

**AGENDA**  
**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**March 21, 2023, @ 11 a.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- Marcia Fox/Tyler Brown (P 9)
- 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. Clendaniel Farm Black Duck Project
2. Sussex County Tax Ditch Warrant Changes
3. Board Member Nomination - Mark Nardi
4. Governor's Conservation Awards
5. Discussion with Sussex County Council

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 at the time of the meeting.*

Sussex Conservation District  
Cash Report  
February 2023

<b><i>Fulton Bank - Checking</i></b>	
Bank Balance Per Statement	\$921,770.73
Add: Deposits in Transit	\$0.00
Less: Outstanding Checks	(\$377,292.96)
Balance in G/L - End of Month	\$544,477.77
Beginning G/L Balance	\$606,559.54
Add: Cash Receipts	\$664,920.90
Less: Cash Disbursements	(\$727,002.67)
Ending G/L Balance	\$544,477.77
<b><i>Fulton Bank - Payroll</i></b>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$0.00
Add: Cash Receipts	\$194,514.35
Less: Cash Disbursements	(\$194,514.35)
Ending G/L Balance	\$0.00
<b><i>Citizens Bank - Checking</i></b>	
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
<b><i>Citizens Bank - Money Market</i></b>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$3,589,292.45
Add: Cash Receipts	\$15,379.29
Less: Cash Disbursements	\$0.00
Ending G/L Balance	\$3,604,671.74
<b><i>Fulton Bank - Merchant</i></b>	
Beginning G/L Balance	\$24,712.01
Add: Cash Receipts	\$1,625.00
Less: Cash Disbursements	(\$25,081.79)
Ending G/L Balance	\$1,255.22
<b><i>Artisans Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 11/01/23</i></b>	<b>\$248,216.99</b>
<b><i>Bank of Delmarva - Certificate of Deposit - 2/28/24</i></b>	<b>\$249,679.56</b>
<b><i>County Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 01/28/24</i></b>	<b>\$247,275.43</b>
<b><i>Community Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 05/12/23</i></b>	<b>\$248,959.00</b>
<b><i>Del-One - Certificate of Deposit - 4/19/24</i></b>	<b>\$490,443.27</b>
<b><i>Hebron Savings Bank - Certificate of Deposit - 04/04/23</i></b>	<b>\$249,138.13</b>
<b><i>Fulton ICS MM Accounts</i></b>	<b>\$0.01</b>
<b><i>WTC Investments</i></b>	<b>\$3,330,200.73</b>
<b><i>Petty Cash</i></b>	<b>\$189.38</b>
<b><i>Total All Bank Accounts</i></b>	<b>\$11,145,733.49</b>

**Sussex Conservation District  
Cash Report  
February 2023**

<b>2022</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
	Sussex Conservation District Funds		<u>\$2,916,596.42</u>	\$2,916,596.42
	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
	Stormwater Management Funds	restricted	\$3,856,096.99	
	Stormwater Cash Bonds Held	Liability	\$1,928,726.26	
	Cost Share Funding	deferred	\$1,600,865.33	
	3921 Funding	deferred	\$443,098.40	
	Sussex County Drainage Funding	deferred	\$54,160.09	
	Stormwater Management Funds	deferred	\$7,500.00	
	Prothonotary Items	deferred	\$7,270.00	
	Various projects - 2	deferred	<u>\$331,420.00</u>	
				\$8,229,137.07
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$11,145,733.49</b>
<b>2022</b>	<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
	Sussex Conservation District Funds		<u>\$3,294,151.94</u>	\$3,294,151.94
	<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>			
	Stormwater Management Funds	restricted	\$3,167,453.14	
	Stormwater Cash Bonds Held	Liability	\$1,208,173.26	
	Prothonotary Items	deferred	\$5,315.00	
	Stormwater Management Funds	deferred	\$7,500.00	
	3921 Funding	deferred	\$195,427.32	
	Cost Share Funding	deferred	\$1,259,421.62	
	Sussex County Drainage Funding	deferred	\$42,665.13	
	Various projects	deferred-AR	<u>\$432,979.96</u>	
				\$6,318,935.43
	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$9,613,087.37</b>
<b>2021</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$ 7,611,695.56</b>
<b>2020</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$ 10,979,593.97</b>
<b>2019</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$ 9,479,208.49</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$ 9,652,964.83</b>
<b>2017</b>	<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS ALL ACCOUNTS @ MONTH END</b>			<b>\$ 9,608,846.59</b>



## SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY 2023

February had a net profit (loss) of (\$4,088) compared to a net profit (loss) of \$29,051 for the same period in 2022. Year to date, the District has a net profit (loss) of (\$12,099) compared to a net profit (loss) of \$54,601 for 2022. The following is a net profit (loss) summary by department:

Department	February		Year To Date	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Equipment	\$33,594	\$15,622	\$71,034	(\$2,493)
Agriculture	(\$66,902)	(\$34,916)	(\$111,743)	(\$88,144)
Stormwater	\$67,706	\$76,076	\$104,998	\$216,282
Administrative	(\$40,685)	(\$33,817)	(\$76,954)	(\$73,118)
Project Design	\$2,199	\$6,086	\$566	\$2,074
<b>Operating Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$4,088)</b>	<b>\$29,051</b>	<b>(\$12,099)</b>	<b>\$54,601</b>
Investments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>	<b>(\$4,088)</b>	<b>\$29,051</b>	<b>(\$12,099)*</b>	<b>\$54,601</b>

(\*) Year to Date Net Income:

Total Revenue	\$ 1,197,333
Cost of Sales	\$ 332,926
Gross Profit	\$ 864,407
Expenses	\$ 876,506
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (12,099)*

### COST SHARE DOLLARS

Department	Paid Out February		Paid Out Year to Date	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
General Cost Share	\$17,303	\$11,102	\$30,863	\$23,404
3921 Funds	\$32,529	\$52,010	\$55,779	\$65,635
County Drainage	\$8,916	\$6,260	\$16,206	\$12,335
<b>Total Cost Share Dollars</b>	<b>\$58,748</b>	<b>\$69,372</b>	<b>\$102,848</b>	<b>\$101,374</b>

Department	Cash Balance	
	2023	2022
General Cost Share	\$1,600,865	\$1,302,448
3921 Funds	\$443,098	\$195,427
County Drainage	\$54,160	\$42,665
<b>Total Cost Share Dollars</b>	<b>\$2,098,123</b>	<b>\$1,540,540</b>

## SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### EQUIPMENT PROGRAM REPORT

February 2023

Over the past month, the equipment program has completed various projects. We are steadily working on mowing, dip outs, spoil spreading, and pipe replacements on tax ditches and private jobs. Our focus right now is finishing up ag-related work. RC&D work has started on the Johnson Rd project in laurel/Millsboro. A jump start meeting was held on 3/8 for the five new tax ditches for the pilot program, and scoping, and reporting continue for those. Our Mower and Soil Conditioner for the Skid Steer have arrived and are already being used.

Total Estimates for 2023: 25

Complete Estimates for January: 11

#### **Recently Completed Projects:**

- Pepper Creek Tax Ditch- Dipout
- Neal School Rd/Jester- Drainage Improvements
- Still Road- Drainage Improvements
- Horsepen Arm Tax Ditch- Dip Out
- Raccoon Tax Ditch- Dipout
- Cart Branch- Spoil Spreading
- Double Fork Tax Ditch- Spoil Spreading
- Short & Hall Tax Ditch- Pipe Replacements
- Iron Mine Tax Ditch- Dip Out
- Stafford Tax Ditch- Dip Out
- Cannary Creek- Drainage Improvements
- Donna Calhoun- Pond Cleanout

#### **Recently started or Projects starting soon:**

- Fitzgerald- Black Duck Project/Private Drainage-WIP
- Johnson Rd- Drainage Improvements-WIP
- Smithfield Acres- Drainage Improvements
- Holly Ridge- Drainage Improvements- WIP
- Bearhole Tax Ditch- Maintenance
- Green Branch Tax Ditch Dipout
- Pepper Creek- Spoil Spreading & ROW Repair
- JJ Carter- Wetland Creation
- Ward Cordrey- Pipe Replacements
- Tax Ditch Mowing
- Tax Ditch Dipouts

## SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

January 12- March 15, 2023

#### EQIP

- Planners are completing assessments and rankings for 1<sup>st</sup> batch applications on file for FY-23.
- We will continue to accept applications, which will be batched accordingly (2<sup>nd</sup> batch date is 3/17/23).
- Eligibility deadline Jan. 13, 2023, for the first batch.

#### EQIP/CIC

- Like EQIP (limited practices), contracts can be written for five years with a \$200,000 payment limitation. Payment limitations are separate from EQIP.
- Planners are completing assessments and rankings.

#### EQIP/IRA (Inflation Reduction Act)

- NEW FUNDING: 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 is \$787,000.
- First batch deadline is 3/17/23.

#### AMA

- Current applications are being assessed and ranked.
- Same deadlines as EQIP apply.

#### CSP/IRA

- Like EQIP/IRA, but it's for the participant that signs up through CSP for the same targeted Climate Smart Ag. Practice categories.
- First batch deadline will follow the CAP deadline of March 24, 2023.

#### CSP

- We are accepting applications for FY-23 CSP Classic. The deadline to apply for 1<sup>st</sup> batch is March 24, 2023.
- Renewal notifications have been mailed out to producers with contracts expiring at the end of this year.

#### WRE

- We are accepting applications for FY-23.

#### RCPP

- The Delaware Bay/ Inland Bay project for cover crops. There are 11 applications on file for FY-23.

### 1. Inspections and Site Visits

- **Conservation Practice Installation and Completion Inspections:** Project installation and inspections are being completed by Reed Carter.

### 2. Surveys/Designs

- Completing surveys and designs for FY-23 projects.

### 3. Other Business

- Planners continue reviewing prior year management practice records for payment and reporting progress.
- I am in the process of bringing on a new Soil Conservation Technician.
- Luke Meacci, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Soil Conservationist, reported for duty on January 17, 2023.
- Covid updates: The F.O. is currently operating at 100% capacity, with masks required as needed.

- Brooke Jones has been hired as the new ASTC for Programs, and Shantel King has been hired as the ASTC for Field Operations.

**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**SEDIMENT AND STORMWATER PROGRAM**  
**March 2023**

**Detailed Plan Review/Approval:**

Staff continues to process plan submittals, pre-app/engineering meetings, and technical support. Staff reviewed 18 plans and approved 20 for the month. We also Staff had six pre-application meetings.

**Standard Plan Review/Approval:**

- 3 Non-Residential
- 2 Agriculture
- 3 Minor Linear

**As-Built Plan Review:**

Staff reviewed ten as-built surveys.

**Inspection: - 392 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 – 36**

Closed-out stormwater projects are inspected, and reports are generated that provide information on routine/preventive maintenance. 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: - 11**

**Other News:**

- Inspectors have transitioned to the Asset Tracker – the new stormwater Inspection App.
- Faith Binas is assisting contractors in getting logged into the Contractor Portal, part of the Database/Inspection App. This allows them to view their project and respond to remediation efforts.
- Toby Jackson recently left the stormwater program to take another position, and his area was divided among the three inspectors.



**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**DNREC- CONSERVATION PROGRAMS REPORT**  
**March 2023**

## Program Updates and News

### District Operations

- The Bond Bill hearing is scheduled for March 23 at 1:00 PM.
- DNREC will be reinvigorating the Cropland Transect Survey in 2023. The survey is used to collect statewide data for residue and tillage management. Surveys will begin in late spring.

### Tax Ditch and Drainage Programs

- Tax Ditch Warrant Changes – Requests due to Michele Garner by **March 31**.

Requests received will be processed and go into effect on 2023 property tax bills.

For DNREC Tax Ditch Program to recommend approval of requested warrant changes, the following must be met at a minimum:

1. Secretary/Treasurer is bonded.
2. 2022 Financial Audit Completed
3. Meeting Minutes within the last 12 months

### Tax Ditch Petitions Update: Saunders Branch Tax Ditch Petition

Planning of the Saunders Branch Tax Ditch continues. The latest news is that a drone flight is scheduled for the end of March by the DNREC Tax Ditch Program to gather additional data for the planning effort.

### Tax Ditch Items Requiring Board Approval

- Currently have **12** Tax Ditch Warrant Change Requests ready for review and approval by the SCD Board. The DNREC Tax Ditch Program recommends approval of the requested warrant changes for the tax ditches listed in the attached document. Each requesting tax ditch complies with the Tax Ditch Law by having meeting minutes documenting the vote of this requested change, an audited financial report, and confirmation of bonding. Please see attached document for review and approval.

### Staffing Updates/Vacancies

- [Office Manager](#) – Hired! Amanda Flemming will start on Monday, March 13<sup>th</sup>!
- [Permit and Data Specialist](#) – Interviews Concluded. Checking References.
- [Engineering Program Manager](#) – To be reposted.

### Sediment & Stormwater Program

- Post-construction Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMP) Construction Review Checklists, used to assist construction reviewers during construction, have been revised. Additional checklists have been developed, along with a user guide. Following a 15-day public notice period, the new and revised checklists are adopted effective March 1, 2023. Post-construction Stormwater BMPs beginning construction during or after March 2023 should complete the appropriate BMP Construction Review Checklists during construction. Checklists are posted individually and as a combined portfolio at the following URL:

<https://dnrec.alpha.delaware.gov/watershed-stewardship/sediment-stormwater/resources/>

- A virtual public hearing will be conducted to consider comments on proposed revisions to selected sections of the Delaware Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, a regulatory guidance document supporting Regulation No. 5101 Sediment and Stormwater Regulations. The hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, beginning at 6:00 PM. The web link to the hearing can be accessed through the DNREC Public Hearings site at [de.gov/dnrehearings](https://de.gov/dnrehearings).

### Staffing Updates/Vacancies

- Posted vacancy - [Stormwater Engineer I](#) - This position reviews sediment and stormwater plans for state and federal projects. It guides the Delegated Agencies, consultants, the regulated community, and public and private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

### Nonpoint Source Program

- The NPS Program's request for proposals for the NPS Section 319 Grant and CBIG Grant closed on March 1, 2023. The NPS Section 319 Grant received five proposals for funding consideration, and the CBIG received three. Ranking committees for the grant proposals are currently reviewing them, and applicants will be notified in April.

### Spotlight

The Delaware Community Conservation Assistance Program (DeCAP) had its first steering committee meeting on Thursday, March 2. The meeting brought together local partners to discuss the program's launch and any challenges. We hope to launch DeCAP during Earth Month this April formally! A public webpage and educational materials for homeowners are in the final stages of development.



**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**DACD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE**  
**March 2023**

**Updates:**

- **Governors Conservation Awards- May 2 at the Delaware Ag Museum** (DACD’s business membership provides a 50% discount on the rental, making the Ag Museum more competitive with other venues)
- **Jen is adding to the Resource Smart LLC team-** Chelsea Gebbia (formerly Chelsea Hudson) is a familiar face from her time as a planner with the Sussex Conservation District. She will be working with me as a part-time subcontractor. She's wonderfully personable, and this is an excellent opportunity for both myself and her as she works to grow her farming operation in Laurel. This position was identified as part of the DACD Strategic Plan in 2015, and I'm excited to bring this capacity back to DACD in 2023! One of the first projects I plan to put her to work on is the Delaware Envirothon. We've identified a great deal of potential work to be done there, between modernizing the competition, recruiting new teams, reaching out to additional donors and sponsors, and training to serve as the new chair once Rick retires. This could also lead to new opportunities to develop a pipeline of students interested in conservation careers.
- **DACD 2022 Annual Report-** Working on collecting data from the districts to help prepare our 2022 DACD Annual Report; We Hope to have the report completed and printed in time for the NACD Fly-in and Budget Hearings
- **Association of Conservation Executive Directors-** Jen was elected the Northeast Region representative on the new Association of Conservation Executive Directors at the NACD Annual Meeting.
- **Delmarva Land and Litter Collaborative-** Jen was elected co-chair of a new Whole System Conservation Workgroup, along with Michelle Schmidt of the Delaware Center for the Inland Bays.
- **Climate Smart Commodities Grant-** DACD supported a proposal from the Atlantic Soybean Board. ASB has applied to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for a national Climate Smart Commodities grant sub-award. If awarded, the proposal would bring a modest amount of funding to DACD and the districts to provide limited technical assistance related to an NFWF cover crop cost-share program.

**Important Dates:**

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENT</i>
<i>March 22</i>	NACD Fly-In in Washington, DC
<i>March 23</i>	DDA and DNREC Budget Hearings
<i>May 2</i>	Governors Conservation Awards at the Delaware Ag Museum
<i>July 15 - 19</i>	NACD Summer Meeting in Bismarck, ND
<i>Feb 10 – 14, 2024</i>	NACD Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA

## SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM REPORT

March 2023

#### Grants

- DNREC's Division of Watershed Stewardship – Nonpoint Source Program requested proposals for the Nonpoint Source Program and Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Grants. We submitted proposals for cover crop funding to both the CBIG and NPS.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has requested the Delaware Watershed Conservation Fund proposals. This would be for the Delaware Bay portion of Sussex County. Proposals for this grant are due March 16, 2023.

#### Cost-Share

- Cover Crop destruction forms were mailed out on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Cover crops can be destroyed from March 15-June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The approximately \$800,000 cover crop cost-share funding shortfall has been addressed with additional funding from the Department of Ag, DNREC Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) Program funds, and SCD's cost-share reserves. I want to send out a huge THANK YOU to DDA – Nutrient Management Program and DNREC – NPS Program for the additional funds.

#### Soil Health

- We have wrapped up our Winter Soil Health Series with one workshop in January and two in February at the Bridgeville Fire Hall. We had some great speakers in Jeremiah Durbin of Sustainable Legacy Consulting, Tim Rosen of Shore Rivers on ag drainage and soil health, and Liz Haney of Soil Regen – a regenerative ag and soil health education and consulting firm.
- There was a networking/information-sharing dinner meeting with Liz Haney (speaker from the soil health workshop earlier that day) Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Shortly Road office. Mission BBQ provided dinner. I have received much positive feedback on these dinners from our farmers.
- Planning is continuing for the 2024 Delmarva Soil Summit. The tentative date for the Summit is January 30-31, 2024, at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury. Save the date! More information will be forthcoming as the planning progresses. Stay tuned...

#### Miscellaneous

- Chairman Wharton, Bryan Jones, and I attended the NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The conference was well attended, with 1,000 conservationists representing 55 states and territories. Bryan and I thank the Board for allowing us to represent SCD. I always come back energized with new ideas.
- There was a hybrid Local Workgroup Meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Shortly Road office. The purpose of the meeting is to get local input from community stakeholders on the resource concerns in Sussex County. We had 19 people in attendance, with several farmers in the room. There was much great conversation. One of the discussion topics was the influx of funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), how it would get spent, and what practices. The meeting outcomes will be presented to the NRCS State Technical Committee for consideration for future funding opportunities. Once the meeting minutes are complete and reviewed by the board, they will be sent to the State Technical Committee for consideration at their September meeting.
- David and I attended the Delaware Conservation Partnership Meeting to discuss the new IRA funding coming to Delaware over the next several years. Discussion surrounded the technical assistance or boots on the ground needed to get the funding out the door and what that would look like. NRCS is asking the conservation districts to hire four conservation technicians statewide (2 in Sussex) through the DACD contribution agreement. Given the upcoming workload over the next few years, we will have some internal conversations about our staffing levels. There will be more follow-up conversations on this subject, primarily as we assemble our work plans for the new agreement. The timeline is May for work plans to be finalized, with agreements completed and in place in August.

- Owen Lenkner, conservation planner, is retiring on May 26, 2023. Owen has been with us for nine years on a part-time basis after retiring from NRCS in Ohio as a district conservationist. Owen has been a huge part of the ag program because of his knowledge of NRCS practices and programs and his work ethic. Owen has carried a full-time workload working four days a week. We congratulate Owen on his retirement and wish him the very best.

## **SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

### **DISTRICT COORDINATOR'S REPORT**

**March 21, 2023**

#### **DNREC is Launching its Community Conservation Assistance Program**

DNREC's Community Conservation Assistance Program is designed to provide a homeowner-focused approach to water quality conservation by providing up to 75% financial reimbursement for urban stormwater/water quality projects within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Project examples include Bioretention/Infiltration/Vegetated Channels, Conservation Landscaping, Constructed Wetlands, Rain Gardens, Rainwater Harvesting, Tree Planting, and Urban Forest Buffers. Initial funding for the program is \$120,000, and DNREC has applied for an additional \$1.0 million in funding. SCD is participating in the Community Conservation Assistance Program's Steering Committee.

#### **Sussex Local Workgroup Meeting**

SCD hosted the Local Workgroup Meeting on Friday, March 10, 2023, from 9:00-11:00 am in both an in-person at Shortly Rd. and virtual format with approximately 15-20 in attendance. The purpose of the local workgroup is to provide input to SCD and NRCS through the State Technical Committee on conservation needs and priorities in Sussex County. Much time was devoted to the impact of IRA funding on NRCS programs and the plan for making those funds available to eligible producers and landowners.

#### **Stormwater Conservation Awards**

On March 1, SCD held the 2nd Annual Stormwater Conservation Awards Luncheon, where seven award winners were recognized for their excellence in stormwater management. Over 80 were in attendance for the event, thanks to those of you who could attend. Videos of the award winners can be found on the [SCD YouTube Channel](#).

#### **Tax Ditch Pilot Program Kick-Off-Year 2**

SCD hosted managers from the five ditches added to the program this year (Little Bay, Phipps, Koeppl Robinson, Bearhole, and Meadow Branch) for an orientation to the Tax Ditch Program. All were receptive to participating and offered comments on how best to proceed. We are currently finalizing agreements with each system and beginning the preliminary work associated with them joining the program.

#### **Expedited Stormwater Review**

A draft bill is being circulated in the General Assembly that would require DelDOT to establish a ten-working day expedited review process for entrance permits and DNREC to establish a ten-working day expedited process for sediment and stormwater plans. The current Sediment and Stormwater Regulations require a review to be completed within 30 calendar days. This requirement would impact SCD as a delegated agency and allow third-party private consultants to conduct stormwater plan reviews. We have provided comments to DNREC, and I expect more to come.

#### **Cover Crop Funding**

As part of the continuing effort to address the shortfall in cover crop funding for this year, SCD was able to completely cover the projected expense of \$4,366,565 with additional funding from DNREC-Non Point Source Program (\$100,000), DDA (\$600,000) and carryover SCD Conservation Cost Share Funds (\$166,222).



## DACD Funding Requests to General Assembly

The figures below were presented by SCD for consideration as DACD's Legislative priorities for FY2024.

### Bond Bill

#### Conservation Cost Share (DNREC)

FY22 Approved:	\$1,700,000
FY23 Approved:	\$1,700,000
FY24 GRB:	\$1,700,000
<b>FY24 DACD Request:</b>	<b>\$3,000,000+</b>

#### Tax Ditches (DNREC)

FY22 Approved:	\$ 900,000
FY23 Approved:	\$1,400,000
FY24 GRB:	\$1,148,000
<b>FY23 DACD Request:</b>	<b>\$1,400,000 minimum</b>

#### Resource, Conservation & Development (DNREC)

FY22 Approved:	\$10,000,000
FY23 Approved:	\$10,000,000
FY24 GRB:	\$ 5,000,000
<b>FY23 DACD Request:</b>	<b>\$10,000,000 minimum</b>

#### Cover Crop Investment (DDA)

FY22 Approved:	\$ 3,190,000
FY23 Approved:	\$ 5,190,000
FY24 GRB:	\$ 5,190,000
<b>FY24 DACD Request:</b>	<b>\$ 5,190,000</b>

### Operating Budget

#### District Nutrient Management Planners

FY22 Approved:	\$ 180,000
FY23 Approved:	\$ 180,000
FY24 GRB:	\$ 180,000
<b>FY24 DACD Request:</b>	<b>\$ 280,000 minimum</b>

## Upcoming Events:

- NACD Fly-In, Washington, DC, Rep. Lisa Blunt-Rochester (12:00 pm), Senator Coons (1:45 pm), and Senator Carper (4:45 pm) on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, in Washington DC.
- DDA (10:00 am) and DNREC (1:00 pm) Bond Bill Hearings will be held Thursday, March 23, 2022, Joint Finance Hearing Room, Legislative Hall.
- The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, at 7:00 p.m., at 23818 Shortly Road, Georgetown, DE.
- Governor's Conservation Awards, May 2, 2023, to be held at the Delaware Ag Museum.

**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

ITEM: Cost-Share Payments—Large Animal Mortality

ITEM NO: 1a

DATE: March 21, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

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

January	
Total Cost- \$7,070	Cows: 10
SCD Cost- \$7,070	Horses: 8
SCD Admin- \$1,980	

February	
Total Cost- \$6,280	Cows: 7
SCD Cost- \$6,280	Horses: 7
SCD Admin- \$1,200	

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: Clendaniel Farm Black Duck Project

ITEM NO: 1b

DATE: March 21, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

DESCRIPTION: This project combines an NRCS Black Duck Project that established habitat on the upper end of the project and a County Drainage Project that provided an outlet for the Black Duck Project and adjacent areas. The County Drainage portion of the project fell short of funding, and an additional \$3,795 is needed to complete the project.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve \$3,795 in Special Projects funding from the Conservation Cost Share account.

MOTION: Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve \$3,795 in funding from the Special Projects portion of the Conservation Cost Share account. Motion \_\_\_\_\_.

**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

ITEM: Sussex County Tax Ditch Warrant Changes

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: March 21, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

DESCRIPTION: Sussex County Tax Ditch Warrant Changes

RECOMMENDATION: See the following page for Sussex County Tax Ditch Warrant Changes.

MOTION: Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to approve the Tax Ditch Warrant Increases as presented. Motion \_\_\_\_\_.

**March 2023 Sussex Conservation District Board Meeting**

**Item Requiring Sussex Conservation District Board Action –**

**Sussex County Tax Ditch Warrant Change –**

- The following Tax Ditches are requesting an **Increase** in their maintenance tax. The increase in funds is necessary to complete known maintenance needs over the next few years. Their current collection rate is not adequate to meet the anticipated costs. The Delaware Department of Natural Resources (DNREC), Division of Watershed Stewardship, Tax Ditch Program recommends approval of these requests. Each of these Tax Ditch organizations have on file with our office a copy of their most recent meeting minutes which include the warrant rate change approved by the taxables present, confirmation of bonding, and their audited 2022 Financial Statement (with Pass or Pass with Immaterial Deficiencies Rating).

<b>Tax Ditch</b>	<b>Current Rate &amp; Type</b>	<b>Proposed Rate &amp; Type</b>	<b>Motion by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Approved Yes or No</b>
Little Bay	30% AM	50% AM			
Middleford	3% AM	4% AM			
Redden	8% AM	12% AM			
Jones Mill Branch	10% AM	12% AM			
Jackson Branch	10% AM	15% AM			
Horse Pound	2% M	15% AM			
Deep Hole	6% AM	100% AM			
Derrickson Canal	14% AM	19% AM			
Cart Branch *Dual County*	12% AM	13% AM			
Pepper Creek	5% AM	10% AM			
Ward-Cordrey	5% AM	8% AM			
Indian Drain	2% M	4% AM			

AM = Adjusted Maintenance

M = Maintenance

**SUSSEX COUNTY TAX DITCHES REQUESTING WARRANT CHANGES  
MARCH 2023 BOARD MEETING**

TAX DITCH NAME & #	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	BALANCE ON HAND as of 12/31/22	2022 ASSESSMENT BASE	APPROX. AMOUNT COLLECTED @ NEW RATE	DITCH MILES (ORIG.)	CURRENT MTG MIN & AUDITED FIN. REPT ON FILE	BONDED Y/N	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
Little Bay D-38	30% AM	50% AM	\$30,189.65	\$27,102.87	\$13,551.44	2.6 (2.5)	Yes - 5/27/22 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt- pass 2/2/23.	Y exp. 2/25/24	Yes
Middleford D-151	3% AM	4% AM	\$25,965.40	\$74,337.36	\$2,973.49	6.6 (6.5)	Yes - 12/10/22 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/21/23	Y exp. 7/8/23	Yes
Redden D-105	8% AM	12% AM	\$10,196.12	\$26,861.07	\$3,223.33	6.9 (7.1)	Yes - 1/23/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/2/23	Y exp. 7/31/23	Yes
Jones Mill Branch D-136	10% AM	12% AM	\$4,838.18	\$53,338.26	\$6,400.59	8.5 (8.8)	Yes - 1/17/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/10/23	Y exp 2/19/24	Yes
Jackson Branch D-106	10% AM	15% AM	\$18,483.91	\$9,919.92	\$1,487.99	.8 (.8)	Yes - 2/15/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 1/26/23	Y exp. 6/6/23	Yes
Horse Pound D-133	2% AM	15% AM	\$10,939.95	\$30,265.47	\$4,539.82	4.9 (4.5)	Yes - 2/9/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/21/23	Y exp. 6/15/23	Yes
Deep Hole D-41	6% AM	100% AM	\$18,728.23	\$16,489.14	\$16,489.14	3.0 (2.8)	Yes - 2/13/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/16/23	exp. 12/12/23	Yes
Derrickson Canal D-50	14% AM	19% AM	\$14,269.92	\$35,101.25	\$6,669.34	8.8 (6.6)	Yes - 2/23/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/2/23	Y exp. 7/24/23	Yes



**SUSSEX COUNTY TAX DITCHES REQUESTING WARRANT CHANGES  
MARCH 2023 BOARD MEETING**

TAX DITCH NAME & #	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	BALANCE ON HAND as of 12/31/22	2022 ASSESSMENT BASE	APPROX. AMOUNT COLLECTED @ NEW RATE	DITCH MILES (ORIG.)	CURRENT MTG MIN & AUDITED FIN. REPT ON FILE	BONDED Y/N	RECOMMEND APPROVAL
Cart Branch D-122 *Dual County*	12% AM	13% AM	\$22,605.25	\$8,733.94 K <u>\$53,352.58 S</u> \$62,086.52	\$1,135.41 K <u>\$6,935.84 S</u> \$8,071.25	15.1 (13.45)	Yes - 1/31/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 2/16/23	Y exp. 2/2/24	Yes
Pepper Creek D-127 to D-132	5% AM	10% AM	\$127,590.42	(D127) \$24,250.60 (D128) \$2,535.75 (D129) \$24,946.74 (D130) \$3,053.07 (D131) \$11,777.56 (D132) <u>\$194,245.61</u> \$260,809.33	(D127) \$2,425.06 (D128) \$253.58 (D129) \$2,494.67 (D130) \$305.31 (D131) \$1,177.76 (D132) <u>\$19,424.56</u> \$26,080.93	46.5 (43.02)	Yes - 2/18/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass w/immaterial deficiencies 2/28/23	Y exp. 3/11/23	Yes
Ward-Cordrey D-108	5% AM	8% AM	\$10,601.23	\$61,455.37	\$4,916.43	9.5 (8.55)	Yes - 2/4/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 3/7/23	Y exp. 1/5/24	Yes
Indian Drain D-169	2% M	4% AM	\$12,440.49	\$27,699.69	\$1,107.99	3.9 (4.3)	Yes - 2/25/23 mtg min w/rate chg & audited 2022 financial stmt - pass 3/7/23	Y exp. 6/10/23	Yes

**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

ITEM: Board Member Nomination- Mark Nardi

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: March 21, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird

BACKGROUND: Mark Nardi's three-year term as a Board Supervisor expires on May 26, 2023. Mark is interested in serving another term.

RECOMMENDATION: Nominate Mark Nardi as an SCD Supervisor and request reappointment from Sec. Garvin.

MOTION: Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to nominate Mark Nardi to a three-year term as SCD Supervisor and forward his name for reappointment by DNREC Sec. Garvin to serve another three-year term from May 26, 2023 – May 26, 2026.  
Motion \_\_\_\_\_.

**SUSSEX CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**ITEMS REQUIRING BOARD ACTION**

ITEM: Governor’s Conservation Award Recipients

ITEM NO: 4

DATE: March 21, 2023

PRESENTER: David Baird, Debbie Absher, Jessica Watson

BACKGROUND: SCD Award Winners for 2023 Governor’s Conservation Awards

RECOMMENDATION: This year, SCD is putting forward Guy Phillips as our Agricultural Award winner and Rich Rishel as our Urban/Suburban Award Winner. The Board should vote to approve these winners that will be recognized at a ceremony on Tuesday, May 2, at the Delaware Agricultural Museum in Dover.

Urban/Suburban Award: For 19 years, Rich Rishel has worked hard to build a nationally recognized community while being a good land steward. Rishel is a humble leader who recognizes the importance of teamwork and the construction sites’ environmental impact. Rishel mentors the Carl M. Freeman companies and the entire industry because he sets a high standard and does not skimp. His efforts were further acknowledged at the 2023 Conservation Stewardship Award luncheon, where Rishel accepted the project manager award and a well-deserved standing ovation.

Agriculture Award: Guy Phillips of Georgetown is a grain and poultry farmer growing corn, soybeans, and wheat on 300 acres, about half of that being irrigated. He also raises approximately 178,000 broiler chickens annually. Guy farms alongside his wife Nancy and son Dale. To build soil organic matter, Guy is completely no-till with most of his ground planted in cover crops as soon as possible after harvest. Crop diversity is important to Guy, planting single- and multi-species mixes, including cereal rye, vetch, oats, and radishes.

MOTION: Moved by \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_, to name Guy Phillips as the Governor’s Conservation Award Winner for Agriculture in Sussex County and Rich Rishel as the Governor’s Conservation Award Winner for Urban/Suburban Projects in Sussex County. Motion \_\_\_\_\_.