



We work with the people who work the land.

Hanover-Caroline Soil & Water Conservation District

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Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Agriculture Committee Meeting:

The Agriculture Committee met on May 10, 2022 at 9:00 am at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hanover. The meeting was attended by committee members Leigh Pemberton (Committee Chair), Joseph Stepp, Cindy Smith, Matt Carroll, and Tim Etheredge. Also in attendance was Don Wells, Sharon Conner, Kemper Marable, and Kelsey Williams.

The committee reviewed the 9th ranking for cost-share funding. The committee recommended approval of the report as presented. Ms. Conner then turned it over to Matt Carroll, NRCS, for the local working group portion of the meeting.

Mr. Carroll handed out a copy of the 2023 local working group questionnaire. The committee discussed new priorities and improvements to federal programs such as EQIP, CRP, and CIG. The group suggested adding edge of field practices such as field borders and ditch absorption practices. The group also suggested incentives for new farmers that otherwise don't qualify for state programs due to the acreage and/or income restrictions. Mr. Carroll will pass on those ideas to his state office.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Pemberton, Committee Chair

Education Committee Meeting:

The Education Committee met virtually May 17, 2022 at 2:30 am. The meeting was attended by committee members Meredith Dash, director and chairman; Joseph H. Stepp, III, director; Don Wells, director; Tim Etheredge, director; Laura Maxey-Nay, director; Sharon Conner, district manager; Karen Fetty, education specialist.

The Committee discussed:

1. Updates to MWEE programming in Hanover and Caroline County schools
 - HCPS MWEE - April 28, 29, May 5, 6 = 240 students
 - CCPS MWEE – canceled
 - Videos, Google Slideshows and Kits created for classroom use - Still works in progress
 - Macroinvertebrate ID
 - Water Quality Testing

2. Paid Internships
 - Committee recommended: Karen will create a job description and then bring to committee for review with internship so it will be ready for advertising to begin this Dec/Jan. Sharon and Karen should work together to get the paperwork process set up through Caroline County.
3. Unpaid internships
 - Committee recommended: Karen will reply to recent R-MC request saying we will work on our Internship program. Karen will create job description and bring to committee for review. Potential internship for next school year.
4. Out-of-District residents requests for Make-and-Take systems
 - Committee recommended: Approval of providing systems to residents of nearby districts when requested, when their district provides no such programs. Due to the inflation of gas prices and other supplies, Karen will run a cost analysis of the 3 types of practices (rain barrels, vermicompost bins and pet digesters to see if we need to increase the fees.
5. Shifting to a Community Focus
 - Recommendation/Action: Committee supports shift toward Community Focus as long as we can gather numbers in creative ways. Sharon/Meredeth will reach out to initiate a conversation with Mike Dieter and Asst County Administrator to have an open discussion about this upcoming shift.

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Fetty

Meredeth Dash, Committee Chair