

# MASCD PRESIDENTS AND SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

By: Arnold C. Hawkins



## INTRODUCTION

The following pages give some of the History of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts starting with the administration of Lathrop E. Smith in 1966. During the administration of Mr. Smith, the Association requested Mr. Fred Bull, past Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee, and past Supervisor of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District, to write a history of the Association. Material was collected and assembled over the next few years and a history was published in 1970 that covered Association activities up to and including part of the administration of Lathrop E. Smith. This is a continuation of that history giving some of the more important activities involving soil conservation districts beginning with the Lathrop E. Smith administration. This report will make mention of activities which were not specifically sponsored by MASCD; however, the Association is concerned with all phases of soil and water conservation and in 1966 the President of the Association was made a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Also the Association was instrumental in creating the Conservation Education Council of Maryland, which for a number of years held its annual meeting in conjunction with the Winter Meeting of the Association.

The first ten reports in Section 7c are a collection of reports written by Arnold Hawkins for the presidents of MASCD. After that the association adopted a policy for each president to update the history at the conclusion of their term of office.

The initial publication of Section 7c included reports of the presidents up through the term of Donald L. Spickler, which ended in July 1987. Reports of the presidents whose terms ended after July 1987 were initially published as Part D, a supplement to Part C. In 2001 the Part D supplements were combined with Part C.

Arnold C. Hawkins

## Contents

		Page
Introduction		7c00
Contents		7c1
Term of Lathrop E. Smith	01-66 to 01-69	7c2
Term of Norman Fike	01-69 to 12-70	7c3
Term of Wilbur F. Ward, Jr.	12-70 to 12-72	7c4
Term of Coursey Edwards	12-72 to 03-73	7c5
Term of Fred Lieske	03-73 to 07-75	7c6
Term of Wilbert R. Paul	07-75 to 07-77	7c7
Term of William S. Sutton	07-77 to 07-79	7c8
Term of Floyd Allred, Jr.	07-79 to 07-81	7c9
Term of W. Lee McFarlane	07-81 to 10-83	7c10
Second Term of W. Lee McFarlane	10-83 to 10-85	7c11
Term of Donald L. Spickler	10-85 to 07-87	7c12
Term of Richard W. Wright	07-87 to 07-89	7c13
Term of Royden Powell	07-89 to 04-92	7c14
Term of George Lechliden	05-92 to 07-97	7c15
Term of Martha Clark	07-97 to 07-01	7c16
Term of Robert Wilson	07-01 to 07-05	7c17
Term of Lee McDaniel	07-05 to 07-09	7c18
Term of R. Calvert Steuart	07-09 to 07-13	7c19
Term of Hans Schmidt	07-13 to 12-15	7c20
Term of Charles Rice	12-15 to 08-19	7c21
Term of Bruce Yerkes	08-19 to 08-23	7c22

LATHROP E. SMITH ADMINISTRATION  
January 7, 1966 to January 4, 1969

Lathrop E. Smith, supervisor in the Montgomery District, assumed office at the close of the Association's Meeting January 7, 1966. His term lasted to January 4, 1969. At the Association Meeting which Mr. Smith assumed office, the Association voted to support a proposed amendment to the soil conservation district's law giving more district representation on the State Soil Conservation Committee. Legislation was introduced that year and on June 1, 1966 Lathrop Smith and Mitchell Digges became new members of the State Committee. Paul McKee, Department of Water Resources, also became a member at that time.

Efforts were initiated to establish a District Manager Program during this period. In 1968 funds were made available for a pilot program for the State Committee to cost-share with Howard County to provide a District Manager for the Howard Soil Conservation District. By 1978 this program had expanded to sixteen managers.

The Soil Conservation District Law was passed in 1937 and the State Soil Conservation Committee was established that year. The State Committee issued a number of five-year progress reports. The year 1967 was the occasion for publishing a thirty-year report and plans were initiated for this publication. The report was published in 1969.

Various means for gaining tax exempt status for the Association were investigated including exploring the possibility of an amendment to the Soil Conservation District's Law; however, this would not let the Association remain an independent organization and these plans were dropped. In 1968 efforts were initiated to obtain tax-exempt status through an Internal Revenue Service exemption. The Association's Articles of Incorporation were amended to provide for this. It was not until after Norman Fike became president that the tax-exempt status was accomplished.

During this period there was a major change in the arrangements to provide clerical assistance to soil conservation districts. Up until this time, the Soil Conservation Service and the State Committee had been providing part-time clerical assistance. The County Government was assisting in three or four districts. The Soil Conservation Service was notified in October 1968 that they would have to absorb all pay increases given that year retroactive to July 1. The Soil Conservation Service was faced with a decision to lay off technical personnel or cease the part-time clerical assistance. SCS clerical assistance was ceased in December and the State Soil Conservation Committee redistributed all remaining clerical funds among all the districts. Many of the districts met with their County Governments and most received help from the counties.

Montgomery and Baltimore County Districts were involved in developing sediment control programs during this period. The Montgomery Soil Conservation District led the way and the Baltimore County District was soon to follow. Both had programs operating prior to the statewide programs, which were to come later. With the increased emphasis on urban sediment control the soil conservation districts in the Baltimore-Washington urban area made plans to take turns in sponsoring an urban conservation tour. The first tour was held in the Montgomery District, October 19, 1967. The Prince George's District sponsored a tour on September 26, 1968.

The National Watershed Congress annually honors an outstanding individual for working in connection with watershed projects. The State Soil Conservation Committee submitted Lathrop E. Smith's name for his work in connection with the Rock Creek Project, and in 1968 he received the Watershed Man of the Year Award.

A Potomac Basin Compact was developed during this period. The Association endorsed the Compact in principle without approval of specific provisions. Eventually the Maryland legislature adopted the Compact but it was not implemented due to lack of adoption by the other states.

In July of 1967, the Association passed a resolution supporting state participation in Public Law 566 projects and in December 1966 the Association supported a specific proposal for state participation in the operation phase of the small watershed program. The State Soil Conservation Committee was already providing funds to SCS to assist in the planning of these projects.

A shore erosion tour was held in September 1968. People from Maryland and the surrounding states took part in the tour and viewed various shore erosion installations. Walter Denny was instrumental in arranging the tour. Mr. Denny was interested in all problems associated with the Bay. In June, 1968 he was appointed to a Legislative Advisory Committee on Chesapeake Bay Pollution.

The National Association of Conservation Districts established a District Outlook Committee. The Maryland Association and the State Soil Conservation Committee established a joint District Outlook Committee in October 1966. The main activity of the Committee was studying and making proposals for changes in the Soil Conservation Districts, Law.

Efforts were initiated to establish better relations between districts and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service County Committees. A Memorandum of Understanding was developed and signed by some of the districts. Also a Memorandum was developed and signed with the Department of Water Resources in 1968.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program continued. The Carroll District was the winning district in 1966, Howard was second. Washington County headed the list in 1967, Somerset was second. The Howard District was first in 1968 with Caroline second. Participation in the program was good at this time. Twenty-three out of twenty-four districts were entered in the 1968 contest.

By Arnold C. Hawkins

NORMAN FIKE ADMINISTRATION  
January 4, 1969 to December 4, 1970

Norman Fike, supervisor in the Talbot District, assumed the presidency at the close of the meeting January 4, 1969. He served as president until December 4, 1970. His term of office was a period of most significant change in soil conservation district programs. The Patuxent Sediment Control Law was passed in 1969. This legislation affected only seven districts but it was the forerunner of much broader legislation which came the next year and affected all districts. The State Soil Conservation Committee helped sponsor several meetings to get the Patuxent Program started.

A Statewide Sediment Control Law was passed in 1970. Again a series of meetings were held to help familiarize everyone with the law and help get it implemented. The State Committee and Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts took an active part in these meetings. This legislation was of major importance to districts because it required all districts to be involved with a mandatory program. The passage of the sediment control program and support of district clerks and managers by the counties brought a need for closer working relations with county governments. A Memorandum of Understanding between districts and counties was developed by a special committee to the Association and recommended by the Association as a guide for districts to use in developing memorandums with their county governments.

Closer working relations with the State Roads developed during this period. A major erosion problem developed on some new road construction in the Allegany District. The Allegany District worked with the local State Roads officials to correct the problem. This led to the State Roads Commission agreeing to furnish local authorities with road plans and requiring contractors to comply with local ordinances when constructing state roads.

The "District Outlook Committee" continued its discussions of district programs and legislation. A process for appointment of all supervisors was approved by the State Committee and MASCD in December, 1969 and House Bill 1327 was passed by the 1970 session of the General Assembly but was made effective in July of 1971. The "District Outlook Committee" was also instrumental in getting the Association's Committees to adopt programs or plans of work.

At the January 1970 meeting each Committee was asked to discuss a "Program for the Seventies". Each Committee's goals and objectives were discussed and a final program adopted and published in July 1970.

Efforts to obtain tax-exempt status for the Association continued. Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation were approved July 14, 1969 and on October 3, 1969 Arnold Hawkins reported to the Board of Directors that he had received tax exemption under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code as a non-profit educational organization, contributions to which are tax exempt.

The Urban Tour initiated in 1967 continued through this administration. The Howard District hosted the tour in 1969 and the Baltimore County District was host in 1970.

Twenty-three districts entered the Goodyear Awards Program in both the 1969 and 1970 programs. Caroline was the winner in 1969, Queen Anne's was second and Frederick won in 1970 with Montgomery second.

Prior to 1969 all state funds for use by districts were dispensed through the State Committee Office on an individual bill basis. During 1969 districts were given the option of receiving state funds for

expenditure at the district level. Most of the districts took advantage of this immediately and on July 1, 1970 all funds allocated to districts were transferred to the districts on a quarterly basis for expenditure at the district level.

Mr. Edward R. Keil served as State Conservationist in Maryland beginning in August, 1959. In May of 1970 he was transferred to the Caribbean Area and Mr. C. Douglas Hole who had been serving as State Conservationist in the Caribbean Area replaced him in Maryland.

Drainage has always been a matter of concern to soil conservation districts particularly the Eastern Shore districts. Questions of policy had been directed to the State Soil Conservation Committee from time to time and this led to the development and adoption of a policy statement on drainage on February 16, 1970.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

WILBUR F. WARD ADMINISTRATION  
December 4, 1970 to December 1, 1971

Wilbur Ward, supervisor in the Calvert District, assumed the presidency December 4, 1970, and served until December 1, 1972. He also served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee during this period. Legislation passed in 1970 became effective in 1971 to revise the membership of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Committee membership was reduced from fourteen to seven members, including three supervisors representing three geographic areas, the President of MASCD, the Chairman of the Agricultural Commission, the Principal Administrator for Agricultural Affairs at the University of Maryland, and the Secretary of Natural Resources.

This same legislation required the annual election of officers by the State Committee. Wilbert Paul was elected Chairman of the Committee, a position he was re-elected to until he became President of MASCD in July, 1975. Mr. Paul was the first supervisor that served as a Chairman of the State Committee. Also this legislation provided for all supervisors to be appointed including one supervisor to be appointed by the County Government. The term of office of State Committee appointed supervisors was increased to four years. The Director of Extension and the State Conservationist were made advisory members of the State Committee and the ASCS State Committee was invited to designate an advisory member.

The changes in membership resulted in the retirement of Dr. Cairns as a member of the State Committee. A special resolution was developed and presented to Dr. Cairns for his many years of service as Chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Prior to the changes in the State Committee membership, the State Conservationist was a voting member of the State Committee. Mr. Hole, the State Conservationist at that time, became very ill and John Gibson was designated Acting State Conservationist and a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee until that change became effective July 1, 1971.

Mr. Hole retired June 28, 1972 and Graham Munkittrick became State Conservationist. The July 20, 1972 minutes of the State Soil Conservation Committee make note of the passing of Mr. Hole. Another outstanding conservationist and Past President of the Association, Lathrop E. Smith, passed away January 20, 1972.

The District Managers program was expanded during this period, \$44,000 was appropriated for the 1971-72 year and eight district managers were authorized at the June 21, 1971 meeting of the State Committee. A job description for District Managers was adopted for districts to use in developing the required job description for their managers. The Committee recommended that the title District Manager be used by all districts.

At the December 21, 1970 meeting of the State Soil Conservation Committee a Civil Rights Statement was adopted and recommended to the districts for adoption. Eventually all soil conservation districts adopted this document.

A Memorandum of Understanding was developed by the Association to be used by districts and the Cooperative Extension Service. Although not specified by law, the policy in most districts is for an extension agent to serve as secretary to the Board of Supervisors and also take the lead in educational activities. This Memorandum served to clarify this point.



The By-Laws of the Association provide for granting of lifetime membership in addition to past presidents who automatically became lifetime members of the Association. Prior to April 1972, lifetime membership had been awarded to Fred Bull, Charles Remsburg and Vernon R. Foster. The Board of Directors at the April 3, 1972 meeting voted Jacob Ankeney to lifetime membership in the Association. At that time Mr. Ankeney had served longer as a supervisor than any other Maryland supervisor.

The Anne Arundel District was host for the fifth Urban Tour held in the fall of 1971 and Baltimore City was host for the sixth tour in 1972. During this period the Governor appointed a Task Force, which studied and recommended the creation of the Department of Agriculture. The Association supported the creation of the proposed department, which was created by the 1972 General Assembly. The Association in December 1972 supported Y.D. Hance as the first Secretary of Agriculture. The Department began operation in January 1973.

The Conservation Needs Inventory was updated and published during this period.

Enrollment in the Goodyear Awards Program declined in 1971 and 1972 to eighteen entries. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1971 program, Calvert was second. The Calvert District won in 1972, Kent was second.

An RC&D Project was approved for Southern Maryland in 1971. This involved the Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Districts. Also in 1971 districts were required to pay Workman's Compensation Insurance. A Public Information Law was passed in 1972, and a change was made in the pond law to provide an exemption from a permit from DNR if the soil conservation district approved the plan.

The Association was a member of the Maryland Rural Affairs Council from its beginning. In 1972 the State Committee was invited to be a member.

Stormwater Management was a topic of discussion for some of the districts during this period. It was to become an important issue for all of the soil conservation districts. It had its beginning in the Montgomery District in 1970, when the district passed a resolution stating that it would encourage the inclusion of designed flood storage in all ponds and lakes and assist in planning for the retention on and in the soil of the greatest percentage of the annual precipitation. The Montgomery County Council soon afterwards adopted a similar policy.

The National Association of Conservation Districts, Convention was held in Washington, D.C. in 1972. The Maryland and Virginia Associations were hosts to the convention. The Maryland Association and all those that attended the convention are indebted to Virginia Wiltbank, Supervisor in the Prince George's District, for the many hours of work and the fine arrangements she made to make the convention a most outstanding one.

The Association at the December 1, 1972 meeting voted to operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. To implement this procedure Coursey Edwards was elected president to serve an initial term of six months.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

COURSEY EDWARDS ADMINISTRATION  
December 1, 1972 to March 21, 1973

Coursey Edwards, Caroline SCD Supervisor, became president of the Association December 1, 1972. He served only until March 21, 1973 when he resigned as president and as a supervisor of the district.

Some legislation of interest to districts was proposed and/or acted upon during this period. A bill to create a soil conservation district for Baltimore City was submitted but was withdrawn prior to being acted upon. Changes in the Soil Conservation Districts' Law were proposed that would add the Secretary of Agriculture and one additional supervisor as members of the Committee. Some efforts were made to include agriculture in the required sediment control program. The National Association of Counties, NACD, and others developed a model sediment control act, which included agriculture. Also in Baltimore County legislation was proposed which would have tied preferential farm taxation to sediment control. In the Montgomery District legislation was proposed that would have removed the sediment control program from the district and made it an all county responsibility.

In February 1973, the Attorney General issued an opinion regarding district supervisors and the Maryland two offices of profit law. The opinion stated that district supervisors are holders of an office of profit. This eventually led to the resignation of several supervisors and also affected the eligibility of potential supervisors.

At the March 22, 1973 Directors Meeting Coursey Edwards, resignation was accepted and Fred Lieske was elected President. Mr. Lieske had been serving as Second Vice- President; however, Wilbert Paul, 1st Vice-President, was already a member of the State Committee and would have had to resign his appointed term because he could not serve in two capacities.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

FRED LIESKE ADMINISTRATION  
March 22, 1973 to July 18, 1975

Fred Lieske, supervisor in the Cecil District, was elected President on March 22, 1973. His initial term was to complete the unexpired term of Coursey Edwards who resigned. Mr. Lieske was later elected to two full terms and served until July 18, 1975.

A new Association committee structure was initiated at this time. Five basic committees were named and each soil conservation district was asked to designate one supervisor to serve on each committee. Other committees were named as appropriate. Membership on these committees was in addition to the basic committees.

The State Soil Conservation Committee had for several years requested funds to hire an assistant secretary. These efforts had failed to date so in 1973 when the opportunity to obtain assistance under the Inter-Governmental Personnel Act became available the State Committee entered into an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service for Dale Churchey to be "Program Advisor" to the State Committee. In June 1975, Dale transferred to Nebraska and Winstead Burdette took his place as "Program Advisor". Other additions of personnel during this period were the hiring of two Soil Conservation Engineers. These were the first engineers authorized for the State Committee.

Early in 1973 the Attorney General had given an opinion that District Supervisors were office of profit holders. Under Maryland law a person cannot hold two offices of profit. Three supervisors, R. Johns Dixon, Harry Walter, and Theodore Bramble, resigned because of other offices they held. Later in the year two other supervisors, Wilbur Dove and Horace Brauning had to resign in order to accept other offices.

Agricultural Erosion was a major topic of discussion at the July, 1973 meeting and again at the January, 1974 meeting. A resolution at the July meeting requested soil conservation districts to "take necessary action to promote control of agricultural erosion and sediment production and that the State Committee take action to place agriculture under the Sediment Control Law, if and when the Committee feels it is necessary."

In January the Association recommended that "There be a more intensified voluntary agricultural sediment control program by the farmers in each district. To accomplish this, educational programs need far more consideration with more effort to have personal contact with farmers in the Districts." In another resolution the Association encouraged all districts "to act as an observing and inventory agency for erosion problems occurring in agriculture lands so that these problems can be corrected on an individual basis."

At the July, 1975 meeting of the State Committee it was the consensus of the Committee that "special effort should be made to get a conservation plan on every farm in the state."

Many districts, the Association, and the State Soil Conservation Committee corresponded with the Corps of Engineers or testified on the proposed regulations to implement Section 404 of Public Law 92-500. This concerned the drainage of agricultural lands. PL 92-500 also was important to districts because of Section 208 and the water quality provisions.

The Association in July, 1975 recommended that "the districts, the State Committee, and the Soil Conservation Service, be active participants in the water quality planning process, especially Section 202 of Public Law 92-500, and that districts be the local responsible agency to carry out non-point pollution

controls on agricultural lands." They also recommended "that each district make a concerted effort to develop a conservation plan on all farms in their jurisdiction and that an extensive education program be initiated throughout the state with regard to the effort and leadership for the education program be by the Cooperative Extension Service.

The Association adopted an affiliate and contributing membership program in 1973. Contributions to the program are set aside for educational activities. Also, the Association on January 4, 1974 voted to establish a conservation scholarship fund. This eventually developed into the Grant-Scholarship Endowment Fund. In October 1974 the Association accepted from Arnold C. Hawkins and Dale Churchey funds left from the 1973 Sediment Institute to start the fund. A Pond Design Manual was published in June 1975 and proceeds from the sale of these manuals were specified to be placed in the Endowment Fund.

In 1974 arrangements were worked out for the joint publication of a newsletter by the Association and the State Soil Conservation Committee. A non-profit educational organization mailing permit was obtained by the Association and the State Committee agreed to cover printing costs.

The NACD-Allis Chalmers Educational Awards Program was started in 1974. The Maryland Districts took part in the program, named state winners, and submitted entries in the regional contest in 1974 and 1975. The Association adopted its own Awards Program in July 1975.

The Maryland Districts assisted with an inventory of private outdoor recreational facilities. The inventory was completed in July 1975. It was later published by the Interior Department.

Supervisors training sessions were held by the State Committee in four locations in 1974. Also the State Committee was host to the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic State Soil Conservation Committees.

Efforts were initiated in 1974 to obtain some method of securing benefits and job security for district employees. Initial thoughts were to request thirteen positions in each of the next three years to obtain twenty-three clerks and sixteen managers. Efforts eventually shifted to obtaining legislation to provide for employees to be covered under the Merit System on a District request basis. This legislation was eventually passed in 1976 only to be vetoed. Identical legislation passed again in 1977 and was made effective July 1, 1978.

An RC&D Project had been in operation in Southern Maryland for several years. Walter Denny took the leadership in getting representation from the various counties and districts on the Eastern Shore to sponsor an application for planning assistance. An application was made for the shore area of Maryland.

In December, 1974 the State Soil Conservation Committee made application to the Corps of Engineers for a blanket permit through which permits for drainage maintenance could be issued for those projects carried out under district supervision without going through the lengthy court hearing process. The permit was obtained a year later.

The State Soil Conservation Committee sponsored a Sediment Institute in 1973. This was held October 17, 1973 the day before the Urban Tour was held in the Montgomery District. The Institute was also held in 1974 in conjunction with the Urban Tour held in the Prince George's District.

A petition to dissolve the Anne Arundel District was of concern to the districts early in 1974. The result was that the provisions to dissolve districts were removed from the law just as the provisions to form districts were removed several years earlier. An act of legislature is now required to form or dissolve a district.

Other 1974 amendments to the Districts, Law included (1) addition of a definition of conservation as follows: "Conservation means the wise utilization of natural resources and includes any one or more of the following; the development, improvement, maintenance, protection or preservation of these resources; the control and prevention of flood water and sediment damage, and the controlled disposal of water; (2) addition of two members to the State Soil Conservation Committee to include the Secretary of Agriculture and one additional supervisor; (3) a provision that any supervisor that fails to attend at least 50% of all regular meetings of the Board of Supervisors shall be considered to have resigned.

The 1973 winner of the Goodyear Awards Program was the Charles District; Prince George's was second. The Baltimore County District won in 1974, Catocin was second.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

WILBERT R. PAUL ADMINISTRATION  
July 18, 1975 to July 22, 1977

Wilbert R. Paul served as president for two years, from July 17, 1975 to July 22, 1977. The Association was involved in a number of important actions and activities during this period. This report makes mention of a number of State Soil Conservation Committee actions. The President of Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts is a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Legislation was proposed and supported by the Association and districts to gain benefits for district managers and clerks by covering the employees under the State Merit System. The legislation was passed in 1976, but was vetoed. Identical legislation was passed again in 1977 and made effective July 1, 1978.

There were a number of changes in supervisors during this period. A list is attached. Two of the Past Presidents of the Association, Mr. Harry H. Rieck and Mr. T. Walter Denny, were among the deceased. A committee was appointed by the Association to establish a memorial for Mr. T. Walter Denny, who had served as MASCD President for five years, and was NACD Director, and Area Vice-President, as well as Chairman of the NACD and Maryland Shore Erosion Committees. Arrangements were made with the Corps of Engineers to landscape an area at the Chesapeake Bay Model as a memorial to Mr. Denny. The Association also made a financial contribution to the memorial.

Some supervisors were lost because of Maryland's "Two Offices of Profit Legislation". One of these, Horace Brauning, was made a lifetime member of the Association in March, 1976, at the request of the Carroll Soil Conservation District.

The personnel assistance of the Soil Conservation Service to the State Committee which had been instituted in 1973 under the Inter-Governmental Personnel act was terminated in 1976, because a permanent position had been created in the State Committee budget to replace this Soil Conservation Service assistance. An Assistant Secretary to the State Committee, Marshall Rea, was hired in January 1977. Marshall also served as Secretary to the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts. In October 1976, there was a change in State Conservationists. Graham Munkittrick left Maryland to become State Conservationist in Pennsylvania. Gerald Calhoun was his replacement.

Maryland Districts continued to take an active part in the Goodyear Awards Program. The Kent Soil Conservation District was the winner of the 1975 program, Cecil was second. The Howard Soil Conservation District was winner of the 1976 contest, and Frederick was second. In 1977 the program in Maryland was changed to operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1976-77 program and the Baltimore County District was second.

Publication of a newsletter in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Committee was continued. In addition to the newsletter, activities of the Association were publicized through publication of the proceedings of the January, 1977 meeting of the Association. This publication was financed through advertisements placed in the publication. Through the assistance of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District an exhibit frame was made available to the Association for making displays at fairs, etc. A display was placed in the 1977 Home Builders Mart in Baltimore.

The Association continued its support of soil judging activities. The Linganore Chapter of Future Farmers of America was assisted financially, in attending the National Land Judging Contest.

The Association also went on record in support of a broadened soil and land judging program to include 4-H, FFA, Scouts, etc.

An NACD-Allis Chalmers Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program was initiated in 1975. Some of the Maryland Districts took part in the program. The Cecil Soil Conservation District was the Maryland state level district winner.

A Scholarship-Grant Program was developed and adopted during this period. Through the assistance of the Baltimore County Soil Conservation District the Pond Design manuals were reprinted and the proceeds went towards the Educational Endowment Fund, which had been established.

The fund had increased to \$5, 000 by July, 1977. The Association at that time voted to make the interest earned after July 1977 available for the Scholarship Grant Program.

The Affiliate and Contributing Memberships were continued. Proceeds from these memberships were deposited in the Educational Endowment Fund.

The Association adopted an Awards Program at the July, 1975 meeting. Recognition was given to outstanding supervisors, employees, and cooperators by awarding certificates at the July, 1976 and July, 1977 Annual Meetings.

Several sections of PL 92-500 became of major concern during this period. A court decision resulted in new regulations being proposed for implementing Section 404. This section concerned activities in navigable waters, drainage, etc. The Association and many districts testified on this issue.

District involvement in planning for clean water under Section 208 began during this period. The State Committee arranged a tour of Agricultural Conservation practices for Basin Planners. Some districts also arranged tours.

An Association Committee was appointed to develop a program for agricultural input into Section 208 Planning. In January 1977 an Ad Hoc Task Force for 208 Planning was formed to coordinate agricultural input into 208 Planning. The Association was a member of this group. Eventually each district chairman was made a member of the Governmental Policy Group, an advisory group for each basin. Later on arrangements were worked out with WRA wherein districts would inventory and map agricultural land uses. These arrangements included a signed agreement between WRA, the State Soil Conservation Committee, and the district and included provisions for reimbursement to the district by Water Resources Administration.

There were several proposals during this period to bring agriculture under the State Sediment Control Program or to tie the preferential tax for land in agriculture to conservation plans. The MASCD resisted these proposals and passed a resolution recommending there be no legislation of this nature until after the 208 Planning process was complete.

The Washington Area Association of Conservation Districts after having been planned for a number of years finally got off the ground. Quarterly meetings were arranged between the Montgomery, and Prince George's Districts of Maryland, the District of Columbia Government and three districts in Virginia. Through this Association arrangements were made under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act for an SCS person to be assigned to the Washington Council of Governments. This person assisted in the planning for Clean Water under PL 92-500.

Other I.P.A. arrangements were made to assist in 208 Planning in the Baltimore Regional Planning Council Area and with the WRA for the non-designated area of the rest of the State.

The State Committee after almost a year of effort obtained a permit from the Corps of Engineers to satisfy the permit requirements for drainage systems maintenance carried out through the soil conservation districts.

In connection with drainage the State Committee hired an engineer to assist with carrying out a drainage program. This program was initiated under the Secretary of Agriculture's authority to carry out a drainage program and coordinate the activities of the public drainage associations. This authority was amended in 1976 to provide authority to cost share on drainage maintenance. It was not budgeted until after 1977.

An application was submitted for an RC&D Project for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. MASCD supported that application. An RC&D Council was formed for the area. For the first time the entire Eastern Shore area got together and supported the application. Only ten projects were approved nationwide during this period and the Eastern Shore was not one of them. The application remained pending.

The Southern Maryland RC&D continued its fine work in the Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Districts. Roadside stabilization was completed in the Calvert District.

Three additional employees (Soil Conservation Associates) were made available by the 1977 General Assembly. This made twelve State Committee employees providing technical assistance to\* districts. A working agreement between SCS and the Committee was developed and signed. This agreement spelled out employee arrangements for employees assigned to SCS.

The records retention services of the Record Retention Division, Hall of Records, were made available to the districts during this administration.

Requirements for open public meetings of the State Soil Conservation Committee became a reality -in 1976 through a Governor's Executive Order. The State Soil Conservation Committee advised districts that this applied to them also. Effective July 1, 1977, legislation made this mandatory.

Maryland was host to the Northeast Area NACD Meeting in August 1976, at New Carrollton, Maryland. A very successful meeting and tour was held.

The Association and Districts, continued their good working relations with the Department of Natural Resources. During this time a working arrangement was established with Water Resources Administration and the Drainage Association of the Pocomoke River for maintenance of the dredged portion of the river.

The Memorandum of Understanding with the Wildlife Administration was revised and signed by all districts. Cooperation in the 208 Planning process is mentioned elsewhere in this report. The Association also worked with the Coastal Zone Management Program. The Association named a representative to the Coastal Zone Resources Advisory Committee and the Association encouraged the districts to seek representation on the local CZM Advisory Boards.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins



WILLIAM SUTTON ADMINISTRATION  
July 22, 1977 to July 20, 1979

William "Billy" Sutton assumed the office of President of MASCD at the close of the annual meeting, July 22, 1977. Assuming office with him were Virginia Wiltbank, First Vice President; Floyd Allred, Jr., Second Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Marshall Rea, Secretary. He served for two years to July 1979. As President of the Association, Mr. Sutton automatically served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Marshall Rea left the employ of the State Committee during this period to become District Manager in the Montgomery District. Paul Seman was Assistant Secretary to the State Committee from March 7, 1979 to August 31, 1979 and Benjamin Rigdon served in this capacity from December 19, 1979 to May 7, 1980.

There were a number of supervisor changes during this period as indicated by the attached list of appointments that were made. Twenty new supervisors were appointed. At the request of the Carroll District, Randall G. Spoerlein was made a life member of the Association.

The Association continued support of the Goodyear Awards Program and recommended all districts participate in the program. The Cecil District was the winner of the 1977 contest which ended June 30, 1977 and the Baltimore County District was second. The Catoclin District was winner of the 1978 contest and Caroline was second. The Carroll District won the contest ending June 30, 1979; Montgomery was second. To facilitate the judging of this program, the Association recommended that annual plans be submitted by September 1st and annual reports be submitted by February 1st each year.

Development of a Youth Conservation Program was continued under the leadership of Robert Ziehm, District Manager in the Howard District. Through his efforts a CETA employee was secured to work full-time on developing this program. One of the significant developments during this period was a proclamation by the Governor for the third week of May, 1979, to be proclaimed "Youth Conservation Week".

The Association was the recipient of a set of U.S. and Maryland flags to use at meetings, etc. Virginia Wiltbank, Supervisor in the Prince George's District, donated a U.S. flag, staff, stand, etc., and Mitchell Digges, Supervisor in the Charles District, made a donation of a Maryland flag set.

The Annual meeting of NACD was held in Washington, D.C. in February 1979. The Maryland and Virginia Associations were hosts for the meeting.

The awards program of the Association was continued and expanded. The Allis Chalmers Conservation Education Awards Program was expanded to provide for an award to be made to the outstanding teacher and district at the State level. The State Committee adopted a program to make awards to State Committee and district employees for outstanding service and for length of service. Efforts were also made to expand the soil judging program for increased participation by both 4-H and FFA.

In January 1979, Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., became the second person to serve as Maryland Secretary of Agriculture. A resolution was developed and presented to Y.D. Hance in recognition of his six years of service as the first Secretary of Agriculture in Maryland. Secretary Hance was also a Past Supervisor in the Calvert District.

As President of the Association, Mr. Sutton was also a voting member of the State Committee. Other members of the Committee in July 1977 were Vernon R. Foster, C. Edward Holloway, Allie

Messer, Wilbur Ward, Donald Spickler, Y.D. Hance, Herbert Sachs, and Frank L. Bentz, Jr. Kenneth McElroy, Department of Natural Resources, replaced Herbert Sachs on the Committee in June, 1978 and Richard Wright replaced C. Edward Holloway as the Eastern Shore representative in July, 1979. Secretary Cawley became a member when he was appointed Secretary in January 1979. On February 9, 1979, he designated Arnold Hawkins to be the Department's voting member. Vernon Foster was Chairman for the entire period.

During this period the Committee adopted a policy of appointing the Past Chairman of the Committee as an advisory member. Mitchell Digges became the first person to serve in this capacity in July 1977 when his term on the Committee expired. In Maryland, service on the Committee is limited to two full four-year terms. The Committee also appointed an Executive Committee to include the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, President of MASCD and the Past Chairman.

The Resource Conservation Act was passed in December 1977. On September 21, 1978, the Committee entered into an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service to administer funds available from SCS to carry out the RCA Program. A total of \$73,000 was made available. This was the first time the State Committee was involved in the administration of federal grant funds. David Benner, SCS, assisted the Committee in developing an outline for district programs. Chuck Hancock, also of SCS, assisted with this program.

The Catoctin District was the sponsor of Project Clearwater held in August 1978. This was a replay of the one-day conservation rejuvenation of a farm that was held in the same area in 1938. The Catoctin District was nominated for and later received the American Motors Conservation Award for carrying out this project.

The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (PL-9587) was enacted in August 1977. A Rural Abandoned Mines Program administered by SCS was part of this Act. An advisory committee was established for this program. The already established State Land Reclamation Committee was used as the basic membership for this Committee with the addition of representation from the State Committee and other agencies. The first meeting of the RAMP Coordinating Committee was held January 17, 1979.

During this period a three-way agreement was developed which spelled out the working arrangements between the State Committee, districts and the Soil Conservation Service. The agreement was especially helpful in connection with assigning responsibility for supervision of State Committee and district employees. The agreements were signed by the State Committee on July 20, 1978.

The legal status of districts had not been very clear until August 23, 1978, when the Attorney General issued an opinion which provided that districts are independent political subdivisions of the State.

Maryland Senate Bill 159 was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 1977 and made effective July 1, 1978. The districts had until June 30, 1979, to apply to have their employees covered under the State Merit System. Eighteen districts made application to have one or more employees covered.

Mr. Sutton's term as President of MASCD and member of the SSCC ended with the close of the MASCD Annual Meeting July 20, 1979.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

FLOYD ALLRED, JR., ADMINISTRATION  
July 20, 1979 to July 17, 1981

Floyd Allred, Jr., Cecil Soil Conservation District was elected President of MASCD in July, 1979. He assumed office at the close of the Annual Meeting, July 20, 1979. Elected with him were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Lee McFarlane, 2nd Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Joan Price, Secretary. These officers served for two years to July 1981.

As President of the Association, Mr. Allred was also a voting member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other members of the Committee in July, 1979 were: Vernon R. Foster, Wilbur F. Ward, Donald Spickler, Richard Wright, Kenneth McElroy, Allie Messer, Frank Bentz and Arnold Hawkins. Mr. Foster served as Chairman of the Committee during the entire period.

In October 1979, Mr. Julian Hill replaced Allie Messer as the SSCC, Agricultural Commission member. In August 1980, Mr. John L. King became the Agricultural Commission member.

In March 1980, Wilbur Ward resigned and W. Mitchell Digges was appointed to take his place. Also, in February 1980, the Committee requested the Secretary to designate someone, other than the Executive Secretary, to represent the Department. He responded by appointing Dr. Robert Altman. Dr. Altman served until he retired from the Department in June 1981. As a result of a Governor's Executive Order, some functions of the Water Resources Administration were transferred to the Health Department, Office of Environmental Programs. Mr. McElroy, the Department of Natural Resources representative, transferred to the Department of Health in September, 1980. Mr. Thomas Andrews became the Department of Natural Resources representative. The Committee requested the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to appoint an advisory member to the Committee. The Secretary responded by appointing Mr. Kenneth McElroy.

Paul Seman served as Assistant Secretary to the State Committee from March 1979 to August 1979. Ben Rigdon assumed this position in December 1979 and served until May 1980. The position remained vacant for the rest of this period. Some part-time assistance was received from Chuck Hancock, SCS, during the Fall of 1979. Toni McGowan served as Office Secretary during most of this period.

Mary Ann Tannachion was hired in 1979 to assist the State Committee and districts in developing long-range plans and other Resource Conservation Act related activities. During the year that she was employed, most of the districts developed programs and a program under the title of "Conservation: A New Beginning" was developed and published for the State Committee. The publication of the State Committee and district programs was made possible through a grant from the USDA, Soil Conservation Service. These RCA Grant Funds were also made available to the districts for appraisals of the status of resources, etc.

The SCS had been operating without area conservationists. In January 1980 two areas were designated and Whitey Secor became the first Area Conservationist for Area I, Paul Edwards became Area Conservationist for Area II.

The Association continued to collect funds from the sale of Stormwater Management Pond Design manuals for the Scholarship Grant Fund. Interest from the Fund was paid out for scholarships or grants.

The Association's Information and Education Committee continued efforts to establish a Maryland Youth Conservation Education Awards Program. Funds for awards were collected and paid out one year

only. It was the consensus of those working with the program that full-time leadership would be necessary for the program to be successful. This was not available and the program was discontinued.

The Merit System legislation passed in 1977 gave districts until June 30, 1977 to apply to have their secretaries and managers to be covered under the State Merit System. Eighteen districts applied. Arrangements were worked out with these districts and twenty-one district employees were on the State payroll on June 30, 1981.

In January 1981, a number of private contractors filed a lawsuit against the five equipment operating soil conservation districts and the Department of Agriculture in the U.S. District Court. The suit involved a claim that soil conservation districts were unfairly competing with private industry. The suit was still pending in July 1981.

Workshops for District Secretaries were held each year. The districts were encouraged by the Association and Committee to send their secretary to these two-day events.

In March, 1981, the Secretary of Agriculture requested the Agricultural Commission to "make an in depth study of the soil conservation districts with a view to strengthening and clarifying the law that governs districts." The Commission reported and made recommendations in July 1981.

Officials of the EPA Chesapeake Bay Study met with State Committee members and supervisors to discuss obtaining assistance with their studies of the area. It was determined that the information they needed could be obtained from SCS records.

In 1980-81 drainage cost share funds were made a part of the SSCC budget. These funds were disbursed through the appropriate soil conservation district to the Public Drainage Associations and Public Watershed Associations that had made application for assistance.

The Catocin Soil Conservation District was the recipient of the American Motors Conservation Award for 1980 for their work in carrying out Project Clearwater.

Districts continued to take part in the Goodyear Awards program. The Carroll District was first in 1979 and Montgomery was second. The Allegany District was first in 1980 and Kent was second.

Some districts also competed in the NACD-Allis Chalmers Education Awards Program. The Baltimore County District was first in 1979; the Cecil District was first in 1980. The Association continued its program of awarding certificates for Outstanding Leadership, Special Achievement, Outstanding Contributions By A New Supervisor, Outstanding Cooperator, Outstanding Employee, Outstanding Contribution, and Outstanding Associate Supervisor.

The Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) set up a 208 Planning Committee in March 1976. The Committee made its report in January 1977 and recommended that districts take an active role in 208 Planning. An Ad Hoc Task Force consisting of representatives from various public and private agricultural interests was formed to enhance the participation of the agricultural sector in 208 Planning. Dr. Bentz, Vice Chairman of SSCC, served as Chairman. The continued meetings of the MASCD 208 Planning Committee and the Ad Hoc Task Force led to a proposal for water quality plans to be developed to control animal wastes and agricultural sediment. The plans would be developed voluntarily unless there was a citation by WRA for a water quality violation. Eventually a proposed program to meet 208 water quality requirements was forwarded to EPA. It was given conditional approval on September 28, 1979 and following completion of the education part of the program and a reporting system; it received final approval on February 6, 1980.

An important part of this activity was the development of three applications for rural clean water projects. This program was never funded through SCS as originally proposed. Eventually an Experimental RCWP project was funded through ASCS for the Pipe Creek area of the Carroll District. The District took an active part in carrying out this project.

The Annual Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic SSCC's was held in Carlisle, Pennsylvania in March 1980. Maryland was the host for the 1981 meeting held in Frederick, Maryland.

In July 1980 an RC&D Project was approved for the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Planning and implementation of projects continued in the Southern Maryland project also.

A movie, "Down on the Farm", was produced through the efforts of SCS in the Cecil SCD.

Legislation was passed in 1980 that would provide for fees to pay for district review of sediment control plans. The legislation required the approval of the county government. It had been used in only one district a year later.

Legislation was also passed in 1980 to include SSCC members under requirements to file financial disclosure statements. This was greatly modified by the 1981 General Assembly. At the time of this writing, regulations had not been published to implement the legislation.

Gerald Calhoun, SCS, State Conservationist for Maryland, also served as the National President of the Soil Conservation Society of America during calendar year 1980.

Supervisor liability has always been a concern of district supervisors. A number of possibilities to gain some protection were investigated. In 1981, two pieces of legislation were introduced. Legislation to provide for assistance to supervisors by the Attorney General did not pass. The second piece of legislation passed in 1981 and was signed into law. It included members and employees of boards of supervisors under the definition of State Personnel in Title 12 of the State Government Article and made them eligible for payments for any settlement or judgment against them.

The Association at the 1980 Annual Meeting, voted to give the president authority to obtain part-time executive secretary assistance. President Allred arranged with Dale Churchey, a former District Conservationist in Maryland, to provide this assistance.

President Allred ended his term as President on July 17, 1981 when he passed the gavel to Lee McFarlane, the incoming President. Assuming office with Mr. McFarlane were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Loring Sparks, 2nd Vice-President; Wilson Lippy, Treasurer; and Joan Price, Secretary.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

W. LEE MCFARLANE ADMINISTRATION  
July 17, 1981 to October 25, 1983

Lee McFarlane, a Supervisor in the Howard SCD, became President of the MASCD at the close of the Annual Meeting in July 1981. Other officers installed with him were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Loring Sparks, 2nd Vice President; Wilson Lippy, Treasurer and Joan Price, Secretary. These people were all elected to a two-year term; however, Wilson Lippy resigned after one year and Loring Sparks became Treasurer and Robert Stevens became 2nd Vice-President. Following the death of Robert Stevens in the Fall of 1982, Richard Wright became 2nd vice-President. At the regular two-year election in 1983, Lee McFarlane was re-elected to a second two-year term. Also elected were Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Richard Wright, 2nd Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer and David Bourdon, Secretary.

As President of MASCD, Mr. McFarlane was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other members with him were Vernon R. Foster, Chairman; Frank L. Bentz, Jr., University of Maryland, Vice-Chairman; Donald L. Spickler, Area #1; W. Mitchell Digges, Area #2; Richard Wright, Area #3; Thomas Andrews, DNR; Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., MDA; and George Kemp, Chairman, Agricultural Commission. Vernon Foster's term as a member expired in July, 1982. He was not eligible for reappointment. Floyd Allred, Jr., was appointed as the Supervisor member for Area #4 and Donald Spickler was elected Chairman. Mr. Coulter, Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources retired in 1983. He was replaced by Dr. Torrey Brown who designated Mr. James Peck to represent DNR replacing Mr. Thomas Andrews on the Committee. In July, 1983 legislation became effective to provide that the chairman of the Agricultural Commission could designate someone other than a commission member as the commission representative to the Committee. Mr. Julian Hill was designated as the SSCC member.

In October 1981, Dale Churchey who had provided administrative assistance to the Association, resigned and President McFarlane assumed more of those duties.

Mr. Gerald Talbert became Assistant Executive Secretary of the State Soil Conservation Committee in September 1981. He left the SSCC position to become Executive Director of the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation in July 1983.

Other changes in personnel of interest to SCD's during this time period were: Stuart Peterson became Executive Director of ASCS, Dr. Hugh Binks became Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Ernest Shea became Director of the MDA Division of Agricultural Development and Marketing.

Thirteen new district supervisors were appointed during this time period. See the attached list of supervisors as of December 15, 1983. At the January 1982 meeting of the Association, Virginia Wiltbank, Past Supervisor in the Prince George's District, was presented with a Life Membership in the Association.

In October 1981, the MASCD adopted a procedure for area sponsorship of MASCD meetings. Schedules were adopted to provide that the four areas would alternate in sponsoring the Annual and Winter Meetings. Each area will host one Annual Meeting and one Winter Meeting in each four-year period.

In July, 1981 Mr. Gould Charsee, the DHMH representative to the SSCC proposed a study be made of SCD workloads. The study was carried out as a joint MASCD/SSCC project and was published with the financial assistance of DHMH and DNR. Copies were distributed in December 1982.

Legislation to require financial disclosure by SSCC members, which was passed in 1980, was finally implemented in May 1983 but in a very much modified form than was originally proposed.

Prior to July 1982 stormwater management was not provided for on a statewide basis. An Attorney General's ruling provided that districts could require stormwater management as a part of sediment control plan review. Legislation passed in 1982 established a statewide program, which made counties responsible for the program. The program is to be fully implemented in July 1984. The legislation provided that districts could take an active part in the program at the request of the counties.

Other legislation passed in 1982 included authorization for the Attorney General to provide assistance to soil conservation districts and an increase from four to five year terms for district supervisors. Also, in 1982 the Association and districts successfully supported an amendment to a Public Drainage Association bill, which provided for immunity from the suit for officers or directors of PDA's. President Wright was at that time chairman of the SSCC subcommittee on drainage. It was too late in the session to submit this same legislation for the Soil Conservation Districts Law; however, the Association voted to request to be submitted in 1983. The request was made but the proposed legislation was not submitted as an administration bill as requested.

A cost-share program for the control of agricultural sources of water pollution was also authorized by the 1982 legislature. The legislation for this program was developed by the SSCC. Five million dollars was made available to cost-share for up to 87 1/2% of the cost of installing best management practices. State Committee personnel assisted with developing regulations and procedures for the program. The program became operational in July 1983.

Legislation was passed in 1983 that made clear districts, authority to provide contracting services, equipment and supplies to landowners. The legislation also made clear that districts can displace or limit economic completion in the exercise of any power specified in the Soil Conservation Districts, Law. This clarification did not have any immediate effect on the lawsuit against five of the districts by a group of private contractors, which was started in 1981 and continued through 1983.

Work with the Rural Clean Water Program continued in the Carroll District. Special cost-sharing funds were also made available in the Baltimore County District when the District received a Clean Lakes Program grant to carry out cost sharing in the drainage area of the reservoirs that provide water to Baltimore City.

The Resource Conservation Act Program Proposals were released in the Fall of 1981. Both the MASCD and SSCC supported the USDA, Secretary's Preferred Program in general, but not at the expense of diminishing current programs or the current level of SCS assistance. The Preferred Program and targeting of funds to critical areas was implemented without any additional funding which left the securing of special area projects as the only way to maintain current levels of assistance.

The SCS in the fall of 1982 initiated an effort, along with Pennsylvania, to obtain funding for a Mason-Dixon Project. This involved eight counties in Maryland and fourteen in Pennsylvania. Work began in 1983 to develop an application along with Delaware and Virginia for a Wind Erosion Project for the Delmarva Area. Work also began in 1983 to develop a special project for Southern Maryland.

There was a lot of water quality planning activity associated with the Patuxent River Basin. The Patuxent 208 Plan, after several years of planning, was finally completed and approved by EPA in 1983. A Patuxent River Commission was created by the Maryland Legislature in 1982 to develop a plan for the river. Lee McFarlane served as a member of the Commission. The plan is to be completed and circulated for comment in December 1983. The emphasis on cleaning up the Patuxent, the only major river completely within Maryland, resulted in a major amount of the State Cost-share funds being designated for use in that area. Also the SSCC was asked to appoint a Patuxent River Agricultural Task Force with

the objective of getting conservation plans implemented in the Patuxent River Basin. Lee McFarlane was chairman of this task force.

Another activity related to all of these erosion and water quality planning activities was the EPA Chesapeake Bay Study and the publication of the study and recommendations during 1983.

Because of all the water quality planning activity, the implication that agriculture was the source of part of the problem and the need to coordinate agricultural activities, an Agricultural Task Force was formed under the leadership of Secretary Cawley. All agricultural interests were represented on the task force including the SSCC and MASCD. A number of meetings were held to coordinate activities and develop strategy for dealing with agricultural sources of non-point pollution. The main direction of these meetings was to secure resources to fully implement the Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Management Program For the Control of Sediment and Animal Wastes (208) which had been developed by the SSCC and approved by EPA in 1978 but never implemented because of lack of funds. The State Committee appointed a Technical Team for Agricultural Water Quality to revise the plan to include nutrient control. The State Committee also appointed an Information and Education Committee For Agricultural Water Quality to assist in implementing the plan and advance water quality control in general.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program continued. The Carroll District was first in 1981, Worcester was second. The Kent District was first in 1982, Howard was second. The MASCD Awards program continued through these years. (See list of award winners). The Maryland Outstanding Conservation Teacher Award for 1983 was given to Robert Chance of the Harford District. He also received the NACD-Allis Chalmers Outstanding Conservation Teacher award for the Northeast Area.

A Soil Conservation District was formed in the District of Columbia in 1982. The MASCD invited the new district to join with the MASCD in statewide meetings and other activities. The NACD has indicated that the new district will be judged along with the Maryland districts in the Goodyear Awards Program.

In January 1983 the National Endowment For Soil and Water Conservation announced they would sponsor a national Outstanding Conservation Farmer Award. The MASCD offered to coordinate the program in Maryland. An application was submitted for Vernon R. Foster to receive this award. In November 1983 he was notified that he was one of the ten finalists.

Prior to July 1983 there had always been a strong resistance to cross compliance between programs even though there was a soil or water conservation relationship. However, at the 1983 Annual Meeting the Association adopted a resolution in support of a requirement that a conservation plan be implemented on a farm before any funds are paid for easements under the Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation Program.

Workshops for District Secretaries were held each year. The districts were encouraged by the Association and Committee to send their secretary to the workshops.

The continued decrease in federal funding led to the decision by SCS to decrease the amount of office space provided by SCS for district employees. The current policy was that SCS would provide space for a secretary and one district technician. The SSCC had already been paying for space for State paid technicians assigned to work in the districts.



In January 1983 NACD began operating a Conservation Tillage Information Center. The purpose is to gather and share information that would encourage use of conservation tillage practices. Most of the Maryland districts signed up to participate in the information center.

The Association in January 1983 adopted a change in the by-laws to provide that officers are installed at the quarterly Board of Directors Meeting following their election. The officers that were elected in July 1983 took office October 25, 1983. This report includes information up to that date.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

W. LEE MCFARLANE ADMINISTRATION  
Second Term

Lee McFarlane was re-elected president of MASCD at the Annual Meeting, July 1983. Other officers re-elected were: Donald Spickler, 1st Vice-President; Richard Wright, 2nd Vice-President; and Loring Sparks, Treasurer. David Bourdon, District Manager, Prince Georges SCD, was elected Secretary. Their two-year terms of office began with the October 1983 Board of Director's Meeting. At the regular two-year election in 1985, Donald Spickler was elected President; Richard Wright, 1st Vice-President; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, 2nd Vice-President; David Bourdon, Secretary; Loring Sparks, Treasurer. They took office at the October 1985 Board of Director's Meeting.

As president of MASCD, Mr. McFarlane was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Other MASCD members with him were: Donald Spickler, SSCC Chairman, W. Mitchell Digges, Richard Wright and Floyd Allred. Agency representatives were: Frank Bentz, Vice-President for Agriculture Affairs, University of Maryland and SSCC Vice Chairman; Wayne A. Cawley, MDA, with Ernie Shea as alternate for MDA; James Peck, DNR. No one represented the Agriculture Commission during the first year. Mr. Spickler's 2nd term as Area Representative expired July 1984. He was appointed as the Agriculture Commission representative and was re-elected Chairman. Frank Bentz continued as Vice-Chairman. Paul Spurrier replaced Mr. Spickler as Area Representative. Legislative action divided the Eastern Shore into Upper Shore and Lower Shore areas for SSCC representation. Richard Wright continued on SSCC as the Lower Shore representative with George Godfrey being appointed as the Upper Shore representative. The same legislative action placed a representative of DHMH on the SSCC with Gould Charshie, OEP, moving from advisory to voting membership. Mr. Digges was reappointed to a second term, July 1985. Officers elected at that time were Richard Wright, Chairman and Floyd Allred, Vice-Chairman.

Mr. McFarlane also represented MASCD on the following: Maryland Rural Affairs Committee (MRAC), Coastal Resources Advisory Committee (CRAC), CRAC Wetlands Soil Committee, CRAC sub-committee on the Critical Areas Commission recommendations, Conservation Education Council (CEC), MDA Critical Areas Commission Agriculture Task Force, Patuxent River Commission and was Chairman of the Patuxent River Agriculture Task Force. He served as council member for Maryland at the NACD and NACD-NE Conference and was on the NACD District Operations and NACD District Outlook Committees. He was also on a joint national NACD-SCS Committee that examined the CO-01 formula. This committee made recommendations for changes, which resulted in a CO-01 formula more favorable to Maryland and most other northeastern states.

Arnold Hawkins, long-time SSCC Executive Secretary, retired December 31, 1983. A reception in his honor was held at the January 1984 conference. He was presented with a MASCD Life Membership in recognition of his efforts on behalf of MASCD. Mr. McFarlane was requested by MDA to serve as Acting Executive Secretary on a temporary basis until a new executive secretary could be appointed. After interviews by a SSCC Search Committee, Ms. Anne Sieling was appointed SSCC Executive Secretary.

Other personnel additions during these two years were: Rosemary Roswell, Soil Conservation Administrator; Catherine Rappe, Soil Conservation Specialist; and Paul Schlindwin, Agriculture Water Management Specialist. Due to increased MDA personnel in SCD's, area coordinators were appointed. These were: Daniel Bard, Western Maryland; James Voss, Central and Southern Maryland; and Mary Ann Skilling, Eastern Shore.

In late 1984, Gerald Calhoun transferred from his State Conservationist position to serve as the SCS liaison with the Chesapeake Bay Program in Annapolis, covering the six state Chesapeake Bay watershed. Pearlle Reed replaced him as State Conservationist.

This could be termed the Chesapeake Bay years with so much MASCD, SSCC, and MDA time devoted to the Chesapeake Bay programs. SSCC, in cooperation with CES and other agencies, held five regional meetings to advise supervisors and other agriculture-related personnel on activities about the Chesapeake Bay Program. A supplementary budget was proposed to the 1984 legislature to upgrade base-level capabilities of all SCD's, provide additional personnel, and additional cost-share funds. It was proposed that we have a conservation plan on every Maryland farm within ten years.

FY-85 General Fund appropriations approved by the Maryland legislature showed a tremendous increase over previous budgets for soil conservation efforts. The legislature also authorized 42 new positions with additional funding and positions authorized the following year. In Maryland, \$5 million have been expended on the Agriculture Cost-Share Program (MACS), with another \$7 million allocated. With MASCD and MDA support, the maximum cost per project was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000, with the farm limit remaining at \$25,000.

The Mason-Dixon Targeted Project was approved by SCS, with resulting additional funding and personnel from federal sources. This will help in the agriculture Chesapeake Bay efforts. An extensive education/publicity campaign was undertaken to educate farmers of their responsibilities in the Bay clean-up activities and to inform the public of agriculture's efforts and concerns for the Bay. CES, in cooperation with other agencies, published a series of Bay Fact Sheets and bulletins such as "BMP's for Nutrient Uses" and "Farm Conservation Plans." The logo "Maryland Farmers, Partners with the Bay" was distributed on large buttons, caps, stick-on labels for letters and on small lapel pins. SSCC sponsored a seminar on "The Movement of Agriculture Nitrogen and Phosphorus to the Chesapeake Bay".

An SSCC-appointed Technical Team presented their report in August 1984 on applied methodology for ranking state watersheds on their potential for releasing non-point agricultural phosphorus and nitrogen to the Bay. Thirty watershed segments were ranked for potential release of phosphorus. This was used in targeting of new personnel authorized by the legislature, and for targeting cost-share funds.

The Patuxent River Agriculture Task Force meetings were scheduled on an as-needed basis to keep member SCD's up-to-date on Patuxent River Commission activities, on how to increase participation in the MACS program and on monitoring programs to obtain better base data on agriculture runoff.

An MASCD Goals Committee was appointed to propose goals for our Association over the next few years. One goal accepted was to plan some type of part-time paid help for the Association. Initial action to accomplish this was passage of an increase of annual dues from \$50 to \$500 per district, effective July 1, 1985. A committee is investigating various job descriptions and was to report to the October 1985 Board of Director's Meeting. A more complete report is to be made at the January 1986 conference.

The 50th Anniversary of the soil conservation movement was in 1985. This was celebrated by various districts at banquets, picnics, tours, etc., and was recognized by MASCD at the summer conference banquet. An outline of the "History of the Soil and Water Conservation in Maryland", from the early 1930's to the present was prepared. It will be the basis of a written history. MASCD also sponsored distribution of Golden Jubilee Black-Eyed Susan seed packets in celebration of the 50th anniversary. MASCD invited our Maryland senators and individual SCD's invited their congressman or congresswoman to attend the National 50th Anniversary Banquet. Maryland was well represented at this celebration.

Since NACD is no longer sponsoring a national congressional breakfast, MASCD decided to sponsor a congressional breakfast for the Maryland delegation. Nine of the ten congressional delegates were represented at the breakfast where the accomplishments and future needs of the soil conservation movement were explained. MASCD has had excellent support from our congressional delegation for our position on various conservation issues. In two cases, the entire Maryland delegation signed a joint letter supporting the MASCD position.

MASCD assumed sponsorship of the annual Secretary's Workshop formerly sponsored by SCS. In the two years of sponsorship, registration fees have covered all expenses to MASCD.

Mr. McFarlane ended his second two-year term as President at the beginning of the October, 1985 Board of Director's Meeting, passing the gavel and a President's Handbook to incoming President, Donald Spickler.

By: W. Lee McFarlane

DONALD L. SPICKLER ADMINISTRATION  
October 1985 to July 1987

In an effort to provide "on the job" training and time for a new president to get his administration organized, the MASCD By-Laws required that new officers elected at the Annual Meeting would not take office until the Board of Directors meeting in October. The new officers elected at the 1985 Annual Meeting were the first to be affected by the procedural changes.

Assuming office at the October meeting were; Donald Spickler, Washington County SCD, President; Richard Wright, Wicomico SCD, First Vice-President; George Godfrey, Garrett SCD, Second Vice-President; Loring "Bud" Sparks, Baltimore County SCD, Treasurer and David Bourdon, District Manager, Prince Georges SCD, Secretary. The current committee chairmen were reappointed.

Noting the importance of a strong association to act in concert with the strong program being developed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture under the Chesapeake Bay Initiatives, President Spickler proposed several changes to the By-Laws and Operating Procedures and appointed Paul Spurrier chairman of a committee to review and recommend changes to these documents.

"A proven past - ready for tomorrow" was adopted as the theme of the Association for the next two years.

The State Soil Conservation Committee was reorganized with Richard Wright remaining Chairman, and Floyd Allred, Vice-Chairman. Simpson Dunahoo, of Wicomico SCD was appointed as Ag Commission representative. Other members of the SSCC remained the same, except that Mr. Spickler replaced Mr. McFarlane as MASCD representative. Mr. McFarlane continued to represent MASCD on the various other committees as he had in the past.

Concern for the Bay continued to be the driving force that provided more support for soil conservation and water quality programs of soil conservation districts. The Environmental Protection Agency provided one million dollars for use in cost-share programs in the priority watersheds. MDA requested 19 new positions for assignment to Districts for the Bay Program, five for the urban programs and nine for the critical area programs, as well as an additional ten million dollars for the state cost-share program. Twenty-two of the thirty-three positions requested were funded, and the ten million was included in the State bond issue.

An Agricultural Water Use Task Force was established by Secretary Cawley to study the water use needs of agriculture and recommend legislation to protect agriculture's interest in water allocations by the Department of Natural Resources. George Godfrey represented the Districts on the task force.

In the fall of 1985, Montgomery SCD announced that they would support local legislation in the 1986 Maryland General Assembly that would permit the Montgomery District to transfer sediment control review responsibilities to Montgomery County.

Mike Permenter of the Soil Conservation Service was assigned to MDA to help track progress being made by the districts as they increased their activities to meet the goals established under the Bay Initiatives.

Dr. Frank Bentz, after a productive and distinguished career with the University of Maryland, announced his retirement. He attended his last meeting as an official voting member of the SSCC in December. Dr. Raymond Miller, representing the University, replaced Dr. Bentz, and assumed his official responsibilities on the SSCC on January 1, 1986.

The winter 1986 Meeting of MASCD was held at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown with the Western Area as host. Districts voted to assess themselves fifty dollars each to support the MASCD Conservation Teacher of the Year Award, administered by the Information and Education Committee chaired by Joe Scott of Washington County SCD. Other committee chairmen were Y.D. Hance, Calvert SCD, District Operations; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, Plant, Wildlife and Recreation; Dan Poole, Catoctin SCD, Soil Resources and Carl L. Stephen, Harford SCD, Water Resources. The MASCD supported a state tax credit on no-till machinery and Walnut Point Farm or similar aquaculture operations. Also simplification of the Maryland Cost-Share application and approval procedures. No action was taken on the Montgomery District sediment control legislation. MASCD decided to keep the name of the Association the same and suspend efforts to change to The Maryland Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Tom Minnich, District Manager, Washington County SCD was the convention coordinator.

MASCD voted to give a cash contribution to the emergency hay fund for farmers in flood ravaged West Virginia. This action was found to violate the Articles of Incorporation of the Association, and could not be carried out.

The Annual Convention of The National Association of Conservation Districts was held in Nashville, Tennessee. MASCD had twenty-eight attend the meeting. Craig Hartsock, District Manager, Allegany District spoke to the RAMP committee and Pearlle Reed, State Conservationist; Anne Sieling, Executive Secretary of SSCC; and Don Spickler addressed the Water Resources Committee. Richard Wright represented Maryland at the organizational meeting of the drainage states in the nation. This group aspires to be a special subunit of NACD to focus attention on national drainage issues.

The SSCC took action on the Montgomery County legislative initiative and voted to oppose House Bill 1661 saying the intent of the bill would be detrimental to all soil conservation districts in Maryland.

MASCD's Board of Directors met at the SCS Office in College Park in March 1986. District Supervisors met the SCS Staff and heard a brief review of all the SCS activities in Maryland. President Spickler proposed one Annual Meeting of the Association with each committee meeting during the year in addition to the Annual meeting to consider issues of special interest in depth. Mitchell Digges presented the Maryland flag that has been used at numerous national conventions, to MASCD to be used at future national conventions. District Supervisor liability was discussed and a District Manager's meeting was scheduled for the Annual Meeting of MASCD. The Association voted to nominate Donald Spickler for NACD Director to represent the Northeast Region.

W. Mitchell Digges celebrated the 45th anniversary of his appointment as a District Supervisor in Charles SCD on April 17, 1986 at the SSCC meeting. Mitch received a citation from Governor Hughes and a 45-year pin from MASCD. Mitch has provided leadership to the soil conservation movement in Maryland with many years of service as a member and Chairman of the State Committee. Secretary Cawley praised Mitch for his outstanding contributions to the Districts of Maryland.

Ernie Shea left the Maryland Department of Agriculture in May 1986 to become the Executive Vice-President of the National Association of Conservation Districts. Rosemary Roswell replaced Ernie as Secretary Cawley's representative on the SSCC.

Despite a strong effort on the part of MDA and the SSCC to defeat HB1661 it was passed by the General Assembly. Without MASCD support, Secretary Cawley was reluctant to recommend a veto to Governor Hughes, and the bill became law.

On May 3, 1986, the Soil Conservation Service and the City of Baltimore signed an agreement for SCS to conduct a soil survey of the City. Impressive signing ceremonies were held in Mayor Schaefer's office. Pearlie Reed signed for SCS, Secretary Cawley represented MDA, Richard Wright represented the SSCC and Don Spickler represented MASCD.

Maryland SSCC hosted the 1986 meeting of the MidAtlantic Association of State Committees in Baltimore and the MASCD hosted the Congressional Breakfast in the Capitol with all Maryland Congressmen and Senators represented by key staff personnel.

Concern that agricultural practices may adversely affect groundwater supplies prompted the SSCC to reactivate the Technical Team, that had done such outstanding work in identifying surface water problems, and charged them to study groundwater problems. The Team was chaired by Dr. Allen Taylor.

The 1986 Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Fenwick Inn in Ocean City in July. Ernie Shea returned, representing NACD, and Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein visited informally at the Awards Banquet. The convention was hosted by the Lower Shore with Edward Holloway, Wicomico SCD, convention chairman and Allan Hatton, District Manager, Wicomico SCD, convention coordinator. A major action was the revision of the bylaws to provide that the Board of Directors shall be the policy making body of the Association.

Maryland was host for the Northeast Regional Meeting of NACD at the Ramada Inn in Hagerstown in August. Donald Spickler was elected NACD Director representing the Northeast Region on the NACD Board. President Spickler announced that he would not seek a second term as President of MASCD.

All District offices were to be supplied computers by SCS and the SCS Area Offices were discontinued. Kathy Gugulis, SCS Public Affairs Specialist, moved to the SCS Headquarters office in Washington, D.C.

After many months of negotiations and compromises the SSCC adopted the 208 enforcement procedures that would be used to help administer the water quality program as it related to agricultural practices in Maryland. The SSCC also recommended flat rates for the Agricultural Cost-Share Program. New Supervisors Handbooks were published and distributed to all SCD Supervisors.

The MASCD Board met at the Maryland Department of Agriculture in Annapolis in October 1986. The search for a part-time executive was accelerated. Applications were received from many interested persons and candidates were selected for interview by the Executive Committee. Changes were made in the operating procedures.

Fred Bull, first Executive Secretary of the SSCC, from 1950-1964 died in November of 1986.

William Donald Schaefer was elected Governor of Maryland in November 1986. Wayne A. Cawley, Jr., remained as Secretary of Agriculture. Robert Walker was appointed as Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Dr. Charles Puffinberger was appointed Assistant Secretary of Plant Industries and Resource Conservation. The SSCC was placed in Dr. Puffinberger's division.

The winter Meeting of MASCD was held in Gaithersburg, in January 1987 with the Central Area as host. George Lechliden, Montgomery SCD, served as convention chairman, and Marshall Rea, District Manager, Montgomery SCD served as convention coordinator. A slide presentation was prepared by the Central Area Districts showing the highlights of their area and their accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources. A candidate was selected for the executive secretary position and was interviewed at the Winter Meeting. Tentative agreement was reached concerning employment. Several issues could not be resolved during the first few months of 1987 and the tentative employment agreement was not finalized.

Helen Barnes became Public Affairs Specialist for SCS.

MASCD sponsored a Congressional luncheon in March of 1987.

Anne Sieling resigned as Executive Secretary of the SSSC to become Public Affairs Specialist with MDA. Louise Lawrence was selected as Executive Secretary of the SSSC.

MASCD Board of Directors met at MDA in March 1987. Due to the confusion during the transition period of the previous administration, the By-Laws had been changed to permit the newly elected officers to assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they were elected.

The 1987 Annual Meeting of MASCD was held at the Sheraton in Ocean City in July. The Southern Maryland Area was host and W. Mitchell Digges, Charles SCD, was convention chairman. Alan Cruikshank, District Manager, Charles SCD, was convention coordinator. Officers elected were: Richard Wright, Wicomico SCD, President; John Nicolai, Howard SCD, First Vice-President; George Bishoff, Garrett SCD, Second Vice-President; Loring "Bud" Sparks, Baltimore SCD, Treasurer; and Allan Hatton, District Manager, Wicomico SCD, Secretary. SCS Chief Wilson Scaling was special guest of the Association. Changes to the Operating Procedures were accepted. J.G. Warfield, Jr., Supervisor in Howard SCD, was selected as the first Executive Secretary of The Maryland Association. The gavel was passed to Richard Wright at the close of the meeting.

During this period the MASCD Auxiliary was very active in their support of the Association. Their work with the hospitality room at the Northeast Meeting in Hagerstown was outstanding and much appreciated by our friends throughout the Northeast. Olga Walter, Charles District, served as President. Mary Poole, Catocin District, succeeded Olga and assumed her new duties at the close of the Annual Meeting in 1987.

Anne Sutton, Kent District and former President of the Auxiliary, received the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for the Northeast Region of NACD. Mary Poole also received the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award for the Northeast Region of NACD.

By Donald L. Spickler



RICHARD W. WRIGHT ADMINISTRATION  
July, 1987 to July, 1989

The following is a record of soil and water conservation related actions and events associated with the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and the soil conservation district program in Maryland during the presidency of Richard Wright.

Mr. Wright was elected president during the July 1987 Annual Meeting of the Association. Other officers elected at the same time were John Nicolai, First Vice-President; George Bishoff, Second Vice-President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer; and Alan Hatton, Secretary. All of these officers served until the July 1989 Annual Meeting.

As President of the Association, Mr. Wright also served as a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Mr. Floyd Allred served as Chairman of the Committee during this period and represented the Central Area (#4). Mr. Paul Spurrier represented the Western Area (#1), Mr. W. Mitchell Digges represented the Southern Area (#2), Mr. Robert Davis represented the Lower Shore Area (#5), and Mr. George Godfrey represented the Upper Shore Area (#3).

The first meeting over which Mr. Wright presided was a special meeting of the Board of Directors called to discuss office space for the Association. A proposal to use space in the Howard SCD was accepted. This was the first office ever opened by the Association. Previous to this, contact with and mail for the Association was through the State Soil Conservation Committee Office.

Mr. J.G. Warfield was the first person to use the new office space. Arrangements had been made during the July 1987 Annual meeting to hire Mr. Warfield as a part-time executive secretary. This was only the second time the Association had arranged to pay anyone to assist with the work of the Association. The Association, at the 1980 Annual Meeting, authorized President Allred to hire a part-time executive secretary. Mr. Dale Churchey was hired but he resigned in October 1981. No one else was hired until Mr. Warfield was hired.

Mr. Warfield resigned as of May 1, 1989 to accept full time employment with the Soil Conservation Service. Mrs. Lynne Hoot was hired as a replacement. She was also on a part-time basis. At the July 1989 meeting, the title of the position was changed to Executive Director.

In August 1988, the SCS State Office was moved to the Annapolis area. Shortly thereafter, the State Conservationist, Mr. Pearlie Reed, offered to provide the MASCD an office in the new SCS office space. An agreement was reached for part-time secretarial assistance and the MASCD office was moved to 339 Revell Highway, Annapolis, MD. in May, 1989.

State Conservationist Reed announced in July 1989, that he was being transferred to California.

The 1987 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Southern Area in Ocean City.  
The 1988 Winter Meeting was hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Baltimore.  
The 1988 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Western Area in Ocean City.  
The 1989 Winter Meeting was hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Baltimore.  
The 1989 Annual Meeting was hosted by the Central Area in Ocean City.

Participation in the Goodyear Awards Program was continued. The deadline for submitting entries was changed to the end of January. Anne Arundel and Catoctin were the winning districts for 1987 and the Calvert and Carroll Districts won for 1988.

Entries were made each year in the NACD Environmental Conservation Education Awards Program (Teacher of the Year Program). The MASCD Teacher Awards Program was changed in 1987 to provide cash awards by requesting each district to contribute \$50.00 each year for the awards. Cash awards were also paid in 1986 using Grant funds.

Prior to 1987, supervisor service pins were given by the SSCC for each five years of service. At the July 1987 meeting, the Directors voted to fund this program on a continuing basis.

The Directors had voted previously to sponsor the Annual Secretaries Workshop. Procedures adopted at the 1987 Annual Meeting were implemented to have the secretaries of each of the five geographic areas take turns in hosting the workshops. Workshops were held in September 1988 and September 1989.

At the January 1988 meeting, a system of rating districts, based on supervisor attendance at meetings was proposed and later adopted. A plaque was purchased to be held by the winning district until the next winner is chosen. The Wicomico SCD was the first district to receive the award, in July 1989 for attendance during the 1988 calendar year.

Also, at the January 1988 meeting, action was taken which led to the formation of an Urban Committee. Eventually, the bylaws were amended to provide for six standing committees rather than five as in the past.

At Mr. Wright's request, a number of past presidents of MASCD met during the 1988 Winter Meeting to discuss an organization of soil conservation leaders. The discussion led to the formation of the Maryland Soil Conservation Leaders Association. In 1989, the MASCD By-Laws was amended to provide that the Leaders Association would be affiliated with the MASCD as an advisory group. Additional information on the Association can be found in Section 4-00.

Three new Life Members were approved at the January 1989 Meeting. They were Calvert Norfolk, past supervisor in the Calvert SCD; Dr. Gordon M. Cairns, who had represented the University of Maryland and served as chairman of the SSCC for 20 years; and Dr. Frank L. Bentz, who had represented the University of Maryland and served as Vice-Chairman of the SSCC for 15 years. Doctors Cairns and Bentz were also taken in as members by the Soil Conservation Leaders Association.

Grant Program guidelines were changed July 1987 to provide one year in which to complete projects. This was found to be too short a time and the time was later changed to eighteen months. Also, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the Conservation Education Council to provide for their grants to be paid through the MASCD rather than have each organization pay one half of the total grant.

Early in 1989, Mr. Lynn Sprague was hired to replace Malcolm Crooks as the NACD Northeast Area Representative and Donald Spickler was reelected for a second term as a northeast area director of NACD.

The assembling and publishing of the histories of soil conservation in Maryland was approved and the Soil Conservation Leaders Association was asked to be responsible for this. The Auxiliary paid for the purchase of copies for each current supervisor plus some additional copies, which they made available at \$1.00 per copy. The histories, titled "Maryland Soil Conservation History," were received after the end of this administration, in January 1990. A copy was sent to the NACD Archives in League City, Texas.

Pond manuals were reprinted; however receipts from the manuals were deposited in the general fund rather than in the Education Fund as originally arranged.

Other actions included continued sponsorship of FFA Land Judging, paying for membership in the Citizens Program For the Chesapeake Bay, bonding of the Treasurer for the first time, approving a resolution to develop, promote and support a contest system to assure a team from Maryland will compete yearly in the National Envirothon and approving a resolution to make the Awards Committee a permanent committee. The permanent Awards Committee was created at the October 1989 Directors Meeting.

As president of the MASCD, Mr. Wright was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Many of the discussions and actions by the Committee, although not necessarily associated with MASCD actions, were associated with soil conservation and water quality programs and were of direct concern to the districts. Some of them are recorded here.

One of the programs that was of major concern to the districts was the Cooperative Soil Survey. The program was initially associated with areas where soil conservation districts were located. The survey was completed for all SCDs in Maryland in 1970 and a last acre ceremony was held in St. Mary's City. Maryland was the third state in the nation to have what was then considered a completed soil survey. In 1986, the Soil Conservation Service arranged with Baltimore City to carry out a soil survey for Baltimore City, the only area in Maryland not covered by a SCD. The survey was completed in 1988 and another "Last Acre Ceremony" was held in Baltimore City on October 19, 1988.

During the fall and winter of 1987 and 1988, there was a good bit of activity concerning soil conservation district review of sediment control plans. The Suburban Homebuilders Association in Prince George's County started a movement to try to get sediment control plan review transferred to the County. In Baltimore County, the Department of Environmental Protection had legislation prepared and introduced in the Maryland Legislature that would have accomplished the same thing. The Association and districts went on record in opposition to any change of this nature and eventually the legislation was withdrawn.

It had been a number of years since any supervisor training had been carried out other than that accomplished through MASCD meetings. During the fall of 1987, supervisor workshops were conducted on a regional basis.

The use of poultry waste structures constructed with cost-share funds was the subject of discussion at a number of SSCC meetings. Eventually, Secretary Cawley gave notice that these structures could be used for storage of animal wastes only.

To address the need for a definition of a farm, to use for planning and reporting purposes, the SSCC in May, 1989, appointed a committee to make recommendations. The definition that was eventually approved by the SSCC was based on an "Ag Unit" which was defined as; (1) 10 or more acres of cropland, pastureland, hayland or a combination of these, or (2) 5 or more animal units, or (3) tobacco raised and sold.

The application of sewage sludge to agricultural land was a concern to many of the districts. Legislation was passed in 1988 to require that soil conservation districts as well as the local Health Department, be notified whenever a permit is issued to spread sludge in the district. The Association adopted a resolution, which provided that the Association would maintain a record of all permits issued statewide. A program was set up in the Howard District to track this information.

Water appropriations legislation passed in 1988, which provides that agricultural users that use an annual average of 10,000 or more gallons per day, are required to obtain a permit from the Department of Natural Resources. It grandfathered uses in existence prior to July 1, 1988 by making issuance of permits to these users automatic. Also, public notice and hearing requirements were waived for agriculture users until July 1, 1993. This had been a controversial subject of discussion for a number of years.

Supervisor liability has always been a concern of district supervisors. A review of past action showed a number of possibilities to gain some protection had been investigated and actions taken leading up to immunity from suit in 1988. In 1981, two pieces of legislation were introduced. Legislation to provide for assistance to supervisors by the Attorney General did not pass. The second piece of legislation passed in 1981 and was signed into law. It included members and employees of board of supervisors under the definition of State Personnel in Title 12 of the State Government Article and made them eligible for payments for any settlement or judgment against them. The legislation, to provide for assistance by the Attorney General, was introduced again in 1982 and passed. Also, in 1982, the Association and districts successfully supported an amendment to a Public Drainage Association bill, which provided for immunity from suit for officers or directors of PDA's. President Wright was, at that time, Chairman of the SSCC subcommittee on drainage. It was too late in the session to submit this same legislation for the Soil Conservation Districts Law; however, the Association voted to request it be submitted in 1983. The request was made but the proposed legislation was not submitted as an administration bill as requested.

It remained for the 1988 session of the Legislature for the most significant liability legislation to be passed. A subsection on liability was added to the SCD Law and also referenced in the tort claims section of the State Government Article to provide that a member or employee of a board of supervisors of a SCD is immune from suit in courts of the State and from liability in tort for a tortious act or omission. The new legislation did not make the districts themselves immune from suit but it makes reference to Title 12 of the State Government Article as the source for the payment of claims.

A State Conservation Reserve Program was authorized by the 1988 Legislature. It authorized a \$20.00 per acre payment for farmland located in the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or meeting federal requirements for a vegetative filter strip provided it is also enrolled in the Federal Conservation Reserve Program. In 1989, legislation allowed additional funding from the Department of Natural Resources to add a one time \$100.00 per acre for planting trees on eligible land.

During this period, the State Soil Conservation Committee identified a need to address agricultural non-point source pollution caused by nitrogen inputs. A nutrient management program was developed by the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension Service. The legislature approved funding to the MDA in 1988 to initiate the program. The program supports Extension Service farm consultants who work with the Agricultural Community and individual farmers to provide information and recommendations about management of nutrients from sources such as animal wastes, commercial fertilizers, sludge, etc.

Also during this period, the SSCC initiated the development of a stream protection BMP and

pond sediment control criteria for the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program, the development of a Manure Management Handbook for SCD's and landowners reference and the development of a memorandum of understanding with the Critical Area Commission to conduct soil conservation and water quality planning activities in the area within 1000 feet of tidal waters and wetlands.

Mr. Wright's term ended with the close of the Annual Meeting, July 1989. Mr. Wright passed the gavel to the incoming President, Mr. Royden Powell of the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District.

By: Arnold C. Hawkins

ROYDEN POWELL ADMINISTRATION  
July 1989 – April 1992

The following is a summary of Soil and Water Conservation related activities associated with the MASCD and soil conservation districts during the presidency of Royden Powell.

Mr. Powell was elected president during the Annual Meeting, July 14, 1989. Elected with him were; George Lechluder, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; George Bishoff, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Loring Sparks, Treasurer and Jeffrey Opel, Secretary.

At the July 1989 meeting Mr. Perlie Reed, State Conservationist announced that he was being transferred to California. In October 1989 it was announced that Mr. Philip Christensen would replace Mr. Reed. He served until February 1991 when Mr. Robert Klumpe became State Conservationist.

The title of the position Executive Secretary of MASCD was changed to Executive Director to better reflect the activities of the position. Arrangements were made with the SCS to provide for office space for the Association in the state office on Busch's Frontage Road in Annapolis.

All of the awards made during previous administrations were continued during Mr. Powell's administration. Recipients of the awards are as listed in the Association Manual. One new Service Award, Employee Special Achievement Award was added in March 1992 as a regular MASCD Award and the first presentation was at the 1992 Annual Meeting. Mr. W. Mitchell Digges became the first supervisor to have served 50 continuous years and was awarded a 50 year service pin and made a Life Member of MASCD.

As in the past, two statewide meetings were held as follows:

1989 Annual Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Ocean City  
1990 Winter Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Annapolis  
1990 Annual Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Deep Creek  
1991 Winter Meeting hosted by the Western Shore Area in Hagerstown  
1991 Annual Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Ocean City  
1992 Winter Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Towson

At the 1992 Winter Meeting action was taken to hold the next Winter Meeting two weeks later to correspond to the legislative session. Meeting policies were also changed in 1990 to include the auxiliary, SCS and Extension service in planning for statewide meetings. Action was taken to exempt Life Members from paying the registration fee.

The Grants Program guidelines were revised to clarify requirements and procedures and an evaluation form was added. Five grants were approved in March 1992. After this interest shifted to the Envirothon and in the next administration Grant funds were used for the Envirothon.

A National Envirothon was started in 1988. Allegany was the first Maryland SCD to compete in the national program in 1990. Maryland held its first State Envirothon in the Garrett District in 1991. Five districts competed. Dorchester SCD's team placed first.

A memorial fund was established during the 1990 winter meeting. Voluntary contributions were collected as needed to make contributions in the name of deceased supervisors or their spouses to chosen charities. The auxiliary administers the fund.

The Association develops and adopts policy during most of the statewide meetings. The policy was never assembled for quick reference to avoid duplication or determine already adopted policy to be followed. This was accomplished in 1991 when Lynne Hoot assembled the MASCD Policy Book.

Donald Spickler served on the Governors 20/20 Growth Commission Panel as the Agriculture representative. Without any direction from the agriculture community his agenda was to protect land equity, private property rights and the ability to farm. The panel completed its study in the fall of 1990 and the Governor submitted a plan to the legislature but it was held for summer study.

In 1990, NACD and SCS offered 10 grants of \$100,000 each to be used by states to do pilot projects on Leadership Development. A team of individuals, lead by Royden Powell put together an extensive program for MASCD to win one of the grants. Although Maryland was unsuccessful in winning the grant, Royden worked with federal and state agencies to generate funding to carry our part of the program. This included a two-day Leadership Development Seminar as part of the 1991 Annual Meeting. Bader and Carr of Community Systems, who had done several similar programs for NACD presented the Seminar.

To fund an additional part of the leadership Development Proposal, the Association applied and received a \$14,978 grant from the N. E. Regional Center for Rural Development to be used to continue and expand the district supervisors leadership program. In the Summer of 1992 Phil Favaro and Merl Miller from the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service assisted in putting on a follow up Seminar to expand the leadership development of supervisors. At the Winter meeting in 1993 the grant funds were used to put on a Legislative Seminar to inform supervisors on how to work with their elected officials. Finally, in May 1993, MASCD used the remaining grant funds to support a Grantwriting Seminar by Community Systems. The grant paid for a portion of the \$500 fee for District Managers to attend.

The Northeast NACD Area meeting was held in Salisbury, MD in 1991. The meeting was co-sponsored with Delaware. The event was held at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center in Salisbury and included the Northeast Agricultural and Environmental Expo. A total of 58 companies and agencies exhibited at the Expo.

An Employees Association was discussed on several occasions. A presentation on formation of a Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees was part of the January 1990 meeting. It was not until several years later that the Association voted to approve formation of an Employees Association. The Association continued to support the Secretaries Workshop and workshops were held each year.

The Auxiliary continued to meet during each of the statewide meetings. The Auxiliary was responsible for state level competition in the Poster Contest, Coloring Contest and Speak-Off Contest. A Maryland Poster won National competition in 1991.

A Conservation Visitor Center was proposed for construction at Beltsville ARS and a temporary center was opened, but plans were dropped due to lack of funding.

The president of MASCD is by law a member of the SSCC. Many of the discussions and actions by the Committee are of direct concern to the soil conservation districts and are recorded here. Other supervisors who served on the committee are as listed in the table of "Supervisor Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee" located in Section One of the MASCD Association Manual.

By Arnold Hawkins

GEORGE LECHLIDER ADMINISTRATION  
May 1, 1992 – July 17, 1997

Mr. Lechliden started his terms as President of MASCD on May 1, 1992 following the resignation of Royden Powell, who resigned to accept full time employment with the MDA in a position associated with relations between the Department and Districts. He completed Mr. Powell's term of office and was twice elected to a two year term. His presidency ended on July 17, 1997 when Martha Clark was elected President. George Bishoff, Paul Spurrier, Martha Clark and J. Parker Smith served as Vice Presidents during his Presidency. Loring Sparks and Donald Spickler served as Treasurers. Marshall Rea served as Secretary.

Loring Sparks who had served as Treasurer for eighteen years declined nomination for another term in 1995 and Donald Spickler was elected. Mr. Sparks was presented a clock for his many years of service.

Mr. Robert Klumpe was State Conservationist when Mr. Lechliden became President. Mr. Klumpe was replaced by Dr. Jeri Berc in 1995 and David Doss became State Conservationist in 1997.

Debra Bogar became the Northeast Area NACD representative in 1992. Donald Spickler completed his term of service as NACD NE Area Director in 1993.

Two statewide meetings were held each year as follows:

1992 Annual Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Solomon's  
1993 Winter Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Annapolis  
1993 Annual Meeting hosted by the Western Area in Deep Creek  
1994 Winter Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Annapolis  
1994 Annual Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Gaithersburg  
1995 Winter Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Annapolis  
1995 Annual Meeting hosted by the Upper Shore Area in Ocean City  
1996 Winter Meeting hosted by the Western Area in Annapolis  
1996 Annual Meeting hosted by the Lower Shore Area in Solomon's  
1997 Winter Meeting hosted by the Central Area in Annapolis  
1997 Annual Meeting hosted by the Southern Area in Solomon's

A policy of holding all winter meetings in the Annapolis area was initiated. Action had already been taken at the 1992 Winter Meeting to hold the 1993 Winter Meeting two weeks later to correspond to the start of the legislative session. Arrangements were made each year to meet with the legislators. A legislative linkage program was initiated to assign supervisors to each of the 188 state legislators. Each supervisor had at least one legislator assigned to him or her and most had two. This enabled the districts to develop relationships with legislators in Baltimore City and reduce the burden on those urban districts with a large number of legislators. To encourage agency participation, which had decreased due to budget constraints, a one-day registration fee for agency personnel was adopted. Also due to budget constraints and the higher costs of meeting in Ocean City the Association voted in 1995 to hold future meetings elsewhere. In 1996, as a further way to cut costs the banquet was eliminated and an awards luncheon was held instead and the meeting shortened by one night. The 1997 Annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Agricultural Education Foundation.



As mentioned above the winter meetings were held in the Annapolis area to make it more convenient to meet with the State legislators. To get better coverage of legislators and to better distribute the workload, a linkage program was developed where in each supervisor was assigned legislators to contact. A Legislative Outreach Committee was appointed at the January '94 meeting to plan and direct the legislative outreach program.

The Envirothon was a major area of interest during this administration. The Association had for a number of years had a policy which recommended the "development, promotion and support of a contest system to ensure that a team from Maryland will compete yearly in the National Envirothon". In 1992 the MASCD voted to use the interest from the Associations Grant Endowment Fund for the Envirothon for one year. Prior to this the interest had been used for grants for conservation related projects. In 1995 the MASCD voted to handle the financial records for the Envirothon and to make the association's tax exempt status (501 (c) 3) available for grant requests for the Envirothon. Also in 1995 a committee was appointed to develop estimates of funding needs for the Envirothon. Their recommendation was that \$15,000 was needed for a team from Maryland to compete in the National contest. In 1996 a grant was received from EPA to develop a pilot program to put the Envirothon in the Middle Schools. Arrangements were made for a teacher from Baltimore County to develop the program. Also in 1996 a MOU was signed with the MDE where in the MDE contributed \$1,000 for the Envirothon. Kathlene Diehl of the SCS provided a very active leadership role in getting the State Envirothon started. Participation increased from 5 districts in 1991 to 22 districts and Baltimore City in 1996. Maryland placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the National Contest in 1995 and again in 1997.

Prior to 1991 the Association did not have an organized means of keeping tract of its resolutions and policies. The MASCD Policy Book was assembled in 1991, but there was no formal means of keeping it up to date. A Resolutions Committee was established in 1993 and given responsibility to keep the Policy Book up to date; recommend additions, corrections or deletions, as well as place in final form all new resolutions. Specific information can be found in section 2-17. The Resolution Committee guidelines were changed several times during this presidency. Resolutions adopted during this period are as listed in the Policy Book by date of adoption.

The Long Term Strategic Planning Committee, which had been established during a previous administration, recommended adoption of mission and vision statements. This was accomplished in 1993. The statements appear in the front of the Association Manual page 1-00. The Committee also made recommendations and pursued obtaining an EPA Grant to establish an Education Coordinator position.

A committee was appointed in 1993 to study the structure of the Committees used for the two statewide meetings. There were six resource committees that met each time. The Study Committee recommended that the six resource committees be clustered under two categories, Administrative and Technical, for development and coordination of meeting agendas. This was used for two meetings and then in July 1994 a procedure was approved to use the two committee structure for the Annual Meeting (Summer) and to use a multiple Committee structure for the Winter meeting. Multiple was later defined as five committees as follows: Natural Resource Conservation; District Operations; Environmental Policy; Urban, Community and Coastal Resources; and Information and Education.

Service Awards were presented the same as in previous administrations. Recipients are as listed in the Association Manual. Also listed are recipients of the Goodyear Awards and District Attendance Award.

Mr. Lechlinder worked with Secretary Riley to obtain Governor's Citations for three individuals who were especially helpful to him in his administration. Louise Lawrence was awarded a

citation for her unflinching dedication to agricultural policy development in Maryland through continued coordination with other state, federal, and local agencies and citizens of Maryland. Louise's work with the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Critical Area Commission, the State Water Quality Advisory Board and MDA's Office of Resource Conservation was instrumental in developing sound, implementable policies for environmental stewardship and a healthy agriculture industry in Maryland. Lynne C. Hoot was awarded a citation for her "outstanding contributions to agriculture through her organizational support of agricultural commodities, agribusiness and soil and water conservation". In addition to the support she provides to MASCD, Lynne served in carrying out the missions of the Maryland Grain Producers Association, Maryland Pork Producers Association, and the Maryland Delaware Agribusiness Association. Arnold C. Hawkins was awarded a citation for his "continued support of soil and water conservation programs in Maryland through service to Maryland Department of Agriculture, the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts and individual soil conservation districts." In addition to serving as former Executive Secretary to the State Soil Conservation Committee, Arnold provided a variety of support roles to MASCD and to individual SCDs including Anne Arundel SCD and Baltimore County SCD.

An association for District employees was the subject of discussion on several occasions. Employee associations had been formed in some of the other states and there had been meetings of the Northeast area district employees. Mr. Jeff Opel attended these meetings and presented information on the proposed Conservation District Employees Association to the MASCD. A committee to investigate an employees association in Maryland was appointed in January 1996. A report was presented in July and a motion to pursue formation of an employees association was approved. At the close of this administration Mr. Opel was surveying the districts to determine interest in an association.

A new quota system was adopted by NACD, which if followed by the Maryland Districts would require much larger contributions to NACD, which the districts were not in a position to pay.

A proposal to combine the Department of Agriculture and National Resources was successfully opposed.

C. Edward Holloway received Life Membership in 1993.

The MASCD Auxiliary, since 1986, has participated in the Auxiliary Woman of the Year – Distinguished Service Award program. Sarah Holter was selected for this award in 1991 and was also the Northeast Area winner. Sarah was selected for this award again in 1995. Again she was the Northeast Area winner and also received the National Auxiliary award during the 1996 NACD Convention.

The Auxiliary continued to hold state level competition in the Poster Coloring and Speak Off Contests.

A symposium on Storm Water Management was co-sponsored by the MASCD and NRCS in 1995 which generated additional funding for the Association.

The Association continued to support the Secretaries Workshop, which were held each year.

In 1994 the conservation partners, agreed to publish a quarterly newsletter, "Maryland Conservation Partnership Press". MASCD agreed to assemble the newsletter and distribute it. A bulk mailing permit, which had lapsed because of lack of use, was obtained again to mail the newsletter at the non-profit bulk rate.

The memorandums of understanding between the USDA Secretary of Agriculture and Districts and between the Soil Conservation Service (now NRCS) and Districts, which had existed since the first district was formed, were out of date and not being followed. A number of districts requested the MOU's be brought up to date. A committee in USDA along with NACD representation (Maryland districts were not represented) responded with several proposed changes as follows:

- a. A mutual agreement between USDA, the State and the individual districts. This was agreed to and signed in 1996.
- b. A Cooperative Working Agreement between the NRCS, the State Department of Agriculture and each individual district. The districts in general, objected to some of the wording and the State Department of Agriculture being brought into the agreement without any input from the districts. This was discussed by the MASCD Directors and the SSCC. A committee was appointed to develop a more acceptable MOU. Bob Davis, committee chairman, reported at the July 1997 annual meeting that a revised MOU had been agreed to, but was not yet available for distribution.
- c. Supplemental agreements could be made between the districts and NRCS or MDA as needed.

The SCD Law and State Sediment Control laws provide that districts may charge for sediment control plan review if approved by the local government. Some of the districts experienced difficulty in implementing this provision so in January 1996 the MASCD adopted a resolution in support of legislation to provide that "when a county government does not approve the charging for sediment and erosion control plan review by the district that the county would provide the necessary funds." This was revised in July 1997 to include an increase in existing fees necessary to cover the actual costs. This was approved after a special committee appointed to study the fee problem in the Prince George's district reported at the July 1997 meeting.

As president of MASCD, Mr. Lechluder was also a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee. Many of the actions and discussions by the Committee, although not necessarily associated with MASCD actions, were of direct concern to the soil conservation districts.

Other supervisors who served on the Committee are as listed in the table of "Supervisor Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee" located in Section One of the MASCD Association Manual.

Total Resource Management Planning was discussed by the SSCC and tried in several districts during the spring of 1995. The Wicomico, St. Mary's, Howard and Washington County SCD tried out the program and worked with cooperating agencies to address all the resources on at least one property in the district. The general conclusion was that the process was more time consuming and would have to be made more efficient to be used.

The SSCC endorsed the MDA definition of a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan. The MDA had experienced difficulties in tracking progress needed in support of budget requests. The MDA needed to define a Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plan in terms of soil conservation and water quality associated with crop and pastureland and management of the farm headquarters area if animals are part of the operation. Other resources such as forestry or wildlife management do not have to be part of the plan for progress reporting needed by MDA.

Beginning with the 1996 fiscal year MDA assumed responsibility for administering the bond money which funds MAC grants. Funds for prior years were administered by MDE. This resulted in a shorter turn around time to make payments.

Also in 1996 MDA put greater emphasis on follow-up to maintain compliance and the SSCC endorsed a policy to limit cost share on pond rebuilds to 65%, not to exceed \$5,000. The Committee also endorsed increasing the per practice cost share limit from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and endorsed elimination of cover crops as a cost shared BMP.

By Arnold Hawkins

MARTHA CLARK ADMINISTRATION  
July 17, 1997 – July 18, 2001

Martha Clark was elected president of the Maryland Association of Soil Conservation Districts (MASCD) at the July 17, 1997 Annual meeting. The gavel was passed to her at the close of that meeting. She was the first female to serve as president of MASCD. Prior to her election, she had served as a supervisor in the Howard SCD for eight years and as Chair of the district she had served as an MASCD director. She served as 1<sup>st</sup> vice president for four years prior to election as president. As president of MASCD she was automatically a member of the State Soil Conservation Committee, a member of State FAC Committee and as alternate National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Board member. She also served on the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation Board and Maryland Agriculture Commission representing agriculture education interests. She became NACD board member in July 2001 as immediate past president.

The MASCD service awards program started in 1975 was continued during this administration. A new award, Outstanding Contribution by Youth or Youth Organization was added in 2000. The Conservation Education Teacher Award and the Conservation Education District of the Year were continued. Winners of all the awards are listed in the Association Manual.

In 2000, life membership in MASCD was awarded to Robert Ziehm, Howard SCD manager, for major contributions to the Association and the same recognition was extended to Lillian Griffith, district manager in the Anne Arundel district, in 2001.

The Goodyear Awards Program had operated in Maryland since 1953. Specifics of the program and winners are listed in the Association Manual. The Goodyear Company discontinued sponsorship of the program in 1999 and the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) did not obtain another sponsor for the program. The last Goodyear award was given to the St. Mary's District in 2000. Outstanding Cooperator awards were a part of the Goodyear Awards Program. In March 2001, the directors voted to purchase cooperator plaques to continue the program.

Length of service pins were presented to supervisors after they had served 5, 10, 15, etc. years. Two supervisors, Wilbert R. Paul in the Allegany district and Vernon Foster in the Baltimore County district earned the 50 years of service pins during this period.

Bylaws were revised to clarify several items including who would represent MASCD at NACD meetings, authority of the Executive Committee, to list the Soil Conservation Leaders Association as an advisory group to MASCD, composition of a standing Nomination Committee, to clarify that all officers except secretary must be current SCD supervisors, and to provide that the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president will assume the office and duties of the 1<sup>st</sup> vice president when that office is vacant or not present.

The rules were changed to provide instead of five standing committees, the Winter and Annual meetings would now break out into two major committees, Administrative and Technical. Any of the original standing committees would arrange with the two committees for any presentations.

The Water Quality Improvement Act was passed in 1998 making Maryland the first state with mandatory nutrient management planning. MASCD was very involved with the discussions, was represented on the drafting team, attended multiple hearings and testified before our legislature.

In precedent setting legislation for the first time a specific number of employees (110 field personnel) was included in the Law to assure for adequate technical assistance from the Districts in the future.

The Envirothon became a statewide program in Maryland in 1991. In 1996, the MASCD agreed to serve as the treasurer for the State Envirothon and to provide funding to the greatest extent possible. This was done in 1996 and succeeding years.

The MASCD was awarded a grant from EPA to develop a Junior Envirothon program. Penny Jenkins, a high school teacher, was contracted with to prepare the program. At the October 1997 Board of Directors meeting, it was announced that a curriculum and associated activities had been completed for a middle school Envirothon. The MASCD then voted to support getting funding to expand the program for other classes.

In 2000, the Maryland Envirothon Steering Committee submitted a bid to host the National Envirothon in 2003. The National Envirothon name was changed to Canon Envirothon because Canon was providing major sponsorship for the event. Maryland won the bid and proceeded to plan the event. The results of the Envirothon competition are listed in the Association Manual.

In 1998, MASCD supported legislation to alter the procedure for implementing a fee system to cover the reasonable cost of reviewing grading and sediment control plans by local soil conservation districts. Soil conservation districts will be required, each year, to assess the reasonable cost of reviewing these types of plans for the succeeding year. The fee system is then submitted to the local government for approval. The local government has 90 days to either: (1) enact the fee system; or (2) enact a different fee system or otherwise provide funding. If the local government fails to accept or modify the final fee system recommended by the soil conservation district, the fee system submitted by the soil conservation district takes effect.

The NACD Northeast Area Meeting was held in Baltimore, MD in August 1999. The MASCD assisted with the event.

Conservation 2000, an Earth Day event, was held on the Rossbach farm in Davidsonville in the Anne Arundel SCD. The MASCD and other conservation partners assisted with the event.

In 2001, MASCD supported legislation to give the soil conservation districts the authority to charge fees if they carry out sediment and erosion control inspections, in non-delegated counties and municipalities, under an MOU arrangement with the Maryland Department of the Environment.

The MASCD Auxiliary, under the leadership of Marie Beavan and later Audrey Wolfe continued sponsorship of a poster contest for three age groups, a coloring contest for three age groups and a public speaking contest.

The MASCD accepted sponsorship in 1984 of an annual Secretary's Workshop. Workshops were held each year.

Martha Clark's term as president ended when she passed the gavel to incoming president Robert Wilson, at the close of the Annual Meeting July 18, 2001. At that time she automatically became a life member of MASCD and a member of the Soil Conservation Leaders Association.

ROBERT WILSON ADMINISTRATION  
July 18, 2001 – July 26, 2005

The gavel was passed to Robert Wilson as President of MASCD at the close of the Annual meeting July 18, 2001. Mr. Wilson was the 20<sup>th</sup> president of the association. Others that served as officers with him during his tenure were Robert Fitzgerald, Lee McDaniel, Calvert Steuart, Donald Spickler and Martha Clark. Steve Spielman served as secretary during his entire tenure. Fitzgerald resigned as 1<sup>st</sup> V. President after he became chairman of the SSCC and Lee McDaniel was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-president. Donald Spickler resigned as Treasurer when he became chairman of the Conservation Foundation Board of Trustees and Martha Clark was elected Treasurer. Prior to his election, Mr. Wilson had served as a district supervisor in the Queen Anne's SCD since February 1992. As chairman of his district he had served as a MASCD director. As MASCD President, Mr. Wilson was automatically a member of the SSCC. Mr. Wilson was elected for a second 2-year term in July, 2003.

Martha Clark was the NACD Council representative during this entire period. Mr. Wilson was alternate.

In July, 2003, responsibility for maintaining MASCD financial records was transferred to the Executive Director's office. Responsibility for disbursement of funds, signing checks, etc. remained with the treasurer.

The Association voted to establish a web site and [www.mascd.net](http://www.mascd.net) was launched.

All of the winners of various awards are listed in the Association Manual. The MASCD now has ten service awards. A newsletter award was added in 2004.

In January 2002, the MASCD gave the Soil Conservation Leaders Association (SCLA) the responsibility for developing and implementing an outstanding district award to replace the Goodyear Award which was discontinued in 2001. The name selected for this new award was the Maryland Outstanding District For \_\_\_\_\_(year). Criteria for selecting the district includes all activities of the districts; meeting attendance, educational activities, planning, reporting, conservation practices installed, etc.

The award is presented each year during the annual meeting for district activities during the previous calendar year. Any one district is not eligible to receive first place more than once in three years. Honorable mention is given to any district that scores high enough to be first place but is not eligible because of the once in three years restriction. The judging committee may give honorable mention to a district that scores very close to the first place district.

In 2004, the SCLA contacted MidAtlantic Farm Credit to seek sponsorship for the Outstanding District Award and they agreed to sponsor the award starting in 2005. The award was renamed the MidAtlantic Farm Credit Outstanding District Award to recognize their support.

The SCLA was designated as the judging committee for this award. In 2003, the SCLA elected to include representatives of SSCC and NRCS as part of the judging team and in 2005, MidAtlantic Farm Credit was invited to be a part of the judging team. As a result of the MidAtlantic Farm Credit funding, cash awards are now provided as follows: \$700 for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$400 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and \$200 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

The history of the Envirothon program in Maryland is in the Association Manual. Some changes were made during the Administration.

At the March 26, 2002 meeting the Board approved the “Operational Procedures of the Maryland Envirothon” and at the the MASCD Annual meeting in July 2002 the MASCD Envirothon Committee was eliminated as its functions were superseded by the new Maryland Envirothon Steering Committee.

The 2003 Canon Envirothon committee was made up of 25 people committed to putting on an extraordinary program. Co-chairs Karen Miller (Kent SCD Manager), and Barry Burch headed up the committee that organized the event. Over 50 local businesses and organizations contributed to the event, which was a huge success, attracting 41 states and 6 Canadian provinces. Over 200 volunteers contributed their time and/or expertise. The 2003 Canon Envirothon was held July 26-August 1, 2003 at Mt. St. Mary’s College in Emmittsburg. At the end of the competition, Maryland’s home team from Montgomery County placed 5<sup>th</sup> out of 47 teams. Canon distributed prizes and scholarship money worth over \$30,000 to the winning teams.

In 2003, MASCD received a grant from MDA (administered through Washington County SCD) to hire a part-time contractual Envirothon Coordinator. Clare Seibert was hired to assist with the 2003 State and 2003 National Canon Envirothon.

In 2004, MASCD voted to establish an MASCD Environmental Education Endowment Fund to further their efforts to expand the Envirothon program. The starting balance of \$80,000 was invested into Amererican Funds through Chesapeake Financial Group.

In 2003, MASCD suported legislation amending the Public Drainage Association law to ensure that a unit of state or local government that owns land that benefits from public drainage association or public watershed association ditch is requires to pay the assesed fee. That year MASCD also supported a legislative change to allow a county or a district to suplement the salary of a state employee working in the district in the form of a grant.

In 2005, MASCD supported legislation to allow the Department of Agriculture to recover a portion of the cost of a best management practice installed using the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program from a landowner who fails to mainatain the practice the full length of the maintenance agreement.

A Long Range Strategic Planning Committee was established in 1998. A long range plan was adapted in January, 2002. In March 2005 an amended version was approved. Meeting guidelines were changed to establish a meeting registration fee of \$75 and a one-day agency personnel fee of \$45.

Records of supervisor service were kept up to date. Twenty-five new supervisors were appointed during this period. As of the end of Mr. Wilson’s tenure, 671 persons had served as a SCD supervisor in Maryland. The policy of awarding length of service pins in five-year increments was continued. Wilbert R. Paul, Allegany SCD is the longest serving supervisor having served 58 years. William Brendel, Howard SCD, was awarded life membership.

The Policy Book was revised after each state wide meeting when there were changes in policy. When changes were made in any page in the Association Manual, revised pages were sent to each district office for distribution and were also made available on the Internet.

Dave Doss retired as NRCS State Conservationist for Maryland. Virginia (Ginger) Murphy who had served as the Delaware State Conservationist became State Conservationist for Maryland. Lewis Riley replaced Hagner Mister as Secretary of Agriculture.



Robert Wilson's tenure as MASCD President ended when he passed the gavel to Lee McDaniel at the close of the Annual Meeting on July 26, 2005. As the immediate past president he will serve as a member of the executive committee. He also became a life member of MASCD and a member of the Soil Conservation Leaders Association. Mr. Wilson chose not to serve as the NACD Board member and instead Lee McDaniel was elected to serve as the NACD Board member and Cal Stuart as alternate.

LEE McDANIEL  
July 26, 2005 – July 26, 2009

The gavel was passed to Mr. Lee McDaniel as president of MASCD at the close of the Annual meeting July 26, 2005. Lee was the 21<sup>st</sup> president of the Association. Prior to his election, he had served for four years as the 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president. Throughout his two terms as president, R. Calvert Steuart served as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president and Gary Davis, District Manager for Harford SCD, served as Secretary. Martha Clark (Howard SCD) continued to serve as treasurer during Lee's 1<sup>st</sup> term and Donald Spickler (Washington SCD) was elected treasurer in 2007, at the same time Lee was elected to his 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term. As MASCD President, Lee was automatically a member of the SSCC. Lee was a district supervisor from Harford Soil Conservation District having served since January 1997.

Lee McDaniel was the NACD Council representative during this entire period; R. Calvert Steuart was alternate. He was appointed to the NACD Legislative Committee in 2006. In 2007, he was elected vice-chair for NACD Northeast region.

As Lee McDaniel took over as MASCD president, changes were occurring at MDA with the hiring of Doug Scott (Dorchester SCD, 1986-96) as the Assistance Secretary for the Office of Resource Conservation and Ginger Murphy was selected as the NRCS State Conservationist. This new Conservation Partnership Team undertook a new evaluation of the conservation delivery system and ways to streamline activities to maximize implementation.

At the 2006 MASCD Winter Meeting at the Loews Hotel in Annapolis, Governor Robert Ehrlich served as keynote speaker expressing his appreciation for the work of the soil conservation districts. During the meeting, a resolution was passed to allow the use of vertical tillage, such as no-till rippers and the turbo-til, as an eligible practice under continuous no-till provisions of the Conservation Security Program. Resolutions allowing MDA to hire farmers to work in soil conservation districts and exploring a soil testing lab at MDA facilities were also adopted. MASCD expressed support for establishing biofuels facilities in the state and for a balanced Farm Bill that would add both environmental and conservation. MASCD offered support for a commodity cover crop program and elimination of the Estate Tax on agricultural land passing to the next generation. The MASCD resolution supporting the eligibility of vertical tillage equipment for CSP was forwarded to the national level and approved by NACD at their Annual meeting.

At the 2006 MASCD Annual meeting in July, four resolutions were passed: that the counties revisit the stormwater management requirements for natural conservation areas and include specific agricultural uses; that NRCS and the State Technical Committee utilize inputs from local workgroups to develop the EQIP program annually; that one of the parameters for evaluating the Conservation Delivery System be that NRCS place a District Conservationist in every SCD office in the State of Maryland; and that MASCD supports establishment of a NACD Northeast Urban Coalition. The NACD Northeast Regional Board of Directors to be the governing authority of the NACD Northeast Urban Coalition, Auxiliary, Employees Association and Presidents Association members to be included. The latter resolution was passed to send a message to the western NACD states that each individual region has its own emphasis but as a conservation community, we all need to support NACD with a national emphasis. The MASCD policy was withdrawn at the 2007 Annual meeting once it had served its purpose.

During the 2006 legislative session, the Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006 passed providing the promise of funding for fiscal year 2008 and beyond for additional funding for soil conservation district employees to reach the 110 field positions that were required under the Water Quality Improvement Act of 1998, among other funding requests. Legislation passed amending the Maryland Cost Sharing (MACS)

Program to increase the per project maximum cost for MACS projects from \$75,000 to \$100,000 starting in July 1, 2006. Legislation to allow the Maryland Department of Agriculture to hire farmers to work in the district offices failed to pass the Senate in the final hours of the session having been opposed by the Ethics Commission who voiced concern that farmers are too close knit and it would be a conflict of interest to allow farmers to write soil conservation plans for other farmers.

Robert Davis, Ann Collier and Ron Hawk were all appointed as regional representatives of SSCC in 2006. In 2007, Bill Giese replaced Robert Davis and the district members on SSCC remained unchanged for the rest of Lee's term.

At the 2007 MASCD Winter Meeting, eight resolutions were passed; that NRCS provide additional engineering support to districts, including filling existing vacancies of engineering positions, to help the increasing agricultural and urban workload; to oppose any federal farm bill proposal that provides funding for technical service Providers (TSP) rather than boosting NRCS staff funding for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA); to request that the Governor and Secretary of Budget and Management support the Annual Salary Review (ASR) for soil conservation district employees; to support the addition of vertical tillage equipment to the list of equipment eligible for Maryland's conservation tillage equipment for Income Tax Subtraction Modification; to urge MDA, district staff, and the state technical committee to work together to review and simplify the MACS Cover Crop Program; to investigate options for developing statewide ID cards for district personnel; and to support the designation of "The Sassafras Soil Series" as Maryland's state soil. MASCD also approved a resolution urging NRCS to: Recognize the importance of the districts continued inclusion in the restructuring process; Recognize the importance of locally lead conservation; Provide for clarification for the timeline for implementation; and Clearly illustrate the budget savings and the methodology used to support the restructuring conclusions ensuring that the current level of conservation delivery is protected and/or enhanced.

With the election of Democratic Governor Martin O'Malley, several changes were made at MDA. Roger Richardson was appointed as Secretary of Agriculture and Buddy Hance was appointed as Deputy Secretary. Doug Scott left the Department. Royden Powell, III was later appointed to fill the Assistance Secretary position in January 2008. Unrelated changes took place at NRCS with Ginger Murphy taking on a role to work with Congress on the 2007 Farm Bill, Jon Hall was assigned as the new State Conservationist.

Governor O'Malley spoke at the MASCD Annual meeting in Solomons in 2007 and expressed his interest in following through with the items that Maryland agriculture had identified in the "Statewide Plan for Agriculture" developed under the Ehrlich Administration.

At the 2007 Annual MASCD Meeting, seven resolutions were passed: to encourage MDA to pursue re-instituting cost-share funding to support the MACS Program Nutrient Management Cost-Share on a Continuous Basis; strongly supporting the critical need for two multi-year studies to determine the hydrologic and geologic data for the proper management of the State's water resources - one covering the confined aquifers underlying Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore and the other covering the Piedmont hardrock area of the State; supporting adding equipment that directly injects nitrogen into the soil profile for the purpose of side dressing nutrients to the Maryland Income Tax subtraction list; requesting that MDE and MDA include SCD representation on the Steering Committee developing State policy on non-point source nutrient trading and carbon trading and defining the proper leadership role of the District; recognizing the significant contributions Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has made to the Maryland Envirothon program over the past 17 years and requesting that Maryland DNR continue to support the Maryland Envirothon by providing resource personnel to assist with the aquatics, forestry and wildlife resources areas; requesting that MDA pursue a Maryland tax subtraction

modification for the purchase of precision application technology for use on orchards as they use more insecticides and fungicides than traditional crops and this precision spray system allows for treatment of pests specifically on areas that have been located and identified using approved sensing systems, greatly reducing unnecessary chemicals from being used; and requesting that NRCS and MDA convene a task force along with representatives from SCD's to evaluate how EQIP and MACS can be better tailored to meet the conservation needs of farm operations with low animal unit numbers for cost sharing needed BMP's and make recommendations to the MACS and EQIP programs.

2007 marked the year that the Chesapeake Bay Foundation presented all the staff in the soil conservation district offices with their prestigious "Conservationist of the Year" award.

During the 2007 legislative session, the biggest issue for MASCD was maintaining the funding commitment established in the Ag Stewardship legislation of 2006, which was successfully accomplished. Delegate Paul Stull sponsored HB 558 (along with 32 other delegates) on behalf of MASCD to allow MDA to hire farmers to work in soil conservation districts and the legislation passed. The bill included a provision for MDA to work with the State Ethics Commission to prepare regulations to deal with potential conflicts of interest. The biggest disappointment during the 2007 session was that the Annual Salary Review (ASR) for soil conservation district employees was not approved. Although funding had been allocated for grade level increases for technical district field positions, it was prevented by a statewide decision by the Governor not to approve any ASR's because of budgetary concerns. The funding already allocated to the MDA budget was reallocated to allow the 12 new positions to be hired sooner and to provide one time grants to districts. The effort to provide higher salaries for the MDA employees working in districts remained a very high priority for Lee throughout his tenure. The Stormwater Act of 2007 passed making several significant changes to the existing law including the requirement for Environmental Site Design (ESD).

Legislation to name Sassafras Sandy Loam as the state soil did not move from committee and provided the press with an opportunity to question the need for a "state dirt". MASCD along with several soil scientists from across the state were hoping to add Sassafras to the list of the state's symbols in time for a display on the importance of soil at the Smithsonian Institute in 2008. Twenty-two other states had officially designated a state soil and this national recognition was encouraging several other states to follow suit.

At the winter 2008 Winter Meeting, MASCD reaffirmed existing resolutions to support gypsy moth spraying and for DNR to continue their support for the State Envirothon. The request for Envirothon support was also extended to NRCS. MASCD provided support for the development of a certification process for SCD staff that review and approve Erosion and Sediment Control plans; expressed their full commitment to assist MDE with implementing the Stormwater Management Act 2007, specifically committing to helping MDE with the update of Chapter 5, development of the model ordinance and assisting with implementation at the local level; and urged MDE to complete a comprehensive evaluation of the Erosion and Sediment Control Program in the state and to update the 1994 Erosion and Sediment control specifications and Forest Harvest standards, and evaluate the effectiveness of enforcement activities.

At the 2008 Annual MASCD meeting in July, five resolutions were passed; supporting MASCD taking on the role to develop an on-going training and certification program for erosion and sediment control for District employees; calling upon FSA Management at National Headquarters to reach an immediate decision on the pending Maryland CREP agreement proposal; supporting MDE's their idea of requiring the submission of a stormwater management and an erosion and sediment control "concept plan" to the local SCD and other local authorities as may be appropriate for review. In light of discussion about

potential market opportunities to expand conservation, MASCD fully endorsed a role in environmental services trading (nutrients, carbon, wildlife benefits, etc.) for local soil conservation districts; and strongly recommending that NACD fully engage in carbon trading discussion at the national level to assure that the issue of “Additionality” will have no impact on farmers who have been practicing good conservation practices, such as conservation tillage, and wish to participate in carbon trading. MASCD strengthened their existing resolution to support the adoption of “The Sassafras Soil Series” as Maryland’s state soil, as included in the Governor’s proclamation for the “Dig It” Smithsonian Exhibit.

During the 2008 legislative session, the Annual Salary Review (ASR) passed giving professional state employees in the soil conservation districts a one-grade increase across the board, regardless of classification. The ASR included planners, technicians, district managers, soil conservation engineers, soil conservation engineering technicians, and area coordinators. Another bill supported by MASCD passed creating the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund with \$25 million of the proposed \$50 million being added for the first year. The law allowed the funds to be allocated for MACS and additional staffing for the districts both as state employees working for MDA or through grants directly to the districts, a group of districts or even through MASCD on behalf of the districts. No specific allocation was made for agriculture but the law states that agriculture is a priority. Language preventing the use of the funding for regulated activities was amended so that the funds cannot be used for someone who is out of compliance but can be used by individuals who are regulated – such as those farmers who may become CAFO’s or MAFO’s to bring them into compliance.

Due to budget cuts, MDA indicated that they would no longer support the cost of two MASCD meetings. The Board discussed this and decided to continue to hold their Annual MASCD meeting in July and because of the ongoing issues impacting districts that MASCD have a two-day Board of Directors meeting in January that would include an opportunity to meet with legislators. January 2009 was the first MASCD Winter meeting to be eliminated. There was however, good participation for the Board Meeting where District Managers were also encouraged to attend and several supervisors came on the second day to make legislative visits.

MASCD hosted the NACD Northeast meeting in July 2009 at the Holiday Inn in Solomons and combined this event with their annual meeting. The event was attended by over 270 people with at least 62 coming from out of state. The event started with a tour of the Smithsonian “Dig It – the Secrets of Soil” exhibit. NRCS Chief Dave White was keynote speaker and NRCS held a national listening session at the event. The agenda provided an opportunity to MASCD to showcase state issues including the CAFO/MAFO programs, Emerald Ash Borer, Nuisance Deer Management, Small Woodlot Forest Management, Fundraising opportunities, Barley to ethanol and Eco-trading. Urban programs were showcased with discussions on Erosion and Sediment Control Training, Environmental Site Design and Compliance issues. Three tours were offered; Southern Maryland Shoreline Management via boat; Agri-tourism; and Innovations in Conservation where NRCS sponsored a demonstration of the new poultry litter sub-surfer and the GreenSeeker™ equipment in action. The NACD NE event culminated with a Taste of Maryland picnic at the Navy Recreational Center. A final day was added to address MASCD specific issues. No new resolutions were approved.

During the 2009 legislative Session, budget concerns were of the highest priority and MASCD was able to hold off efforts to eliminate the language calling for 110 field positions. The budget passed late in the session providing an additional five employees as specified in the Ag Stewardship Act of 2006. With a hiring freeze and a shortage of salary funds because of the predetermined “7% vacancy rate”, these employees were not hired during 2009. Forestry legislation passed titled No Net Loss of Forest Policy - Forest Conservation Act. This bill was originally amended to require no net loss of forestry, without the loss of “productive” farmland at the request of MASCD, which was a change from the term “Prime”

farmland in the original bill. The bill was later amended to require the Department of Natural Resources to work with forestry stakeholders to define no net loss and both the productive and prime language was eliminated. Several changes, including an increase in the fees were passed.

Discussion started early in Lee's presidential term on Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) with EPA releasing proposed regulations on how they intended to treat these larger operations. The new regulations would include poultry operations for the first time and when originally proposed it was suggested that this would add approximately 200 new CAFO's who would all need to have a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) prepared for them. By the end of 2008, this number had reached over 400 and there was concern about the additional workload. Prior to the final release of the CAFO rules, MDE decided that they would establish a Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) permit process for those larger farms that did not meet the requirements of the CAFO. Discussions on the CAFO Program continued throughout Lee's term. In March 2008, the MASCD Board of Director's unanimously passed the following resolution: that districts take the lead in the CAFO/MAFO regulations to provide farmers with the services they need; that the districts develop better coordination between nutrient management plans and soil conservation and water quality plans; that districts share resources with other districts that have large animal operations and start becoming more involved with compliance issues.

Concern about NRCS funding continued to grow throughout Lee's term especially as discussions turned to combining offices, regional rather than local service and not maintaining a District Conservationist in every soil conservation district. MASCD expressed concern that funds should be spent on Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) commonly known as "boots on the ground", rather than using Technical Service Providers (TSPs). NRCS funding cuts, combined with MDA cuts and a growing workload, put considerable pressure on the soil conservation districts. Passage of the 2008 Farm Bill including special funding for the Chesapeake Bay provided increased funding for cost-share funding such as EQIP and some additional staff support.

Passage of the Stormwater Act of 2007 added additional workload on the districts. The bill required MDE to establish a comprehensive process for approving grading and sediment control plans and stormwater management plans and to specify that the comprehensive process takes into account the accumulative impacts of both plans. MDE worked with the counties, municipalities, and other interested parties. While primarily a stormwater bill, there were obvious implications for soil conservation district activities. By restricting the amount of disturbance allowed on a construction site, there was a need to incorporate aspects of ESD and stormwater management at the same time Erosion and Sediment Control is addressed leading to a need for greater communication between districts and the local stormwater approval authority. This coupled with increased concerns about consumer interest and the Public Information Act encouraged Lee to establish a new urban subcommittee to work on these issues and keep MASCD membership informed.

Nutrient Trading emerged as a new issue for districts to consider during Lee's term and the districts embraced the technology. In July 2008, the Board accepted an offer from Gerald Talbert, (former Baltimore County District Manager, Executive Director of MALPF and NACD employee), to write grants to support district activities that he would administer and support. The Board agreed to this offer and one of the first grants MASCD received was from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to advance Eco-trading in the Chesapeake Bay states.

Working with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Maryland Farm Bureau, NRCS and MDA, MASCD established the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) to recognize farmers who have achieved a high level of conservation by demonstrating through an on farm assessment that

they are in compliance with their nutrient management plan and that they have addressed all pollution issues on their farm. MASCD received grant funds from the Maryland Soybean Board and the Maryland Grain Producers Utilization Board to move this project forward.

In March 2009, Governor Martin O'Malley asked to meet with a group of district supervisors and staff and members of Maryland Tributary Strategy Teams to discuss the new BayStat program and how Maryland could meet the newly established milestones to Clean up the Bay. The district message was that for 25 years, districts have played a considerable role in cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay implementing agricultural and urban non-point solutions on the ground.

During the final six months of Lee's term in office, MASCD worked with the conservation partnership to develop a Forestry MOU but had not been finalized for signature. District offices also took best management practice information from file folders and entered the data into Conservation Tracker a new database, designed by MDA to more accurately count implementation of conservation activities. A new emerging issue for districts was the process of fracking being considered to get natural gas from under the rock layers in Western Maryland.

During Lee's four year tenure, he awarded the President's Award to Floyd Allred in 2006, to Martha Clark in 2007, to Steele Phillips in 2008 and to Marguerite Guare in 2009. In 2007, Wilbert Paul became the first district supervisor to be recognized for 60 years of service.

Lee McDaniel's tenure as MASCD President ended when he passed the gavel to R. Calvert Steuart at the close of the Annual Meeting on July 26, 2009. As the immediate past president he will serve as a member of the MASCD Executive Committee. He also became a life member of MASCD and a member of the Soil Conservation Leaders Association.

R. CALVERT STEUART  
July 27, 2009 – July 18, 2013

The gavel was passed to Mr. R. Calvert Steuart as president of MASCD at the close of the Annual meeting July 27, 2009. Steuart was the 22<sup>nd</sup> president of the Association. Throughout his two terms as president, Hans Schmidt served as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, Charles Rice (Charles SCD) served as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, Dave Bourdon (Prince George's SCD) served as secretary, and Lee McDaniel (Harford SCD) served as treasurer. As MASCD President, Steuart was automatically a member of SSCC. Steuart served on the Prince George's Soil Conservation District Board since 1978, and was chair for more than 11 years. He is a practicing attorney in the State of Maryland and a past Associate Professor, University of Maryland, Cooperative Extension Service.

Cal Steuart was the NACD Board of Directors representative during this entire period; Bruce Yerkes was the alternate. Prior to his election, Steuart had served as the alternate representative to the NACD Board of Directors beginning in 2005.

At the 2009 fall MASCD Board Meeting in Annapolis, in preparation for the May 2010 Stormwater Management Act effective date, districts considered phasing in the regulations and decided a statewide policy from MDE would be key. Districts were invited to provide guidance to MDE on what would be manageable for district workloads. A small committee with regional representation was formed, chaired by Bruce Young. Dave Bourdon reported that MASCD held their first Professional Erosion and Sediment Control training session for nearly 40 district staff noting that both MDE and NRCS were very helpful and supportive. MASCD put together a Fact Sheet to describe the role of the soil conservation districts in the urban Erosion and Sediment Control program and with the recent changes to the Clean Water Act and the Stormwater law. Jason Kepler reported at the meeting that districts' hard work putting data into Conservation Tracker paid off, showed greater progress to SCWQPs than previously reported. As MASCD moved towards their 2-year milestones in the BayStat program, having accurate data became increasing more important.

President Obama issued an executive order for the Chesapeake Bay and Senator Cardin put the draft EPA reports into legislation giving EPA a new, undefined role in regulating agriculture. MASCD along with 58 other bay region organizations signed on to a letter expressing concern. Maryland responded to the EPA reports released on November 9, 2009 expressing concern about Maryland farmers having to undertake greater restrictions than farmers across the county putting them at a competitive disadvantage.

NACD received a grant from the Keith Campbell Foundation to bring districts from six Bay states together on November 2-3, 2009 to discuss their role in the new Bay initiatives. Recurring themes were the lack of technical assistance, the need to count all of agriculture's BMPs, and reaching non-cooperators.

Effective December 1, 2009, MDE began issuing a general discharge permit for MAFOs and CAFOs. The permit required additional measures to control nutrient discharges from Maryland's largest agricultural animal operations to further protect the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.



In 2009, a new CREP program was unveiled, with higher annual land rental payments and bonuses for farmers who use buffers as a best management practice (BMP). Under this program, landowners would receive the local soil rental rate (SRR) plus an additional incentive payment, ranging from 80 percent to 200 percent of the local SRR, depending on the environmental benefits of the practice installed. Financial help to cover the costs of installing buffers and other BMPs was also available in the program, such as through the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost-Share (MACS) program.

In 2010, The Maryland Civil Rights Advisory Committee with representatives from the NRCS, MASCD, MDA, and the University of Maryland Extension developed and established a Civil Rights and Workforce Diversity Award. The objective of the award was to recognize an individual employee who has significant contribution in the area of civil rights and workforce diversity. Employees from all participating agencies were eligible to be nominated.

During the 2010 legislative session, the soil conservation districts fared well along with agriculture. The legislature passed a bill to give some relief from estate tax. Although not total a total elimination, the legislation established a four-year pilot program that allowed a family three years to defer the estate tax and another three to pay back the owed tax. This allows a family more time to put the land into preservation or find other ways to protect the land from sale. Soil Conservation Districts and the Office of Resource Conservation fared extremely well in the FY2011 budget. Most notable is that the legislature maintained the \$400,000 for the seven new employees established by the Ag Stewardship Act of 2006. MACS funding in the capitol budget was finalized at \$10 million and funding for cover crops stands at \$15 million with \$9.52 million coming from the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund and \$5.6 million from the Bay Restoration Fund. A bill was passed establishing the Chesapeake Conservation Corps Program within the Chesapeake Bay Trust to provide young adults with meaningful service opportunities and promote, preserve, protect, and conserve the environment. There is the opportunity for these individuals to work in the soil conservation district offices. Prohibition on Use of Federal Funds for the Woodland Incentives Program was repealed. This bill allowed federal funds to be used as co-cost share with state funds up to 100% of the cost of a project.

At the spring 2010 MASCD Board of Director's meeting in Annapolis, Wes Messick presented a draft Partnership MOU that he had been working on. There was general agreement that the draft MOU between districts and our partners looked good but it was agreed that each SCD be given an opportunity to review it and make comments prior to the annual meeting.

On April 1, 2010, Prince George's SCD hosted a meeting of Southern Maryland farmers, district representatives and agricultural groups with Congressman Steny Hoyer and USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. After comments by Secretary Buddy Hance and Congressman Hoyer, the audience was given an opportunity to ask questions. Topics included were the Chesapeake Bay program, estate tax, buy local and food safety, the current financial problems in the dairy sector, and trade with Cuba. Secretary Vilsack wrapped up the session with his thoughts on these issues and an important reminder about the role of agriculture.

At the 2010 MASCD Annual Meeting, three resolutions were passed: 1. That MASCD supports the cost-share program for cover crops to be adopted to allow for the application of liquid manure on grain post planting; 2. That MASCD supports inclusion of language in the proposed MDA/SCD/NRCS MOU to

include soil conservation districts in the interview and hiring process of state and federal employees; 3. MASCD is concerned that UMD fertilizer application guidelines allow for too much nitrogen and phosphorus to be applied to lawns and seeks the review of the guidelines and/or legislation to ensure that it is consistent with Bay clean up goals. A resolution to have SCD take over nutrient management plan writing from Extension was defeated based on the concerns that UME is doing a good job. Should the University of Maryland no longer be able to provide plan development services, MASCD acknowledged that SCDs could be a viable option to provide these services if provided adequate funding.

Participants at the 2010 MASCD Annual Meeting had an opportunity to meet Jeff Eisenberg, the new CEO with NACD. One of the items Jeff discussed was the new role that NACD was undertaking under contract with NRCS to serve as a liaison in the collection of BMP farm data in the Bay watershed. Their role will be to work with states as they determine their mechanism to collect data on BMPs to ensure that the data collected meets the requirement of EPA to be included in the Bay model, to be verifiable and consistent among the states. It was also announced at the meeting that two supervisors have new national roles with NACD.

On June 15, 2010, MASCD hosted a training for Vietnamese poultry farmers with information on poultry farm management and regulations. The program was the first program of its kind in Maryland. The workshop was presented entirely in Vietnamese to 17 Vietnamese poultry growers in Maryland's Worcester, Wicomico and Somerset counties, many of whom speak little English. The workshop focused on the requirements of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) permit, the Maryland Animal Feeding Operation (MAFO) permit, the certified nutrient management plan and routine maintenance procedures contained in federal and state regulations. Funding for the project was provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service through a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) provided to MASCD.

In July 2010, spearheaded by MASCD, members of the agricultural and environmental community launched the new Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) and announced two farmers who are now certified in the program. FSCAP recognizes farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and are using appropriate BMPs to protect the Chesapeake Bay. A kick-off event was held at the farm of Carlton and Steve Ernst in Clear Spring, Maryland. At the event, farmers Carlton and Steve Ernst and John and J. D. Rinehart were recognized as the first two farms in Maryland to become certified under the new program.

Steuart was asked in 2010 to represent MASCD in a discussion with the BayStat Subcabinet, which included the secretaries of the Departments of Natural Resources, Environment, Planning and UMD Center for Estuary Studies. He served on a panel with representatives of Maryland Farm Bureau, Delmarva Poultry Industry, the Dairy Industry, and Maryland Grain Producers. They were asked to share their ideas on how the state could meet the TMDLs. Steuart made several points, including the need to provide sufficient technical assistance, the need to enforce the laws that are already on the books – and he referenced the lack of inspectors reviewing urban development, the need for site specific, farm-by-farm planning and implementation of BMPs that address each specific problem rather than one-size-fits-all mandates. In his comments he included the opportunities for improving nutrient efficiencies, the role of Conservation Tracker to collect all BMP data, the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program and the potential role of nutrient trading.

Before leaving for its August break in 2010, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed Senator Blanche Lincoln's (D-Ark.) Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. The version that was approved did not include cuts to the Environmental Quality and Incentives Program (EQIP), as proposed in the original bill. Instead, the \$4.5 billion child nutrition bill was to be funded using a different set of offsets from the food stamp program.

MASCD continued in 2010 to have a full and hectic schedule being inundated with lengthy reports that required feedback to ensure accurate, meaningful and reasonable outcomes. Two such reports were the state's draft Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) and the USDA NRCS Conservation Evaluation and Assessment Program (CEAP) of the Chesapeake Bay region. Both reports were in excess of 150 pages and both required more than a cursory review of the executive summary. MASCD submitted four pages of comments on Maryland's WIP noting that our primary issue with the whole TMDL process and implementing the WIP was that it will require adequate staffing for the SCDs and that without it, the plan would be impossible to accomplish. We did however state that given adequate resources, the Maryland plan as outlined in the draft was reasonable as it focuses on the current milestones that although ambitious, are achievable. Along with our agricultural comments, we expressed a need to address non-agricultural fertilizer use, expand oyster production and step up enforcement of existing programs like erosion and sediment control before implementing new programs.

In 2011, MASCD hosted the Annual NACD meeting of State Executive Directors of the State Conservation Association from across the country. Ten state executive directors and key NACD personnel spent four days in the area, lobbying Congress on their first day in Washington before learning about conservation activities in the Chesapeake Bay region. Lynne Hoot organized the event that included a boat trip around the shores of the Patuxent River narrated by Bill Clark and Bruce Young. NRCS Chief Dave White spent time with the group discussing the Bay, CEAP, rental concerns and other NRCS issues of interest to the participants. Bruce Young then hosted a tour of conservation activities on two St. Mary's County farms which concluded with local Southern Maryland wine tasting at the Port of Leonardtown cooperative winery.

As Maryland farmers entered the Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) process designed to meet the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations assigned by EPA in 2011, there were a couple of significant issues of concern. The first was a proposed increase in rate of implementation and the second was an inequitable allocation assigned to agriculture from urban sources. MASCD wrote to Governor Martin O'Malley to express concern about these issues. In the letter, MASCD voiced that agriculture will be expected to accelerate the reduction of nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment beyond that originally proposed in the Phase I WIP and that requiring agriculture to offset urban growth as part of its TMDL is unacceptable. MASCD wanted to see the 1.35 million pounds of urban pollution removed from the agricultural TMDL and have Maryland's goal to reach the TMDL extended through 2025 to match the other five states. Achieving a 1.4 million pound reduction by 2017 and 2.0 million pounds by 2025 was thought to be achievable given adequate technical and financial assistance. Once achieved, agriculture could start trading to assist other sectors to meet their goals.

The Fertilizer Act of 2011 was passed during the legislative session, requiring additional regulation on urban lawn care users. Also during the session, the Governor wrote an Executive Order to address his proposed septic system legislation requiring all new subdivision of more than five homes to use group

systems with nitrogen removal, with a report due in December 2011. In addition, the pesticide reporting bill, atrazine ban and study bills and the storm water fee bill were given unfavorable reports.

2011 was a record year for cover crop enrollment, with 550,000 acres of winter grains in the Cover Crop Program, which were requested by 1,767 farmers – 206 of which were new to the program that year. This record acreage represented 155% of the Phase I Watershed Implementation Plan goals for cover crops. Allegany, Calvert, Montgomery, and Somerset counties led the way percentage wise, and Queen Anne's, Kent, Talbot, Frederick, and Dorchester with the most acreage.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced in 2011 \$37.4 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in state grants to establish and renovate parks and open spaces throughout the 50 States, the Territories and the District of Columbia for Fiscal Year 2011. LWCF state grant funds were awarded through Federal matching grants that leveraged public and private investment in America's state and local public outdoor recreation. The funds enabled State and local governments to establish urban parks and community green spaces; to restore and provide public access to rivers, lakes and other water resources; and to conserve natural landscapes for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment.

Every district signed a contract with MASCD in 2011 to utilize up to \$12,500 in USDA grant funds to accelerate and support the development of conservation plans and the implementation of agricultural conservation practices supporting NRCS Farm Bill Programs, Maryland Conservation Programs and Local County Conservation Programs in Maryland.

For the first time in 2011, farm operators statewide were able to dispose of unusable or unwanted agricultural pesticides under a program sponsored by MDA in cooperation with the Maryland Department of the Environment, the University of Maryland Extension and other organizations. The Pesticide Disposal Program had been available to producers since 1995; however, this was the first year the program was open to operators statewide. More than 170,000 pounds of unusable or unwanted pesticides were collected from more than 330 farm sites since the program was initiated. The 2011 program was free to farmers, nurserymen, greenhouse operators and Christmas tree growers.

Starting in 2011, MDA worked with Delaware Department of Agriculture to explore development of a Certainty Program. This concept would offer a safe haven to farmers who implemented some level of management or BMPs. They would be able to avoid more restrictive regulatory requirements for some period of time after meeting the certainty baseline BMPs or performance. An initial meeting was held in September among the agricultural and environmental departments in each jurisdiction with EPA.

In 2011, MDA submitted the proposed amendments to the Maryland Nutrient Management Manual to the Administrative, Executive and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee. The changes included: changing rates of application, timing of application, and method of application of crop nutrients; defining additional management practices that may be required related to crop production, and the storage and handling of organic sources of nutrients; prohibiting the application of organic sources of nutrients in winter months; requiring certain setback requirements for the application of crop nutrients, including fencing for livestock; establishing guidance for the use of soil amendments and soil conditioners on agricultural land, and other measures modifying the implementation of MDA's Nutrient Management Program.

At the 2011 fall Board meeting, there was discussion about attendance and timing of the Annual meeting, which had been scheduled for the third week of July each year. It was suggested that it was a busy time for farmers and the suggestion was made that MASCD have a short meeting later in July or August and hold the Annual meeting in Annapolis in January. It was agreed that it was too late to change 2012 plans, but this would be changed moving forward.

MASCD held a very successful two-day meeting in Annapolis in January 2012. At the “Day in Annapolis” on Wednesday, January 25th, it was encouraging to me to see how well respected MASCD and the local SCDs are among legislators. After years spent developing relationships with elected officials, they had come to recognize that the agricultural and urban work that MASCD has done back in the counties was paying off in dividends. MASCD was named the go-to group to address agricultural non-point source pollution and to protect rivers and streams from urban runoff.

One of the issues discussed at the winter 2012 Board meeting was the Conservation Security Program (CSP) appeal that three farmers and their respective landowners were going through with USDA. Farmers Hutchison brothers, Sonny Eaton and Mike Elben from Talbot County had received notification that they needed to pay back over \$1 million to NRCS in spite of the fact that they had done everything required under their CSP contracts and the contracts had been written under the guidance of NRCS staff at the national headquarters, something that the National Appeals Division hearing officer noted in her report in which she denied their appeal. At the direction of the Board, Cal Steuart wrote to USDA Secretary Vilsack, with copies to local congressional members, the Governor, Maryland President of the Senate Mike Miller, Speaker Mike Busch, CBP EPA and CBF in the hopes that someone would see reason and end the ridiculous situation that would result in fewer and fewer farmers signing up for NRCS programs in spite of the major task MASCD had in front of them.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) honored leaders in conservation during a special awards banquet. The ceremony was part of NACD’s 2012 Annual Meeting in Las Vegas. Lee McDaniel, NACD Executive Board Member and MASCD treasurer, was honored with the prestigious President’s Award – one of the highest forms of recognition bestowed by the nation’s largest private lands conservation organization.

MASCD received grant funds in 2012 from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) to advance the program. These additional funds enabled MASCD to hire Dana York. Along with the hiring of Dana York, MASCD entered an MOU with MDA to hire two individuals to work part-time to expand Maryland’s nutrient trading program. Craig McSparran was hired, housed out of the MDA headquarters in Annapolis working on the Western Shore, and Corey Spies was hired to work the Eastern Shore, housed at the Talbot soil conservation district office in Easton. Craig and Corey were to be funded through a MDA CIG grant and MASCD’s NFWF Eco-trading grant.

The 2012 legislative session ended without a budget being passed. Following this, a special session was held May 14th. The special session was held to offset the \$512 million in cuts in the “doomsday budget”. The doomsday budget called for a reduction of 500 state employees, reduced health care benefits and reduced agency budgets by 8% so it had the potential to impact SCD budgets and personnel. The Family Farm Preservation Act of 2012 was the best news for agriculture from the 2012 session. The bill would allow for elimination of up to \$5 million with a provision that the farm must stay in agriculture for 10 years or the tax must be repaid. The Income Tax – Subtraction Modification - Enhanced Agricultural Management Equipment legislation did not pass the third reader. It was intended to provide a 100%

subtraction modification for GPS and optical sensing equipment (i.e. GreenSeeker™) and a 50% subtraction modification for Vertical Tillage equipment (i.e. TurboTil™). The Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act of 2012 was amended considerably before passage to retain local government control. The agricultural concern over potential loss of land value was never addressed. The Environment – Bay Restoration Fund - Fees passed increasing the fee from \$30 per year to \$60 per year for all households not just those on septic systems. The Stormwater Management - Watershed Protection and Restoration Program required urban counties to set up a program to collect stormwater management fees and establish a program for stormwater maintenance and restoration. An amendment allowed for a county to establish guidelines to reduce the fee for properties with advanced stormwater BMPs, relating to agricultural activities or facilities that are exempt from stormwater management requirements. Rural counties that are not required to have an NPDES stormwater permit were exempt.

MASCD's 2012 Annual Meeting was held at the Wisp Resort in Garrett County by the Western Area districts. A highlight of the event was to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond normal service requirements. Don Spickler was honored by Governor Martin O'Malley with a citation delivered by Secretary Buddy Hance. Dan Redden from Worcester SCD was also recognized as well, receiving his 50-year service pin. At the General Session, supervisors passed three resolutions: 1. Supporting the formation of a committee to work with MDE on definitions of agricultural practices and agricultural structures, use of landlord plans to facilitate review and approval of erosion and sediment control and stormwater management permits, and the exemptions of certain agricultural BMPs; 2. Asking MDA to add additional practices to MACS to help farmers meet the TMDL goals to include Chemical containment, Fuel containment, Defined Heavy Use Areas, Composting facility, and Stormwater Management Control Facility; 3. Supporting MDE and DNR in monitoring streams and runoff conditions prior to issuance of any Marcellus Shale Drilling permits. The General Session also had a Skype Session with US Senator Ben Cardin. His comments were related to the 2012 Farm Bill and the Bay related language in the senate version. Districts were encouraged to emphasize the importance of passing a Farm Bill this year to House members.

Kristen Hughes Evans was introduced as project manager for the Farm Manure to Energy Initiative at the May 2012 SSCC. It was indicated that funds from USDA, CIG and NFWF grants had been matched by the Bay Funders Network to carry out this project. The purpose of the project was to link farms dealing with excess manure with demonstrated manure management technologies, which would provide value added benefits such as energy or useable by-products. The projects would collect data on technical feasibility, operation and maintenance requirements and cost, other economic costs and benefits and environmental performance. The project looked at different size farms in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware as well as different technologies. Vendors agreed that all collected information about performance and costs of their systems will be publicly available.

At the MASCD 2012 fall Board Meeting, John Rhoderick gave an update on the emerging state program to require offsets for future growth. Districts were advised that they need to watch this carefully and have input to ensure that this doesn't end up becoming a land retirement program.

Herb Sachs, MDE, discussed his proposal at MASCD to work with SCDs to develop a consistent process for permitting as related to erosion and sediment control plans and stormwater for agricultural projects. He said he'd like SCDs to take on local responsibilities for agricultural stormwater permits. MDE will develop standard plans that SCDs can use when permits are required. County representatives participating in the initial meeting were not supportive of delegating local stormwater authority for agricultural projects to SCDs.

Cal Steuart attended his first NACD annual meeting in 2013, where Lee McDaniel was elected to be NACD's First Vice President, putting him on track to be President in 2016. At the meeting, one of Steuart's responsibilities at the event was to defend the two resolutions that MASCD sent for national support and action. NACD approved the resolution to ask NACD to look into health insurance coverage for district employees but failed to support the request that they seek a national solution to ensure that district supervisors are not treated as employees by the IRS. Too few states had been impacted and the rest were afraid of opening Pandora's Box.

At MASCD's 2013 Legislative Day in Annapolis, there were at least 82 legislators in attendance and less staff. Having a specific mission to undertake, like getting signatures in support of the Subtraction Modification bill, gave everyone buy-in to their interaction with legislators and the outcome was a Senate Bill (SB 404) with 17 sponsors and a House bill (HB 408) with 66 sponsors. Most important, the bill was sponsored by the majority of the Ways and Means Committee and the W&M subcommittee that would review the bill.

With all the interest in social media, MASCD created a FaceBook page. The idea was to pass along current information, promote our Conservation Farm Stewards and to inform people about conservation activities. Several districts have established FaceBook pages and they are certainly easier to keep up to date than web pages.

The 2013 legislative session proved to be an excellent year in Annapolis. With an improved economic climate, the budget process was less stressful and focused on providing adequate resources for our conservation activities. MASCD's keystone legislation to provide a subtraction modification for conservation equipment passed as did a bill to provide "Certainty" to farmers who accelerate their conservation efforts. MASCD gained recognition for retaining prime agricultural land rather than incentivizing its loss to forestry and the bills of concern to districts were voted unfavorably. The 2014 Budget passed without cuts to the proposed Resource Conservation General Funds. This provided funding for all current positions including the six positions that received new funding the previous year. The Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund was funded at the requested \$31.5 million giving \$2.6 million for technical assistance (including the 23 new contractual positions), up to \$10 million to support the planting of cover crops, \$2.0 million to assist farmers with implementation of the new nutrient management regulation, \$500,000 for manure transport, and \$2.5 million for manure to energy projects and funding to expand the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The 2014 Capital Budget passed with \$3.75 million for the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program.

The Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information Workgroup originally required a farm operator, certified private pesticide applicator, commercially licensed business, public agency and other responsible entities identified by MDA who sell, release or apply pesticides to annually report the quantities and locations of the products sold, released or applied. As amended, the bill became a Maryland Pesticide Reporting and Information Workgroup in existence for 2 years.

The workgroup includes 2 senators, 2 delegates, MDA, DHMH, DNR, MDE, Chair of Pesticide Advisory Committee, CBF, MD Pesticide network, MFB, MGPA, Maryland Pest Control Association, one pesticide manufacturer rep, one rep from the environmental community, one public health expert, one public health and toxicology expert, one environmental health expert, and one farmer. Tasks include: identify any pesticide use data gaps, determine need for data reporting program, determine format to make data available for research, review scientific research and data regarding use of pesticides and

potential harm, determine and make recommendations on protecting privacy, best methods to assemble data, study current federal process, conduct a cost-benefit analysis, economic impact, and impact of using organic pesticides on farms.

As of April 30, 2013, there had been 92 evaluation reviews on 72 farms, resulting in 53 certified conservation stewards (five are district supervisors) doing a great job in protecting 16,524 acres in 15 counties across the state. Seventeen of the stewards have had free baseline assessments conducted that determine compliance with the regional TMDL plan and the number of nitrogen and phosphorus credits. Certified agricultural crop operations include: 22 traditional crops; 14 hay; 3 orchard; 2 vegetable; one Christmas tree; and one vineyard. Animal operations include: 11 beef; 8 dairy; 9 horse; 5 poultry; 3 sheep; and one swine. FSCAP brochures now have three versions, focusing on horse farms, poultry operations as well as traditional farming operations.

Seeding 26.44 acres of pollinator habitat will began in May of 2013 on 32 farms in 14 counties. The project was offered first exclusively to certified conservation stewards, after which remaining acres were offered across the state. The process was be run through the local district as a 327, Conservation Cover, to be added to the farm conservation plan. The district would receive \$250 per acre for their technical assistance.

Cal Steuart's term as MASCD President ended when he passed the gavel to Hans Schmidt at the close of the Annual Meeting on July 18, 2013. As the immediate past president he will serve as a member of the MASCD Executive Committee. He also became a life member of MASCD and a member of the Soil Conservation Leaders Association.



HANS SCHMIDT  
July 18, 2013 – December 17, 2015

The gavel was passed to Mr. Hans Schmidt as president of MASCD at the close of the Annual meeting July 18, 2013. Schmidt was the 23<sup>rd</sup> president of the Association. Throughout his term as president, Charles Rice (Charles SCD) served as 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, Bruce Yerkes (Cecil SCD) served as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, Colin Jones (Queen Anne's SCD) served as secretary, and Wes Messick (Dorchester SCD) served as treasurer. As MASCD President, Schmidt was automatically a member of SSCC. Schmidt served on the Queen Anne's Soil Conservation District Board since 1991. He served as MASCD's most recent representative to NACD and previously served as Chairman of the USDA Upper Chester River Showcase Watershed Project.

As with all his predecessors, Schmidt hit the ground running. There were many important issues on the horizon for districts. These included Certainty, FSCAP, nutrient management regulations, stream fencing, stream buffers and the new Phosphorus Management Tool. Nutrient Application Setbacks were scheduled to go into effect January 2014. Nutrient application setback is a vegetated area of a prescribed width where nutrient-containing material may not be applied, as measured from the edge of surface water, including perennial and intermittent streams as well as some channelized waterways. Districts worked to better educate landowners on the setback requirements. The Maryland Department of Agriculture created a document titled, "Guidance on the Nutrient Application Setbacks", providing guidance to help farm operators, plan writers and other technical professionals on how to apply the nutrient application setbacks requirements.

The implementation of the new Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) developed by the University of Maryland after almost two decades of studies was scheduled for July 1, 2013. However there were some technical issues that needed to be corrected. Implementation was extended to late August 2013. University of Maryland updated NuMan Pro 4.0, and it included the PMT. The PMT made specific improvement on the old Phosphorus Site Index (PSI) that used readily available information to evaluate the relative risk of P transport from agricultural fields including vegetable and row crop production, and pasture based systems where P may be applied either as inorganic or organic fertilizer. It could also be used within all physiographic areas in Maryland and included the newest science relative to site and source factors. The PMT better accounted for management decisions in those critical source areas that protect water quality. The Maryland Department of Agriculture felt confident that the PMT would provide a more practical impact on producers in managing phosphorus in fields that have high phosphorus level where there has been a historical application of poultry litter, dairy manure or sewage sludge. The Nutrient Management Program continued to focus on plan implementation reviews by farmers and in the process also looked into the technical adequacies of plans developed by certified consultants. By the end of FY13, the Program conducted around 740 site inspections and plan reviews. With the new regulations in place, the Program also devoted considerable time to outreach activities in cooperation with University of Maryland through webinars and actual field training sessions. Reviews have were temporarily curtailed while the focus was on making preparations to implement the requirements of the Fertilizer Use Act of 2011, which required that individuals and companies hired to apply fertilizer to turf certified by MDA or work under the direct supervision of someone who is certified. Testing began in the end of July. The Fertilizer Use Act of 2011 took effect on October 1, 2013.

MASCD was proud to sponsor Maryland Public Television's series *Maryland Farm & Harvest*, which first premiered in November 2013. *Maryland Farm & Harvest* put a human face on Maryland agriculture,

telling the stories of the people who grow the state's food and fiber. From locations statewide, the series chronicled the successes of and the challenges to the state's No. 1 industry. The show was hosted by Joanne Clendining, a veteran actress and the owner/operator of a family farm. Each episode also included a segment called "The Local Buy" featuring Al Spoler, local food and wine expert and documentary filmmaker, who reported from the field, taking viewers to farms and markets around the state to find the best of Maryland-grown food.

Schmidt had an interesting start to his role as MASCD President, first with a federal government shutdown and then an outpouring of opposition to MDA's proposed regulations that brought over 800 farmers out of their corn and soybean fields to attend public meetings. Of greatest current interest to the agricultural community and soil conservation districts, was what was next, after the Maryland Department of Agriculture had withdrawn the PMT regulations and the hearing had been cancelled. As a farmer, Schmidt was extremely pleased that the Governor supported MDA making this decision. He encouraged the soil conservation districts to be a part of the discussion of the right path to implementing the PMT AND protecting Maryland agriculture.

Schmidt had the opportunity to meet with USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Harden. Krysta was previously CEO of NACD, a position she held prior to becoming Chief of NRCS. They discussed the Farm Bill and future opportunities for farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. She was interested in learning about the issues Maryland was facing as they discussed Certainty, nutrient trading and Accounting for Growth, Phosphorus management and FSCAP. Krysta was very interested in learning about local issues and pleased with Maryland's conservation efforts.

In January of 2014, MASCD hosted their annual Day in Annapolis in conjunction with their winter Board of Directors meeting. Both had excellent turnout. Schmidt spoke before the Environmental Matters Committee in the first ever briefing on the "State of Maryland Agriculture." Legislation of interest in the 2014 session included the state budget, renewable energy, and Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) easements.

At the MASCD Board meeting, it was agreed that MASCD would commit \$10,000 towards the second series of *Maryland Farm & Harvest* and encouraged districts to join MASCD with additional contributions. The lions share of the MPT series was funded by grain farmers through the Maryland Grain Checkoff Program and there was a strong interest in promoting the work of farmers and the districts to protect the Chesapeake Bay. MASCD felt proud that this was the highest rated program at MPT with weekly audiences of 30-45,000 people watching the Tuesday evening performance.

A new farm bill, known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, was signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 7, 2014. The comprehensive Farm Bill actually reached way beyond our farms. It supported conservation of valuable lands, encouraged renewable energy sources, and focused on healthier nutrition, aiming to help farmers continue to provide safe, abundant and affordable food while protecting natural resources.

The 2014 Maryland Legislative Session officially came to a close April 7th at midnight. SB 1020/HB 1463 which would have exempted "solar farms" from acquiring MDE erosion and sediment control permits, did not pass. The language requiring an economic impact analysis on the PMT was included in the budget. HB 861/SB 259 allowing renewable energy generation facilities on MALPF easements was passed with language limiting wind turbine height so that the blades would not interfere with the Patuxent

Naval Base radar operations. There were a few amendments to budget items that were of interest to MASCD. The 2010 Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund received more funding than in recent years so grants to districts should continue. The Office of Resource Conservation also saw limited reduction in funding that should not be an issue. The MACS funding was reduced from \$7 million to \$6.19 million, a reduction that should not cause on limits on MACS projects. Funding for cover crops was maintained.

On April 10, 2014 Schmidt, along with Lindsay Dodd, Bob Fitzgerald, Lynne Hoot, Colin Jones, Lee McDaniel, Bobby Rakeshaw, Denny Remsberg, Peter Bachman from NACD, met with all ten Congressional offices as part of NACD's Day on the Hill. Topics of discussion were EQIP funding and the new Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) in the Farm Bill, the benefits of winter barley ethanol for the environment in light of the reopening of the Hopewell, Virginia plant, a resolution to support the work of conservation districts, and all the great conservation work that is being done by Soil Conservation Districts in Maryland. The group informed members and their staff that Maryland agriculture has surpassed the sediment reduction goal and achieved 99.6% of the phosphorous goal and 95.6% of the nitrogen reduction goal for 2017.

MASCD held their Annual Meeting July 14-16, 2014 at the Sheraton Baltimore North, and for the first time ever, did not have a quorum (a total of 40 supervisors) for the General Session. As a result of the reduced turnout at the General Session, each district was asked to review the resolutions discussed at the meeting and approve (or disapprove) them at their next Board meeting. The meeting included an informative Opening Session addressing current issues, Technical and Administrative Committee Meetings and Area Meetings to encourage sharing of information as well as the camaraderie of peers in Maryland's Conservation Partnership. Schmidt presented the President's Award to Lee McDaniel. During the presentation he noted that Lee has gone above and beyond the call of duty when it comes to soil conservation.

At the District Manager meeting during the MASCD annual meeting, Lindsay Dodd discussed the creation of a records retention policy for districts. The purpose of this policy was to encompass federal, state and local records retention schedules that districts may be subject to. It was felt that it was important to know which records need to be held for what period of time and where in the event that a district may be involved in a legal or personnel proceeding or has its records reviewed by a state or federal agency. There are requirements for tax and personnel records, state and federal programmatic records, correspondence and even social media. Written correspondence including hard copy, email and social media may all be subject to records retention dependent upon the content whether it be general or of critical importance to an agreement.

At the October 28 board meeting, Bob Fitzgerald gave an overview of some activities at Somerset SCD that caused the State Soil Conservation Committee to terminate four of the five supervisors in the District. Bob suggested that as a result, the SSCC training topics at the MASCD Annual Meeting emphasized the important fiduciary responsibilities of districts.

Mike Brown, who served as staff to the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), discussed the NACD Employees Association, the Fiduciary responsibilities of district officials and Long Range Strategic Planning. He discussed the NACD training certification and encouraged MASCD to get Maryland's SCDs involved and credited. Myron Frock announced that the MASCD Long Range Strategic Planning Committee is seeking someone to help the organization work through the planning process. Mike Brown suggested that it was doubtful that any plan older than five years would be current today with the recent changes in the Farm Bill funding and Bay related activities.

The election of 2014 brought a change in state leadership. Schmidt looked forward to working with Governor Hogan and the newly elected members of the Maryland General Assembly. He did not think much would change for districts, continuing to work with agricultural and urban landowners to protect natural resources. The job the districts do would be consistent with the staffing levels provided for technical assistance and cost-share funding to support the installation of best management practices. Joe Bartenfelder was appointed as Secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture by the Hogan/Rutherford Administration.

Schmidt attended a briefing on November 7, 2014 on the Phosphorus Management Tool (PMT) economic impact report – or more accurately a cost analysis entitled, “A Scenario Analysis of the Potential Costs of Implementing the Phosphorus Management Tool on the Eastern Shore of Maryland”. Dr. Memo Diriker, who conducted the study, concluded after reading 4,500 pages of input that it is very difficult to make an assessment of the actual costs, and certainly not the cost:benefit ratio as the benefits based on a pound of P saved from going into the Bay from implementing the PMT is not available. When asked what the next steps were, Dr. Diriker suggested a pilot study and Secretary Buddy Hance said that the Administration was reviewing all options. Schmidt could not see how the current administration can push through regulations that identify such significant new funding when their term in office is less than 70 days. Schmidt assisted as MASCD finalized comments on the Waters of the US to be submitted to EPA. MASCD followed the lead of NACD and included some Maryland specific information to back up the argument that the current WOTUS rule needed a great deal of clarification and rewriting.

The biggest issue for MASCD in the 2015 General Session was the potential loss of \$690,000 in the Budget Bill Fiscal Year 2016 budget bill that supported 25 long term permanent positions that have been jointly funded by state grant funds and county funding. MASCD worked with MDA and the House and Senate committees to have this funding restored from the 2010 Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund. In light of the budget issues this session, MASCD felt that they should consider pursuing a dedicated funding source in 2016.

Schmidt received an update on the PMT regulations during a State Soils Committee Meeting. Regulations proposed during the O’Malley administration were proposed in November 2014. The Hogan Administration pulled the regulation one day before they became final creating a void as to future implementation. Senator Pinsky proposed legislation placing the November regulations in statute. Subsequently the Hogan Administration worked with the agricultural community and other interests and proposed a new version of PMT regulations on April 3, 2015. Further negotiation with environmental groups and Pinsky also created a new advisory group to review the existing infrastructure and needs to move to the next transition phase. The legislation was not moved forward as a result and the bills died. Maryland welcomed a new State Conservationist, Dr. Terron Hillsman, in 2015. Dr. Hillsman was born and raised on a small family farm in West Tennessee. He began his career with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in 1992, as a Student Trainee, while majoring in Agriculture at Tennessee State University. During his 23 years with the agency, Dr. Hillsman has worked as a Soil Conservationist, State Outreach Coordinator, and nine years as District Conservationist, all in the state of Tennessee, with the exception of brief detail assignments in South Carolina as the State Resource Conservationist and State Administrative Officer.

Under Schmidt’s leadership, the 100th Maryland farm was certified for achieving the highest level of environmental stewardship and recognized May 6, 2015 at a ceremony outside Smithsburg, Md.

Gardenhour Orchards, operated by Bill Gardenhour and his family, received the Farm Stewardship Certification and Assessment Program (FSCAP) certificate and sign from MASCD, which established FSCAP in cooperation with core agricultural and environmental partners, to recognize farmers who are good stewards of their natural resources and to encourage farmers to put additional best management practices on their land.

MASCD "Day in DC" took place on May 7, 2015. Schmidt, along with Supervisors, Board members and staff, Peter Bachmann (NACD), Robert Butz (Montgomery), Steve Darcey (Prince George's), Lindsay Dodd & Lynne Hoot (MASCD), Lee McDaniel (NACD & Harford), Pete Parracco (Prince George's), David Plummer (Montgomery), Bobby Rakestraw & Denny Remsburg (Frederick), and Pam Saul (Montgomery), split into two groups to make Congressional visits. All of Maryland's 10 Congressional offices were visited. The main issue discussed with the Congressional staff was the importance of conservation program funding, including Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These programs were seen as vitally important to conservation in Maryland, during these visits it was stressed that although Congress has the capability to reduce the mandatory funding levels set forth in the Farm Bill during the appropriations process, this could have a significant impact on Maryland's ability to meet the agricultural goals under the Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) was also discussed and MASCD made sure the staffers understood that while this was a new and developing program, compared to Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative (CBWI), far less money was coming into the Bay watershed for conservation. Visitors made sure the staffers understood what the districts do, our history, and role in the Chesapeake Bay conservation efforts. Other topics of discussion including the Phosphorus Management Tool, the Waters of the U.S. proposed rule, and alternative uses for poultry litter. There was a lot of interest in farm visits for congressional members and their staff this summer. All of the meetings were very productive and MASCD looked forward to continuing to fostering these relationships.

The MASCD Annual Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn in Solomons July 27- 29, 2015. The Southern Area soil conservation districts planned an interesting and informative agenda. Attendance was up; there was a good turnout of district supervisors and staff. Attendees heard about the Chesapeake Bay Land and Litter Project from Ernie Shea and from Energy Solutions about the Delmarva Poultry Eco -Services RCPP Project that incorporates a new flooring system for poultry houses with an energy producing option to deal with excess poultry litter. Throughout the meeting they learned about using biomass sorghum for phosphorus remediation, nitrogen bioreactors from the MidShore Riverkeeper Conservancy, the status of Forest Harvest activities, SHA mitigation, and WOTUS. One important issue, was what soil conservation districts need to do to prevent the occurrence, and then spread, of Avian Influenza, if and when it arrived in Maryland. Although a top priority for the Eastern Shore, this also had implications across the state. Overall, the sessions were interesting and informative and received great feedback on the new format and variety of speakers. Bob Fitzgerald, supervisor with the Somerset SCD received the President's award from Schmidt at the meeting.

MASCD passed five resolutions at the meeting. The most significant was for MASCD to pursue a dedicated funding source for district staff and operations. A steering committee was appointed for this effort. MASCD planned on moving forward, investigating possible sources for the dedicated funding, and engaging with partners to gain support. Schmidt encouraged districts to discuss this with state senators and delegates. At this point, 25 district staff, 14 managers and 11 secretarial positions were being funded through the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund rather than state General Funds and there were an additional 42 annual contractual planners and technicians funded through this program. MASCD believed

that a permanent funding source for these employees would produce better retention rates by offering more secure long-term employment. Other resolutions passed at the MASCD meeting: MASCD work with the appropriate agencies to come up with a check list of all the necessary steps for growers to build chicken houses; MASCD encourages Districts to meet with those applying to build chicken houses to ensure they are meeting all of the requirements for house construction; MASCD recommends submitting a letter of support for the Land and Litter Project; and MASCD supports the University of Maryland Extension “Call before you Cut” program.

After taking Dr. Terron Hillsman and other NRCS staff into DC to meet with the Congressional delegation, plans were made to take the agricultural staff from Maryland’s 10 Congressional offices out on farms to see production and conservation in action. On Wednesday, August 12, 2015, MASCD and the Montgomery Soil Conservation District hosted a congressional staff tour on five different farms in Montgomery County. The objective of the farm tour was to help the congressional staff understand how federal programs provide resources to farmers for conservation and to see conservation practices in action on a variety of operations. Representatives from Congressional members Cardin, Mikulski, Delaney, Edwards, and Van Hollen’s offices participated in the tour. Staff and interns from the Natural Resource Conservation Services attended as well. The group visited Randy Stabler at Pleasant Valley Farms, Tom and Paula Linthicum at Seneca Ayr Farm, Drew Stabler at Sunny Ridge Farm, Wade, Tyler and Ben Butler at Butler’s Orchard and John Fendrick at Woodbourne Creamery.

At the October 2015 MASCD Board meeting, Schmidt had the honor of thanking newly retired Assistant Secretary for Resource Conservation, Royden Powell for his service to the State of Maryland and our Soil Conservation Districts. Royden stated during his farewell that the districts are near and dear to him because he got his start in conservation at the district level. He had also been active in MASCD over the years serving as the President from 1989 to 1992. To thank him for his service and lasting impact on conservation in Maryland, Royden Powell was presented with the MASCD President’s Award and a certificate to ride the Western Maryland Railroad.

Schmidt was appointed to the Maryland Department of Agriculture as the Assistant Secretary of Resource Conservation, replacing Royden Powell. The reins of MASCD were handed over from President Hans Schmidt to vice-president Charles Rice at the December 17, 2015 SSSC meeting. Until the MASCD Annual Meeting, July 31 to August 2, Bruce Yerkes would serve as both vice-president and treasurer.

Charles Rice  
December 17, 2015 – August 7, 2019

Charles Rice of Charles county took the lead as president of MASCD at the December 17, 2015 SSSC meeting.

While in office, MASCD joined with partners for a \$4.5 million RCCP grant. RCCP draws on local knowledge and networks to fuel conservation projects. *Meeting WIP Goals in the Chesapeake Bay* brings together 15 partners to accelerate the installation of conservation practices to enable Maryland and Delaware farmers to meet the nutrient and sediment water quality goals set forth in the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). Partners offered an additional \$5.4 million in matching funds, bringing the total value of the project to more than \$10 million.

During the 2016 legislative session, the priority of MASCD was SB 645/HB 1110 which would have allocated \$5 million annually from the Chesapeake Bay Trust Fund (CBTF) to fund the current district staff being funded annually through CBTF as full state employees and add five regional engineers. While the bill did not pass, the outcome was that budget language was included in the Joint Chairman's report for a summer study of the issue.

In the spring of 2016, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack unveiled the USDA Urban Agriculture Toolkit, a new resource created by USDA's Know Your Farmer team to help entrepreneurs and community leaders successfully create jobs and increase access to healthy food through urban agriculture. USDA's Toolkit is an electronic document that helps urban and small farms navigate more than 70 helpful resources, including technical assistance and financing opportunities focusing on some of the most pressing challenges confronting urban producers such as land access, soil quality, water resources, capital and financing, infrastructure, market development, production strategies, and applying for federal, state or private foundation grants.

The 2016 annual meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge. Charles presented the President award to Rona Flagle, MDA, for her dedication to soil conservation and Dan Redden for his 54 years of service. The Endowment Auction had a total of 44 items and total pledges came to \$4,032.50.

Lynne Hoot retired from MASCD Executive Director and MASCD thanked her at her retirement party surrounded by friends and colleagues. Lindsay Thompson assumed the position of Executive Director in October of 2016.

MASCD continued working with many grants including FSCAP with 135 certified conservation stewards protecting 46,966 acres in 20 counties across the state. Pollinator Habitat Projects, a grant from the Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) Company allowed the establishment of five acres of pollinator habitat. BGE Green Grant approved a second application with which MASCD proposed to establish another five acres. MASCD's Pollinator Habitat projects now totals 54 acres on 62 farms, two agricultural centers, one school and one environmental education center in 15 counties.

MASCD was approved to receive a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, working in partnership with another consultant company, Conservation Partners, to assist districts in verifying resource improvements, which are BMPs installed by farmers on their own without cost-sharing. After verification, the BMPs will be entered in MDA's Conservation Tracker system and eventually in the Chesapeake Bay database to increase credit for agriculture's contributions to the Watershed Implementation Plan. A total of 150 RIs were verified and recorded on 79 farms in Howard and Washington Counties.

MASCD did not have a specific legislative agenda during the 2017 legislative session but there were several bills that specifically impact districts, our partners, and conservation efforts across the state. From a budgetary perspective, the Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program was funded at \$8M and the district managers, administrative personnel and grant funded planners and technicians were fully funded, both good news. Bills requiring the state to have a pollinator management plan on state owned land and forest conservation act revisions passed.

The 2017 annual meeting was held at Turf Valley in Ellicott City. The President's award went to Lee McDaniel of Harford SCD for his many years of service to his district, MASCD and the National Association of Conservation Districts as well as his stewardship ethics on his own farm. The Endowment Auction had a total of 46 items and total pledges came to \$5,659. One resolution passed that Nutrient management plan consultants to provide single sheet of requested elements for eligibility for the MACS program within the plan.

Craig Nielsen, Assistant Attorney General for MDA, provided background and history pertaining to the legal support SCDs have received from the State Attorney General's Office. Under state law SCDs are protected under the Tort Claims Act and entitled to representation and litigation limits imposed by that law similar to state agencies. In the past, the AG has assisted SCDs with open meeting law issues, ethics concerns, contract reviews, procurement questions and dealings with financial institutions.

He noted that as society had become more litigious and SCDs and their programs become more complex, the types of lawsuits that have arisen in the past two years are of a much broader scope. They have included a couple cases pertaining to employment issues and liability cases. There have been matters for which SCDs have retained private legal counsel.

Nielsen suggested that SCDs be surveyed to determine the types of legal assistance they anticipate as necessary in the future. Based on survey outcomes the SSCC could then discuss how best to address these needs. Other suggestions include training and retention of professional human resources support. Nielsen noted that it could be expensive if each SCD retained an individual lawyer as case specific situations arise. Alternatives include having one on retainer or having MASCD secure legal assistance for SCDs.

Louise Lawrence, SSCC subsequently worked with Nielsen to develop a survey for completion by SCDs to have data to better understand legal needs and to get feedback on solutions for addressing any coverage gaps. Louise noted that all but one district responded to the survey. Five instances of lawsuits were cited, with three occurring nearly 30 years ago and involving districts that had equipment divisions.

Districts indicated that Public Information Act requests and the Open Meeting Law concerns topped the list of legal issues. About half of the districts have an employee manual and about half have some form of liability insurance. Fourteen districts preferred to retain their own legal assistance as needed. Members noted uncertainty about the need for "non-tort" protection and suggested that the SSCC ask for clarity.

In 2017, MASCD secured a cooperative agreement with NRCS to provide administrative services for NRCS programs through EQIP and CTA and CRP planning. The agreement was for three years and totaled \$870,540.00. All districts signed agreements with MASCD to provide service and receive funding through this agreement.



In 2018, MASCD applauded the Governor and General Assembly for their demonstrated financial support of the districts, conservation financial assistance programs, and land preservation. The Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program was funded at \$8.5M for capitol projects and \$22.44M for the cover crop program. The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation received \$48.9M for easement acquisition. District planners, technicians, managers and administrative staff were also fully funded. Finally, the Next Generation Farmland Acquisition program which assists with purchasing farmland by “pre-buying” the easement was funded at \$2.5M for FY19 as well as the fiscal years through 2022.

MASCD supported several bills in 2018 that were successfully passed through the legislature. HB7/SB182 - Income Tax Credit—Venison Donation—Feed the Hungry Organizations; HB43 - Income Tax Credit—Subtraction Modification—Perpetual Conservation Easements provides for a subtraction modification from Maryland State income tax for the first \$50,000 in proceeds from the sale of a perpetual conservation easement. HB515 - Agriculture - Palmer Amaranth - Study requires the Department of Agriculture to conduct a study to assess the adverse financial impact of the invasive weed Palmer amaranth on the agricultural industry in the State and to determine the necessary actions each stakeholder must take to reduce the impact and the cost of each action.

The 2018 annual meeting was held at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge, MD. Charles presented S. Wickes Westcott for his many years of service to the Kent County district. The Endowment Auction had a total of 36 items and total pledges came to \$5,091.50. One resolution passed that MASCD will coordinate with NRCS and MDA to develop a formal training program for technicians at the districts. MDA should develop an advancement plan to compensate technicians at a level that is commensurate with their level of responsibility and importance to the success of the Phase III Watershed Implementation plan.

To help farmers understand the many environmental benefits of building healthy soils along with management practices they can use to improve soil health and productivity, the Maryland Department of Agriculture launched a new Healthy Soils website.

Signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan, Maryland’s Healthy Soils Act directs the department to provide tools and resources to assist farmers who want to explore new technologies and farming techniques that promote soil health and its numerous corresponding agronomic and environmental benefits.

MASCD continued to be an MPT *Maryland Farm and Harvest* contributor throughout Charles’ tenure as President.

Bruce Yerkes  
August 7, 2019 – August 29, 2023

Bruce Yerkes of Cecil county took the lead as president of MASCD at the August 7, 2019 Annual Meeting, which took place at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. The meeting kicked off with a Board of Directors meeting followed by a dinner at the Howard County Conservancy. Dinner was catered by a local eatery with locally grown ingredients and guests were able to tour the historic property. The general session began with a welcome to Howard County from Senator Katie Hester-Fry and she assured attendees she is a friend of the conservation districts in the legislature. Participants then heard from MDA Assistant Secretary for Resource Conservation, Hans Schmidt, State Conservationist Dr. Terron Hillsman and Laura Pleasanton on behalf of the Farm Service Agency.

On the final morning of the meeting over one hundred district staff, supervisors and partners contributed to a workshop to determine the districts needs to achieve the WIP goals by 2025. Participants voiced the need for additional technical staff, engineering support, assistance in outreach to new cooperators and changes to financial assistance programs.

The MASCD membership passed a resolution supporting the removal of caps in the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share program

MDA launched a soil health website. To help farmers understand the many environmental benefits of building healthy soils along with management practices they can use to improve soil health and productivity, the department has launched a new Healthy Soils website. Signed into law by Governor Larry Hogan, Maryland's Healthy Soils Act directs the department to provide tools and resources to assist farmers who want to explore new technologies and farming techniques that promote soil health and its numerous corresponding agronomic and environmental benefits.

Calvert County won the 29th annual Maryland Envirothon. Approximately 1,000 students from 15 counties across Maryland took part in this year's competition. The event was held on June 19-20 at St. Mary's College in Southern Maryland.

The Environmental Endowment Auction held Tuesday, August 6th at the MASCD Annual Awards Banquet had a total pledge of \$4,711.

The 2020 MASCD Winter meeting and Legislative Luncheon were a great success. District supervisors and staff had meaningful conversations with legislators that resulted in resounding support for our priorities. MASCD's priorities centered around the Governor's generous budget allocations for agricultural technical and financial assistance. The Governor's proposed budget includes: • 53 full-time, permanent positions for Resource Conservation • \$8M for the Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program • \$22.45M for the cover crop program • \$48.5M for the Maryland Ag Land Preservation Foundation.

On February 6th, the agriculture community gathered for the 50th Taste of Maryland Agriculture. Denny Remsburg, a District Manager from Catoctin and Frederick Soil Conservation Districts, emceed the event. Governor Larry Hogan was in attendance and Prince George's District Manager, Steve Darcey, was able to chat with him.

COVID-19 presented us with new challenges and tested our ability to keep staff, farmers and agriculture workers healthy while we go about the business of caring for the land and water. In an age where technology puts the world at our fingertips, we continued to find new ways to use the tools at hand to

meet our conservation objectives in a more efficient manner. During this time, MDA—like thousands of organizations worldwide—has had to buckle down, roll up our sleeves, and reexamine the way we do business. Along the way, we have learned new and innovative ways to get the job done.

The Maryland legislative session adjourned early and abruptly on March 18, 2020 in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. It is believed that this is the first time session has been adjourned early since the Civil War. The truncated session made for a mad dash in the last few days for legislators and advocates to get priority legislation passed. Adding to complications was restricted and then no access to the legislative buildings in the final days.

The MASCD Annual Meeting scheduled for August 2-4, 2020 at the Hyatt in Cambridge, MD was unable to be held in person due to COVID-19. After a tropical storm with multiple tornados postponed the meeting yet again, the MASCD Board of Directors meeting with held on Thursday, August 6th via video conferencing. During the online Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved the Minutes from the March meeting, accepted the financial report and approved a FY2021 budget. The Board also approved committee appointments.

On Oct 1, 2020 MASCD welcomed Jen Nelson as the new Executive Director of MASCD (replacing Lindsay Thompson). Mrs. Nelson has a wealth of knowledge and experience in conservation and has served for the past two years as the Executive Director for the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts. Missy Cannon Helgason, new MASCD Administrative Assistant also came on board. Another change for MASCD was the hiring of Government Relations firm Providence Strategies, LLC.

USDA released the final rule for its Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The rule updates USDA's partner-driven program as directed by the 2018 Farm Bill and integrates feedback from agricultural producers and others. NRCS received comments from more than 65 organizations and individuals on the RCPP interim rule, which was published February 13, 2020.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture announced that 16 projects will receive grant funding totaling \$650,000 through the new Healthy Soils Competitive Fund. Maryland's Health Soils Competitive Fund was developed based on recommendations by the Soil Health Advisory Committee. Funding support is provided by the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Trust Fund and through the Moore-Miller administration's support of the Climate Solutions Now Act.

A team of high school students from Harford County won the 2023 Maryland Envirothon competition. The team from North Harford High School beat out teams from 13 counties with a winning score of 450 points out of 500 points. Teams from Allegany County (448 points) and Calvert County (441) placed second and third.

NRCS welcomed Suzy Daubert as State Conservationist for Maryland and Washington, DC.

MASCD welcomed Chelsea Gebbia as Outreach and Education Director in the summer of 2023. Born and raised on a family poultry farm on the eastern shore, she developed a deep appreciation for the land and its potential.

MASCD continued to contribute to the *Maryland Farm and Harvest* series.

Bruce's 2023 President Award recipients were Robert Butz (Montgomery), Robert Fitzgerald (Somerset), Jen Nelson (MASCD), Missy Cannon Helgason (MASCD), and Marguerite Guare (MASCD)