,940	\$184,967	\$532,477	\$679,145
Investments	\$0	\$0	\$170,015	(\$176,809)
Net Profit (Loss)	\$54,940	\$184,967	\$702,492*	\$502,336

(*) Year to Date Net Income:	Total Revenue	\$ 6,614,958
	Cost of Sales	\$ 1,069,895
	Gross Profit	\$ 5,545,063
	Expenses	\$ 4,842,571
	Net Income (Loss)	\$ 702,492*

COST SHARE DOLLARS

Department	Paid Out May		Paid Out Year to Date	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
General Cost Share	\$1,896,328	\$1,275,643	\$2,698,221	\$1,693,935
3921 Funds	\$24,890	\$21,686	\$176,334	\$138,995
County Drainage	\$14,711	\$6,638	\$55,138	\$33,216
Total Cost Share Dollars	\$1,935,929	\$1,303,967	\$2,929,693	\$1,866,146

Department	Cash Balance	
	2023	2022
General Cost Share	\$2,220,620	\$2,192,398
3921 Funds	\$343,264	\$122,067
County Drainage	\$47,981	\$49,910
Total Cost Share Dollars	\$2,611,865	\$2,364,375

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

EQUIPMENT PROGRAM REPORT

May 2023

Over the past month, the equipment program has completed various projects. We are working on private drainage work and RC&D projects in Sussex County, with two large projects in progress (Holly Ridge Terrace Drainage Improvements & Ward Cordrey Tax Ditch Pipe Replacements). We have been busy with calls from various tax ditches requesting cost-share sign-up estimates. We recently purchased a utility locator to help with damage prevention and employee safety for work close to utilities. Miss Utility has become very unreliable and careless with their locating. One locator even told us it is just cheaper for them to fix it than have it marked correctly.

Total Estimates for 2023: 113

Total Estimates for May: 45

Recently Completed Projects:

- JJ Carter- Wetland Creation
- Deer Run Acres Phase I- Drainage Improvements
- Johnson Road Pipe Replacement
- Bee Branch- Dip Out
- Meadow Branch- Dip Out
- Paynter's Mill- Drainage Repairs
- St Johnstown- Dip Out
- Best Lane- Rip Rap Repair
- East Village- Catch Basin Repair
- Georgia Dr- Drainage Improvements

Recently started or Projects starting soon:

- Holly Ridge- Drainage Improvements- WIP
- Ward Cordrey- Pipe Replacements- WIP
- Town of Frankford- Drainage Improvements
- Twin Maple Farms- Pond Cleanout
- Marvin Hill- Pipe Replacement
- Brian Warrington- Drainage Improvements
- Blackpool Rd- Drainage Improvements
- Seward Circle- Basin Installation
- Conaway- Drainage Improvements
- DE Coastal Airpark- Mowing
- City of Seaford- Mowing

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

May 18, 2023, to June 21, 2023

EQIP

- Planners have completed contracts for FY- 23. 51 contracts were completed, obligating just over 3.4 million dollars.
- We will continue to accept applications for FY-24

EQIP/CIC

- These are 5-year contracts with a \$200,000 payment limitation. Payment limitations are separate from EQIP. One contract is obligated for \$88,404.00.

EQIP/IRA (Inflation Reduction Act)

- Funds are targeted towards Climate Smart Ag. Practices. The categories are Soil Health, Nitrogen Mgt., Livestock Partnership, Grazing & Pasture, Agroforestry, Forest and Upland Wildlife habitat, Energy, and Wetlands. The funding level for FY-23 was \$787,000. We had nine contracts obligated for \$295,355.00.

AMA/RMA

- Planners developed six contracts, obligating \$133,752.00.
- Accepting applications for FY-24

CSP/IRA

- Like EQIP/IRA, but it is for participants that sign up through CSP for the same targeted Climate Smart Ag. Practice categories.
- We are accepting applications for FY-24.

CSP

- We received two applications.
- one application is currently being assessed and ranked.
- We are accepting applications for FY-24.

WRE

- We are accepting applications for FY-24.

RCPP

- The Delaware Bay/ Inland Bay project for cover crops. District planners have completed assessments and rankings for contract preapproval. There are eight applications accepted for preapproval. There is a possibility of moving into the 2nd batch. Most, if not all, of the funding will be utilized.

1. Inspections and Site Visits

- **Conservation Practice Installation and Completion Inspections:**
Reed and Korey are completing project installation inspections for past/present contracts.

2. Surveys/Designs

- Reed and Korey are completing any outstanding surveys and designs for FY-23 projects.

3. Other Business

- Planners continue reviewing prior year management practice records for payment and reporting progress.
- Reviews/management of current contracts are taking place to ensure contract compliance.
- Covid updates: The F.O. is currently operating at 100% capacity, with masks required as needed.
- There are a variety of jobs being advertised for Delaware NRCS positions.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SEDIMENT AND STORMWATER PROGRAM
June 2023

Detailed Plan Review/Approval:

Staff continues to process plan submittals, pre-app/engineering meetings, and technical support. Staff reviewed 35 plans and approved 15 for the month. We also Staff had 6 pre-application meetings.

Standard Plan Review/Approval:

- 4 Non-Residential
- 6 Minor Linear
- 1 Demolition
- 1 Agriculture

As-Built Plan Review:

Staff reviewed 15 as-built surveys.

Inspection: - 380 Inspections

Field staff continues to be busy in the field. New projects continue to contact us for pre-construction meetings. Pre-construction meetings – 12

Maintenance Inspection – 74

Closed-out stormwater projects are inspected, and reports that provide routine/preventive maintenance information are generated. The goal is to ensure the continued function of the stormwater facility.

Buddy Griffith provides compliance inspection on single-family lot construction. He works with builders on the requirements under the Residential Standard Plan (silt fence and stone construction entrances). He and Faith work together on home construction complaints and contacting non-compliant builders.

Drainage/Construction Complaints: - 28

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DNREC- CONSERVATION PROGRAMS REPORT

June 2023

Program Updates and News

Tax Ditch and Drainage Programs

- The Tax Ditch Program participated in the Sussex County Association of Realtors (SCAOR) and the New Castle County Board of Realtors (NCBOR) Training for continuing education credits on May 16th and 31st respectively. Our presentation included an overview of tax ditch basics, their impact on properties, and the importance of disclosing the presence of a tax ditch channel and right-of-way on a property to buyers and sellers during real estate transactions. There were 74 Delaware Realtors in attendance between the two events.
- On June 21st The Department will present the FY23 RC&D Annual Report to the Bond Bill Committee. The Districts were requested to provide updates and recommendations for the report before June 9th. This FY has been the most productive year in the history of the RC&D program in all three Counties; final numbers will be presented to the District Boards in July.
- **Reminders:**
 - Tax Ditch eNOIs for work completed in 2022-2023 must be reviewed and terminated. Be sure the Tax Ditch Program is aware of dipout project statuses by June 30 to ensure proper processing before annual billing.
 - If a tax ditch desires to have the Tax Ditch Program perform an audit for cost share eligibility, Heather Hitchens must receive records no later than June 30.

Staffing Updates

- Ivette Clayton, the Tax Ditch Communications & Outreach Specialist, is no longer with the Drainage Program. Her last day was Friday, June 2, 2023. She will be moving to Mississippi due to military orders.

Item that Requires Board Action:

- Tax Ditch Commissioner Appointments – The following Tax Ditch Commissioner and Alternate Appointments expire on July 31, 2023: Richard Carlisle, Wm. Mark Prettyman, John Timmons, and John Mills. The DNREC Tax Ditch Program recommends the following individuals for (re)appointment to fill these vacancies.

Commissioner: Leogla Wright – 3-year term expiring on 7/31/26

Alternate: James H. Baxter, IV – 1-year term expiring on 7/31/24

Alternate: John Mills – 1-year term expiring on 7/31/24

Alternate: Bryan Jones – 1-year term expiring on 7/31/24

The DNREC Tax Ditch Program has also provided an updated list of 10 individuals for consideration and to help satisfy the requirement in § 4106 of the Tax Ditch Law for submission to the court with the appointment paperwork from the District Board.

Sediment & Stormwater Program

- The 2023 Certified Construction Reviewer (CCR) Recertification training has been scheduled for October 4 & 11 from 8 am – 12 noon. The training will be conducted virtually via MS Teams. Individuals eligible to recertify will be emailed with registration information in August 2023. CCRs who have not previously provided their email address or whose email addresses have changed since they were certified should send their name, email address, CCR number, and phone number to DNREC.Stormwater@delaware.gov.

Staffing Updates/Vacancies

- Bonnie Arvey has accepted the position of Principal Planner in the Sediment and Stormwater Program. She will continue to serve as Program Manager II in an acting capacity until that position is filled.
- Vacancy (posted) - [Stormwater Engineer I](#) - This position reviews sediment and stormwater plans for state and federal projects, providing guidance to the Delegated Agencies, consultants, the regulated community, and public and private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
- Vacancy (post pending) – Administrative Specialist II - This position is primarily responsible for managing the eNOI system users' accounts and annual fee billings, processing construction general permit approvals and terminations, processing fiscal and contracting documents, providing phone support and other related administrative tasks.

Nonpoint Source and Chesapeake Implementation Programs

- The Nonpoint Source Program has conducted several croplands transect surveys to identify conservation tillage methods across the state. So far, the team has completed all survey points in Sussex County and sampled most of Kent County and some of New Castle County's agricultural lands.
- The freshwater mussel survey team plans to conduct two stream surveys looking for the presence/absence of freshwater mussels in DE, particularly in the St. Jones and White Clay Creek watersheds.
- Chesapeake Implementation Program (CIP) continues to visit potential project locations for its Riparian Forest Buffer Incentive Program and Delaware Community Conservation Program.
 - The next Riparian Forest Buffer Coordinating Committee Meeting will be **June 14th**; committee members will visit tree planting sites at Blackbird State Forest as part of the meeting.
- CIP is finalizing cover crop funding allocations awarded from the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG III) for this upcoming fall.

Reminder:

- State Finance is currently working on FY23 Year-End Closeouts. This may delay Purchase Order requests and invoice payments for grant agreements. Finance is expected to resume normal fiscal transactions in early July.

Staffing Updates:

- Clare Gooch is leaving DNREC and moving to Germany. Her last day with the state will be June 30th. Clare's primary role is data collection and management of BMP data for the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Progress reporting. We are currently working on getting a job posting together for this position and will provide updates when it is released.

Spotlight

On May 16th, 13 members of the CPS staff helped to remove trash and debris from the section of the Delaware Seashore State Park that the section has adopted. During the clean-up, over 30 lbs. of garbage was removed!



SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DACD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE
June 2023

Updates:

- **DACD’s Contribution Agreement with NRCS-** DACD, NRCS, and the Districts significantly invested this month to develop work plans for a new contribution agreement beginning October 1, 2023. The new agreement will include increased outreach for CSP and historically underserved farmers and a new technician position in Sussex County.
- **NFWF Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant approved!**- MASCD received notice that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has approved \$983,486.00 for the Accelerating Implementation of Nature-Based Structural Practices on Delmarva project, pending the successful completion of our programmatic and fiscal review process. The project budget includes \$500,000 for implementing nature-based structural practices in Delaware’s tax ditch watersheds (non-tidal wetland creation projects, floodplain restoration/reconnection projects, shoreline management, and riparian buffers). It includes incentive funding for tax ditch organizations where projects are implemented. Outreach plans for the project include a display at Delaware Ag Week and field days and webinars to highlight successful projects. Details n about program guidelines, projects to highlight, and a detailed out, reach plan need to be worked out. Chelsea Gebbia will reach out to the Districts and DNREC to start coordinating.
- **USDA 2501 Grant Opportunity-** USDA’s 2501 program was established to support partners in reaching out to underserved and veteran farmers using a locally-led approach. DACD has been talking with the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts about [their Conservation Agriculture Reaches Everyone \(CARE\) Program](#) and is seeking feedback to establish a similar program in Delaware. In a preliminary conversation with OK’s executive director Sarah Blaney, we walked through potential project components that included outreach, cost-share, translation for materials, and even working with schools to increase participation in the Envirothon. USDA is seeking proposals to fund this opportunity up to \$750,000 for a three-year project, due July 25. Some statistics on underserved farmers in Delaware from the 2017 Ag Census:

Producers by Race:	Number
American Indian or Alaska Native	2
Asian	55
Black or African American	24
White	3,811
More than one race reported	15
Military Service:	390
New and Beginning Producers:	851

Important Dates:

DATE	EVENT
<i>July 15 - 19</i>	NACD Summer Meeting in Bismarck, ND
<i>July TBD</i>	DACD Board Meeting
<i>Feb 10 – 14, 2024</i>	NACD Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM REPORT

June 2023

Grants

- Many discussions took place over the past few months regarding the NRCS – DACD Contribution Agreement that begins October 1, 2023. An agreement was finally reached, and we are now waiting for the agreement. SCD’s work plan, in the amount of \$472,750, includes technical assistance and outreach funding.
- SCD requested and was granted two no-cost extensions for two NRCS Contribution Agreements. The first is Agreement 1821J2XXXXC005 – RCPP Project – Protecting the Delaware Bay and Inland Bays with Cover Crops, and the second is Agreement 1821J2XXXXC001 – Coastal Migration. An extension has been requested of the RCPP so that we can bill for technical assistance for contract follow-up and planting and destruction inspections. All contracts will be written and obligated for planting in the fall this summer. The second agreement is NR2021J2XXXXC001 – Coastal Migration Plans. We are in the final year of this agreement and requested a no-cost extension to allow for more time to finalize the 1,000 acres of coastal migration plans.
- As part of another contribution agreement with NRCS, filming a TV commercial promoting the NRCS Black Duck Program was completed in May. Chad Mitchell was the spokesperson, along with Chase Colmorgen from Ducks Unlimited. The commercial will begin airing in late July and should run through September. The second climate-smart practices commercial was filmed on June 15th and will air on a similar schedule from late July through September. Jay Baxter and Kyle Hearn of NRCS were the spokespersons in the commercial. SCD also negotiated a one-year extension on this agreement to include the cost of airtime (\$100,000) to run these commercials along with the WRE and cover crop commercials next year and \$10,000 for support for the Delmarva Soil Summit in February.
- Several months ago, SCD submitted several grant proposals to DNREC – Nonpoint Source Program for the Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant and the EPA 319 NPS grant for cover crops and Delmarva Soil Summit support. We have received verbal approval from the CBIG requests:
 - CBIG III– Implementation of cover crops in the Most Effective Basin - \$356,540
 - CBIG III – Implementation of cover crops in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed - \$150,000
 - CBIG III – Funding to support a Delmarva Soil Summit coordinator and overall conference support - \$49,500
 - NPS 319 – Implementation of cover crops (sub-award) - \$75,000
 - NPS 319 - Implementation of cover crops - \$150,000

We have not heard anything final on the NPS grant requests yet, but we anticipate hearing something in July.

Cost-Share

- Cover Crop inspections and payments are complete! SCD paid out \$4,118,432 in cover crop payments to 248 participants, a \$1,442,421 increase over last year (2,676,033 to 225 participants). Below is a table comparing FY 2023 to FY 2022 by watershed. As you can see, an additional 15,455 acres were destroyed this year.

FY 2023 Cover Crops Comparison by FY and Watershed				
	FY 2023		FY 2022	
Watershed	Acres Destroyed	Payments	Acres Destroyed	Payments
Chesapeake Bay	48,043	\$ 2,603,373	38,515	\$ 1,708,435
Delaware Bay	16,952	\$ 881,836	13,659	\$ 558,042
Inland Bays	11,717	\$ 633,223	9,084	\$ 409,556
Totals	76,712	\$ 4,118,432	61,257	\$ 2,676,033

Harvested acres (4,858 ac.) increased slightly over FY 2022 (4,143.3 ac.); however, the percentage of acres harvested decreased. In FY 2022, 6.3% of all planted acres were harvested. In FY 2023, the percentage dropped to 5.6%.

- Sign-up for the FY 2024 Cover Crop Program started June 12 and runs through July 28, 2023. Cost-Share applications were mailed out to 284 producers that have participated in the past or have requested an application. During the first week of sign-up, 52 applications were received asking \$1,829,472 in cost-share to implement 43,499.1 acres of cover crops.

3921 Funds

- Letters will be going out on Friday, June 23rd, to tax ditches that still have FY 2022 funds in the books, letting them know they will be canceled. The officers on those tax ditches have until July 14th to submit any outstanding bills for payment.
- Sign-up for the FY 2024 State and County Matching Funds (3921) started June 12th and runs through July 28th. In the first week of sign-up, nine tax ditches submitted 19 applications for general maintenance, mowing, weed wiping, or bonding.

Miscellaneous

- Interviews were held for the conservation planner position vacated by Owen Lenkner's retirement at the end of May. We anticipate making a final selection next week.
- Jonathan Walton, conservation planner, will move from a full-time conservation planner to part-time starting July 7th.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

June 27, 2023

Conservation Cost Share

Several new ideas for inclusion in the District's Conservation Cost Share Program for the upcoming year have been discussed. These range from cost sharing on Inland Bays oyster harvest and cover crop referral programs to continuing to support District led conservation projects. Due to the growth of the District's program in terms of scope and funding, I think it will be a good idea for the Ag/Cost Share Committee to meet one or two times during the summer to review our current programs and any proposed changes. Members of the committee are Dale, Roland, Will, Joel, and Cory. I will be reaching out to discuss a timeline and the following steps to have the final guidelines ready by early August.

Cost Share Sign-Up is Underway

The enrollment period for Conservation Cost Share (including Cover Crops) and Tax Ditch Cost Share is underway and will continue through Friday, July 28. Please help pass the word along to Farmers, Landowners, and Tax Ditch Managers and encourage them to reach out to the District sooner rather than later.

Tax Ditch Pilot Program Funding Request

A formal request has been made to Sen. Wilson and Rep. Gray to continue funding the Tax Ditch Pilot Program through the Bond Bill. Rep. Vanderwende is also a strong proponent of this funding. If approved, the \$1.125 million request will allow the program to grow from 15 participating systems to 35 over the next four years. This would provide \$12,500 annually to each participating tax ditch system for management and maintenance activities.

Sussex County Budget Proposal

The FY24 Sussex County Budget was introduced in late May and includes funding for District related activities (\$125,000 Tax Ditch Cost Share, \$125,000 County Drainage Cost Share, and \$100,000 Cover Crop Cost Share). These funding levels are consistent with those of the previous few years, and the continued support from Sussex County Council is appreciated. The budget is expected to be voted on later in June.

HB101 Updates

Jessica and I spoke with Rep. Bush and were informed that he does not intend to work on HB101 this session. There have been conversations with DNREC regarding a pilot program for expedited reviews, but no details have been shared with us yet. Jessica and I believe it will be a good idea to convene the SCD Stormwater Advisory Committee to develop a path forward for an expedited review process at SCD over the coming months. We will discuss this in more detail at the June Board meeting.

DNREC Staffing Updates

I was informed that Tyler Brown had been named the new Conservation Programs Administrator replacing Marcia Fox, who left last month. We are sad to see Tyler leave his position in the Drainage Program, but it is good to know that he will still be working closely with the Districts on Drainage, Tax Ditch, Stormwater, and other related activities. Additionally, Terry Deputy, Director of the Division of Watershed Stewardship, has announced his retirement effective August 1, 2023.

SCD Staff Vacancies

We are currently interviewing for the Ag Planner position vacancy and for the position in the equipment program that will be created with the retirement of Larry Lynch at the end of August. So far, we have received a decent number of potential candidates.

Upcoming Events:

- The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 18, at 7:00 p.m., at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.
- DACD Board Meeting-Thursday, July 25, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Delaware State Fairgrounds Administration Building

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Cost-Share Payments—Large Animal Mortality

ITEM NO: 1a

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

DESCRIPTION: Cost-Share payment for Large Animal Mortality to John Kohout.

May

Total Cost- \$5,150

Cows: 6

SCD Cost- \$5,150

Horses: 6

SCD Admin- \$780

RECOMMENDATION: Approve cost-share for payments for Animal Mortality.

MOTION: Moved by _____ and seconded by _____, to approve cost-share payments to John Kohout. Motion _____.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Conservation Cost Share-Yoder Wildlife Pond and Water Control Structure

ITEM NO: 1b

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: Stephen Gissy

BACKGROUND: This proposed project would create a wildlife pond in an overgrown area on the landowner's property. The finished excavated area would be approx.— .9 acres in size. The pond area would have a wetland bench around the entire pond and microtopography within the pond to provide different water depths. A water control would be installed to manipulate the water level based on significant rain events and times of the year. Excavated material will be used around the adjacent area to create minor topography and additional habitat.

Pond Construction Costs: \$57,260

Proposed SCD Conservation Cost Share- \$ 37,500 Per 2023 Conservation Cost Share Guidelines

Water Control Structure Installation Costs: \$ 6,662.50

Proposed SCD Conservation Cost Share- \$4,996.88 Per 2023 Conservation Cost Share Guidelines

Total Conservation Cost Share Request: \$42,496.88

Funding for this project will come from the special projects category, which has a current balance of \$144,493 (\$101,996 after this project)

RECOMMENDATION: Approve Conservation Cost Share payment of \$42,496.88 for the Yoder Wildlife Pond and Water Control Structure.

MOTION: Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve conservation cost share payment to complete the Yoder Wildlife Pond and Water Control Structure Project in the amount of \$42,496.88.
Motion _____.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Local Workgroup Recommendations to NRCS

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

DESCRIPTION: The local workgroup meeting was held in March, and SCD needs to report its recommendations to NRCS by June 30. This is an opportunity for the Board to make recommendations to NRCS on the needs and priorities of landowners in Sussex County. The minutes of the local workgroup meeting are included for your review. Preliminary items for consideration in the SCD recommendations include Cover Crops (improving current policy), Drainage Issues, Continuation and Finalization of the Upper Nanticoke Study, Resiliency, and Facilities.

RECOMMENDATION: TBD

MOTION: TBD

Sussex County Locally Led Workgroup Meeting Minutes March 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order by David Baird, District Coordinator at 9:02 a.m.

Also present were:

Chris Bohinski - NRCS
Ziggy Savage – NRCS
Shantel King - NRCS
Caitlin Sheffer - FSA
Will Carlisle – SCD/Farmer
Ben Coverdale - DNREC
Holly Walker - DNREC
Jay Baxter – Farmer
Benny King – SCD
Amanda Fabi - SCD

Siobhan Kelley – SCD
David Baird – SCD
Chris Thompson - Farmer
Brad Ritter - Farmer
Blaine Hitchens - Farmer
Bryan Jones - SCD
Marcia Fox - DNREC
Debbie Absher – SCD
Bobbi Heck - SCD

David Baird – District Coordinator

David stated that the purpose of this meeting is to establish what the conservation needs are in Sussex County. The information discussed will be used to develop local cost share programs that SCD directly administers as well as provide input to NRCS through their State Technical Committee process which drives a lot of local decisions that are made here in Delaware as far as the use of the program funds coming through NRCS.

Ziggy Savage, District Conservationist

Ziggy stated this meeting is a request from the State Conservationist to gather local information to help support or build our farm bill programs for FY24. The State Conservationist requests input on eligible conservation practices, resource concerns, payment rates, ranking criteria, and high priority practices for FY 2024.

Ziggy discussed the various Farm Bill programs funded in FY 2023. They include:

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

Also discussed were the source water protection areas that are critical areas to manage and improve water quality. Following are additional practices added for the Source Water Protection

funding in FY 2023:

- Critical Area Planting
- Anaerobic Digester
- Field Border
- Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
- Grade Stabilization Structure
- Grassed Waterway
- Access Control
- Trails and Walkways
- Streambank and Shoreline Protection
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Vegetated Treatment Area
- Water and Sediment Control Basin
- Constructed Wetland

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers different nationwide initiatives. Delaware has taken part in two of these initiatives for several years to address specific resource concerns. They include:

- On-Farm Energy
- Organic
- Working Lands for Wildlife
 - Black Duck
 - Northern Bobwhite

Zig also gave a recap of FY 2022 programs. There are national mandates that dictate a percentage of funds need to be allocated for resource concerns or demographics. Following are the funding mandates:

- Beginning, Socially Disadvantaged, and Limited Resource farmers – 5% of funds must go towards these groups.
 - 55% of Delaware funds went to beginning farmers and 25% went to socially disadvantaged farmers.
- Livestock Practices – 50% of funds must go towards livestock practices.
 - 67% of Delaware funds went towards livestock practices.
- Wildlife Practices – 10% of funds must go towards wildlife.
 - 3.7% of Delaware funds went towards wildlife practices (all applications were funded)

Below is a summary of FY 2022 Sussex County contract obligations by funding pool:

Row Labels	Sum of Sussex Dollars	Sum of Sussex # Contracts
Beginning Farmer	\$918,425.00	12
Chesapeake Cropland	\$50,230.00	2
Conservation Planning Activities	\$42,821.00	9
Cover Crop Sussex	\$37,723.00	3
Cropland	\$850,983.00	16
DWM	\$0.00	0

EQIP CIC	\$153,407.00	2
Forestry	\$60,796.00	2
Livestock	\$215,727.00	3
On Farm Energy	\$406,897.00	11
Organic Transition	\$18,713.00	1
PHQ Sussex	\$915,988.00	10
SDF	\$838,375.00	17
Urban Ag	\$8,295.00	1
Wildlife 10%	\$94,382.00	3
Grand Total	\$4,612,762.00	92

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Overview:

The purpose of this program is for producers to address resource concerns by completing new conservation practices, and by improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities. The program provides for annual enhancement payments that vary according to the signup. This a nationally managed program which means suggestions are accepted, but the following are predetermined by the agency when the program is announced:

- Eligible enhancements
- Resource concerns
- Payment rates
- Ranking criteria

Total Statewide Farm Bill Programs Funds Obligated in 2022

- EQIP - \$7,558,621
- CSP - \$509,807
- AMA - \$218,830

In Sussex, all eligible and high priority applications were funded.

In past years, we usually had a substantial number of unfunded applications.

Zig then reviewed the FY 2023 High Priority Practices:

- 329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
- 390 - Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 391- Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393- Filter Strip
- 554 - Drainage Water Mgt
- 587 - Structure for Water Control
- 604 - Saturated Buffer
- 605 - Denitrifying Bioreactor
- 612 – Tree Planting
- 620 - Underground Outlet, Blind Inlet

There was discussion on the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). The IRA was signed into law by President Biden on August 16, 2022. This will provide for additional funding for EQIP, CSP, ACEP and RCPP to implement Climate Smart conservation practices over the next five (5)

years. The FY 2023 national allocation is \$850 Million for EQIP. Here is a breakdown of those funds for Delaware.

Delaware

- EQIP- \$786,770
- CSP- \$483,375

There will be a separate application deadline for IRA funds

- EQIP-IRA - March 17th
- CSP-IRA - March 24th

Zig reviewed the FY2023 Program Application Deadlines:

Application (Batching) Dates

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) General and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)—November 18, 2022.
- EQIP/AMA second and third batching dates – March 17, 2023, and May 19,2023, respectively.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Classic application deadline – March 24, 2023
- EQIP-CIC application deadline – February 10, 2023
- IRA-EQIP application deadline – March 17, 2023
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) dates to be announced in the Spring 2023

Debbie Absher, Director of Ag Programs

Debbie gave recap of the Sussex Conservation District Cost-Share Program. SCD established a goal of 75,000 acres for cover crops planted in Sussex County. The acres planted exceeded that goal with 84,856 acres total counting the other cost share programs as seen in the chart below.

FA Program	Ac. Planted	C/S Requested
SCD	81,641.8	\$ 4,366,565
RCPP	605.5	\$ 43,426
EQIP	595.3	\$ 37,723
CSP	2,013.4	
Total	84,856.0	\$ 4,447,714

The following funding sources for the cost-share programs were discussed:

- DNREC (Bond Bill)
- DNREC – Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program

- DNREC – Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Program
- Delaware Department of Agriculture
- DHSS/DNREC – Drinking Water SRF Program
- NRCS
- Sussex County Council

Debbie also shared the breakdown of cover crops planted by watershed & early vs. late planting.

FY 2023 by Watershed

Watershed	Early	Late	Total
Chesapeake Bay	20,422.9	31,172.4	51,595.3
Delaware Bay	5,051.4	12,660.6	17,712.0
Inland Bays	5,575.7	6,758.8	12,334.5
Totals	31,050.0	50,591.8	81,641.8

FY 2023 Acres Compared to FY 2022, FY 2021 & FY 2020

Watershed	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020
Chesapeake Bay	51,595.3	42,886.5	30,456.4	39,036.9
Delaware Bay*	17,712.0	14,290.6	12,911.6	15,313.0
Inland Bays*	12,334.5	9,936.2	8,236.2	10,306.4
Totals	81,641.8	67,113.3	51,604.2	64,656.3

Other Discussion Items:

- Blaine Hitchens stated a concern with tree planting for a high priority practice. Blaine stated there are many farmers concerned with trees being planted on acres of farmland because it would potentially take productive land out of production.
- Dave and Ziggy discussed the increased funding available from the IRA as well as Delaware's allocation of EQIP money and how to get these dollars spent.
- Jay Baxter questioned if some of this influx of money could come to the conservation district, or does it have to come through EQIP and then go directly to the farmers? Shantel King confirmed that the money will be coming down through farm bill programs however, we are working with conservation districts in terms of technical assistance to help with the workload.

- Jay Baxter emphasized that the farmer would rather work through the Sussex Conservation District rather than NRCS or EQIP for the same type of programs even if there is a slightly less financial advantage to the program simply because of the ease of the program. There will be less hoops to jump through working with SCD, and the willingness of SCD to bend to make the practice work for the climate of that particular year. Jay's concern is the more money that is coming from EQIP, that will sit in a pool and will not be utilized for best management practices in the state of Delaware. Jay would like to see practices funded that are already being utilized in the county in a very efficient way.
- Ziggy talked about the need to get creative about reaching people that would be interested in signing up for farm bill programs due to the increase in millions of funds coming to Delaware.
- Shantel King discussed the climate smart practices list and how can we get producers interested in the next level or even bring people in to getting that baseline? The climate smart list is a moving list and some of the practices on the list may not be on it next year. The goal is to create a new adoptive list for the climate smart practices that can evolve as people either gain interest or participation. Shantel said they are asking for input back from the state not only through the local workgroup but also the feedback from the State Conservationist.
- Ziggy discussed how important and crucial the cover crop program is and asked if there is a way to implement cover every year to help save the bay? Ziggy asked for any ideas that we can take forth to the State Conservationist to present at the State Technical Committee.
- Ziggy stressed the importance of getting the conversation started earlier than later at the local level so we can get that information to congress & headquarters. We need to do everything that we can to support the farmers here at the local level. Ziggy asked if the farmers' conservation needs are being met when it comes to the programs and the practices we have to offer. If not, let us talk about ideas and what you would like to do and see happen. Are we also effectively targeting the new farmers?
- Will Carlisle talked about the cost of some practices in regard to the payment rates. Ziggy stated the payment rates need to be discussed now so that when the practice is ready to be implemented, the payment rate will match where we are with the economy.
- David Baird discussed the influx of funds coming to Delaware over the next several years. The dollars will run through the NRCS EQIP program. SCD and partners will help with technical assistance along with helping landowners and producers put their applications together. Even though Delaware will have over \$50 Million over the next several years, we need to keep in mind that there will be a match that will be required as well.

David Baird thanked everyone for their input and time. David asked if anyone has a thought or idea that they would like to discuss, please reach out to someone at SCD or NRCS.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Tax Ditch Commissioner Appointment

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird/Tyler Brown

BACKGROUND: In accordance with State Tax Ditch Law, the Board of Supervisors is charged with providing names for consideration for appointment as Tax Ditch Commissioners (3-year term) and alternates (1-year term). DNREC recommends that the following names also included in the attached letter, be considered by the Board.

RECOMMENDATION: Accept DNREC's recommendation and forward it to Judge Karsnitz for appointment.

Leogla Wright
28272 Warwick Road
Millsboro, DE 19966
3-year term as Commissioner, ending 7/31/26

James H. Baxter, IV
23073 Zoar Road
Georgetown, DE 19947
1-year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

John Mills
7317 Hickman Road
Greenwood, DE 19950
1-year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

Bryan Jones
34214 Peppers Corner Road
Frankford, DE 19945
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

MOTION: Moved by _____, seconded by _____, to recommend the appointment of Leogla Wright as Tax Ditch Commissioner and James Baxter IV, John Mills, and Brian Jones as Alternates. Motion _____.



STATE OF DELAWARE
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP
21309 BERLIN RD
UNIT #6
GEORGETOWN, DE 19947

PHONE: (302) 855-1930
FAX: (302) 670-7059

DRAINAGE PROGRAM

June 7, 2023

Joel Wharton, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
Sussex Conservation District
23818 Shortly Road
Georgetown, DE 19947

Dear Mr. Wharton:

The term of Mr. Richard Carlisle as Tax Ditch Commissioner will expire on July 31, 2023. The terms of Alternate Tax Ditch Commissioners Mr. Wm. Mark Prettyman, Mr. John Timmons, and Mr. John Mills will also expire on July 31, 2023.

The tax ditch law (Del Code Title 7, Chapter 41, §4106) requires that these Commissioners be appointed from a list of ten (10) or more names. I have attached a list for your consideration.

The DNREC Drainage Program makes the following recommendations and suggest that you write the Honorable Craig A. Karsnitz on behalf of the Board of Supervisors:

1. Leogla Wright
28272 Warwick Road
Millsboro, DE 19966
3 year term as Commissioner, ending 7/31/26
2. James H. Baxter, IV
23073 Zoar Road
Georgetown, DE 19947
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24
3. John Mills
7317 Hickman Road
Greenwood, DE 19950
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT – JUNE 7, 2023
TAX DITCH COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS
PAGE 2

4. Bryan Jones
34214 Peppers Corner Road
Frankford, DE 19945
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

For your convenience, I have enclosed a proposed letter for your signature regarding these appointments.

Sincerely,

Michele L. Garner

Michele L. Garner
Planner II

Enclosure

SUSSEX COUNTY
TAX DITCH COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATIONS

- * **Leogla Wright** farms in the Millsboro area. Leogla retired as County Executive Director of the Georgetown Office of the USDA Farm Services Agency after over 30 years of service.
- * **John Mills** is a dairy farmer from the Greenwood area. John is also a Tax Ditch Manager.
- * **James H. (Jay) Baxter, IV** is a vegetable and grain farmer in the Georgetown area and is also a Tax Ditch Manager. Jay served on the Sussex County Wetlands Buffer Ordinance Commission.
- * **Bryan Jones** is a Preservation Program Manager with the Sussex Conservation District with experience working on Tax Ditch drainage projects. He has served as a Tax Ditch Officer and is a landowner in the Frankford area.

Diane Calloway is an Engineer and Plan Review Manager with DelDOT and former Drainage Program Engineer and lives in the Laurel area.

Mark Nardi works for the United States Geological Service (USGS) where his work is mostly focused on water management issues including the use of lidar technology. Mark is also a former Drainage Program employee and a Sussex Conservation District(SCD) District Board Member and lives in Milton.

Sara Esposito is a Engineer Program Manager with DelDOT and former Drainage Program Engineer who lives in Milton.

- * **Timothy Garrahan** is a retired District Conservationist of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and a Tax Ditch Officer. Tim lives in the Seaford area.

Robert Enright retired as a Program Manager with the Drainage Program who planned many Delaware tax ditch organizations. Bob lives in the Milford area.

- * **Valerie Thompson** is a Project Engineer with Sussex County Government, and former Sussex Conservation District (SCD) Stormwater Engineer. Valerie lives in the Seaford area.

*As of 6/7/2023 the above noted individuals have been contacted by the DNREC Drainage Program and are agreeable to appointment.



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Craig A. Karsnitz
Resident Judge of Superior Court
Sussex County Courthouse
The Circle
Georgetown, DE 19947

Dear Judge Karsnitz:

In keeping with the responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors to recommend names for consideration as Tax Ditch Commissioners (7 Del.C. § 4106), we are pleased to recommend the following for your consideration:

1. Leogla Wright
28272 Warwick Road
Millsboro, DE 19966
3 year term as Commissioner, ending 7/31/26

2. James H. Baxter, IV
23073 Zoar Road
Georgetown, DE 19947
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

3. John Mills
7317 Hickman Road
Greenwood, DE 19950
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

4. Bryan Jones
34214 Peppers Corner Road
Frankford, DE 19945
1 year term as Alternate, ending 7/31/24

JUDGE CRAIG KARSNITZ, JUNE 27, 2023

TAX DITCH COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS

PAGE 2

Below are the names of six (6) individuals who also meet the requirements for tax ditch commissioners. These are included to complete the list of ten (10) or more names forwarded for your consideration. Enclosed is background information on each name submitted.

1. Diane Calloway
2. Mark Nardi
3. Sara Esposito
4. Timothy Garrahan
5. Robert Enright
6. Valerie Thompson

We respectfully request that a copy of the appointments be sent to:

DNREC Division of Watershed Stewardship
Drainage Program
21309 Berlin Road, Unit 6
Georgetown, DE 19947

Sincerely,

Joel Wharton
Chairman

mlg

pc: Michele Garner, DNREC

Enclosure

SUSSEX COUNTY
TAX DITCH COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDATIONS

- * **Leogla Wright** farms in the Millsboro area. Leogla retired as County Executive Director of the Georgetown Office of the USDA Farm Services Agency after over 30 years of service.
- * **John Mills** is a dairy farmer from the Greenwood area. John is also a Tax Ditch Manager.
- * **James H. (Jay) Baxter, IV** is a vegetable and grain farmer in the Georgetown area and is also a Tax Ditch Manager. Jay served on the Sussex County Wetlands Buffer Ordinance Commission.
- * **Bryan Jones** is a Preservation Program Manager with the Sussex Conservation District with experience working on Tax Ditch drainage projects. He has served as a Tax Ditch Officer and is a landowner in the Frankford area.

Diane Calloway is an Engineer and Plan Review Manager with DelDOT and former Drainage Program Engineer and lives in the Laurel area.

Mark Nardi works for the United States Geological Service (USGS) where his work is mostly focused on water management issues including the use of lidar technology. Mark is also a former Drainage Program employee and a Sussex Conservation District(SCD) District Board Member and lives in Milton.

Sara Esposito is a Engineer Program Manager with DelDOT and former Drainage Program Engineer who lives in Milton.

- * **Timothy Garrahan** is a retired District Conservationist of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and a Tax Ditch Officer. Tim lives in the Seaford area.

Robert Enright retired as a Program Manager with the Drainage Program who planned many Delaware tax ditch organizations. Bob lives in the Milford area.

- * **Valerie Thompson** is a Project Engineer with Sussex County Government, and former Sussex Conservation District (SCD) Stormwater Engineer. Valerie lives in the Seaford area.

*As of 6/7/2023 the above noted individuals have been contacted by the DNREC Drainage Program and are agreeable to appointment.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Equipment Purchases: Excavator

ITEM NO: 4a

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: Stephen Gissy

BACKGROUND: SCD's Equipment Program is proposing the purchase of a #20,000 rubber track excavator. This size machine is between a mini excavator and a full-size excavator. We have rented this size machine various times in the past. This size machine will be needed based on upcoming projects and can also be utilized on tax ditch work, private drainage projects, and RC&D projects where access is tight, or we are working in developments where a steel track machine cannot be used. We see more of these projects where this machine will be utilized every year. We have priced both John Deere and Caterpillar on comparable machines.

Jesco (John Deere) 85 G- \$153,348.06 with Approx Lead Time of 7 Months
Carter (Caterpillar) 308- \$160,685.27 with Approx lead time of 2-3 Months

Jesco Rental- \$5400 Less 20% discount= \$4320/ Month x 7 = \$30,240
Carter Rental- \$4,860 Less 50% Discount= \$2,430/ Month x 3 = \$7,290

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the purchase of a Caterpillar 308 from Carter Machinery due to the shorter lead time and offer a 50% discount on a rental machine until ours arrives in 2-3 months versus an approx. 7-month rental from Jesco with only a 20% discount. This would result in an approx. \$ 15,250 overall cost savings.

MOTION: Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the purchase of a Caterpillar 308 excavator from Carter Machinery in the amount of \$160,685.27 Motion _____.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Equipment Purchases: Pipe Trailer

ITEM NO: 4b

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: Stephen Gissy

BACKGROUND: SCD's Equipment Program is proposing the purchase of a 22' #15,000GVWR utility trailer to deliver pipe and materials to jobs. We currently have (1) an older 20' trailer used for this task, but we are finding more construction jobs requiring pipe and materials to be delivered to multiple jobs on the same day. We are proposing 22' of deck length keep the gate/ramps on the trailer and allow the pipe to fit without removing the ramps while still being able to haul concrete structures, buckets, trench rollers, and other small tools. We have quoted from (2) vendors, and the pricing is listed below.

Kaufman Trailers- \$7,721.60

Kruger Trailers- \$14,245.00

RECOMMENDATION: SCD's equipment program recommends purchasing the 22' trailer from Kaufman Trailers.

MOTION: Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to approve the purchase of a 22' trailer from Kaufman Trailers in the amount of \$7,721.60. Motion _____.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: Equipment Purchases: Mowing Tractor

ITEM NO: 4c

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: Stephen Gissy

BACKGROUND: SCD's Equipment Program is proposing the purchase of a new mowing tractor. This proposed tractor would have a 60" side rotary mower and an 18" offset 8' rear rotary mower. This tractor would allow us to mow more area per pass and will enable us to cut the first 5' of slope on each pass down a tax ditch saving the tax ditch time on their mowing bill and saving time with the arm mower tractor allowing us to add more ditches to our mowing schedule. There have been requests from various ditches throughout the county wanting the district to mow, but our current capacity did not allow any more systems. Initial estimates from Wes indicate we could increase our mowing schedule by 30-50%.

We have priced (3) mowers:

- Alamo- \$55,975.80
- Tiger- \$39,275.46
- Diamond- \$36,880.00

We have priced (2) John Deere 5120M tractors:

- Atlantic Tractor- \$79,007.76
- Taylor & Messick- \$77,000.00

(All three mower dealers were able to price tractors, and they ranged from \$88,000-\$112,000)

Pricing for (1) 8'- 18" Offset Rear Rotary:

- Taylor & Messick- Hardee 1198RWO mower- \$8,400.00

RECOMMENDATION: We are recommending the purchase of the John Deere 5120 and Hardee Offset Mower from Taylor & Messick and the 60" side rotary from Diamond Mowers for a total set-up price of \$122,280.00

John Deere 5120M tractor	\$ 77,000.00
Hardee 1198RWO	\$ 8,400.00
Diamond Side Rotary Mower	<u>\$ 36,880.00</u>
	\$122,280.00

MOTION:

Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to purchase the John Deere 5120 and Hardee Offset Mower from Taylor & Messick and the 60" side rotary from Diamond Mowers for a full set-up price of \$122,280.00. Motion _____.

SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION

ITEM: September Board Meeting- Date Change

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: June 27, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

BACKGROUND: Due to a scheduling conflict, we request that the September Board Meeting be changed from 9/26 to 9/19, starting at 7 p.m.

RECOMMENDATION: Reschedule the SCD Board of Supervisors' September meeting from 9/26 to 9/19.

MOTION: Moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to reschedule the September Board Meeting from 9/26 to 9/19 with a start time of 7 p.m. Motion _____.