

MINUTES
CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, November 5, 2013

Supervisors Present: Jeff Goforth, Robert Brown, Ned Hudson, and Louis Suther

Staff Present: Dennis Testerman, Sarah Piper and Daniel McClellan

Others Present: Chris Childers, NRCS District Conservationist, Ralston James, NC Division SWCD Regional Coordinator, and Kelly Sifford, Planning and Development Services Manager

(1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Goforth at 5:20 p.m.

(2) Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther, seconded by Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the board approved the agenda as submitted.

(3) Approval or Correction of Minutes

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the October 8th, 2013 meetings.

(4) Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board approved the Consent Agenda.

(4-A) Staff/Partner Report

The highlights of our partner-staff report for October include the following:

- The 2013 Conservation Employee Training Institute (CET) was held in Nags Head October 1-3. A near a record number of district employees attended along with many family members. Training sessions were planned and completed on a diverse number of administrative, educational, managerial and technical topics. All staff participated.

- Resource Conservation Coordinator, Sarah Piper, is working on state certification as a Certified Environmental Educator
- The district has received a 7-passenger 2014 Ford Explorer

(4-B) Conservation Plans

None

(4-C) Application/Contracts/Requests for Payments - Conservation Cost-Share Programs

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Applications/Contracts/Requests for Payment:

- Application - Bill Robinson; #13-2014-02-16; cropland conversion to grass
- Request for Payment - R. Brown McAllister Elementary; #13-11-502-16; Cistern; \$3414.00
- Request for Payment - Mitchell Haigler; #13-2013-13-16; fencing; \$1563.00
- Request for Payment - Larry Kluttz; 13-2013-07-16; HUAP; \$2012.00

(5) Unfinished Business

None

(6) New Business

(6-A) Area Boundary Changes - Recommendation to NC Soil & Water Conservation Districts

Ned Hudson and Dennis Testerman explained a draft letter that was written to Craig Frazier, the chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Realignment of NCASWCD Areas. The letter made points as to why the Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation Board believe the area boundaries should stay the way that they currently are. General discussion was made about the financial considerations to the areas changing. A motion was made by Louis Suther, seconded by Ned Hudson, and carried unanimously to send the letter as written.

(6-B) AgWRAP: Recommendation to Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Daniel McClellan explained a draft letter that was written to the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The letter made points as to why the Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation Board believes that agricultural wells should be added to the list of best management practices in the AgWRAP program. General discussion was made about the use of the wells and possible consequences to

underground aquifers. A motion was made by Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown, and carried unanimously to send the letter as written.

(6-C) Recommendation on District Representative on Cabarrus County Agricultural Advisory Board

Jeff Goforth and Dennis Testerman explained a draft letter that was written to the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners on recommending Louis Suther for reappointment on the agricultural advisory board for the chair to be occupied by a Soil and Water Conservation District board member. The letter explained what the agricultural advisory board is and recommended Louis Suther for reappointment. General discussion was made about Louis's desire for reappointment and if there are term limitations. A motion was made by Robert Brown, seconded by Ned Hudson, and carried unanimously to send the letter as written.

(6-D) Cabarrus County Farmland Protection Plan and Conservation Easements

Dennis Testerman explained a list of recommended revisions to the Cabarrus County Farmland Protection Plan. The list consists of guideline stipulations that are already in place for the USDA NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. General discussion was made about making the federal guidelines match the counties. A motion was made by Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown, and carried unanimously to adopt the recommended revisions to the Cabarrus County Farmland Protection Plan.

(6-E) One-third Contract Completion Requirement - Tom Flowe; 13-12-02-16; Access Road

Daniel McClellan explained a contract that was in question as to whether the applicant had met the requirement of having one-third of the work completed as required by the contract. The applicant has an approved design but has not started work on the access road. General discussion was made about the reasons the applicant was behind on the contract and what would happen to the money if the contract was not completed. A motion was made by Louis Suther, seconded by Ned Hudson, and carried unanimously to allow the approved access road design count as one-third of the work, and to move the contract completion date to June 1st, 2014.

(6-F) Quarterly Meeting with County Management

Jeff Goforth and Dennis Testerman asked the board if they had items for discussion for the quarterly meeting with county management on November 6, 2013. Kelly Sifford discussed on the importance of CIPs and Budget concerns, Louis Suther discussed on sanitation trucks littering near his property, and there was general discussion on making sure the management understands what Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District does and why it is important.

(7) Board Reports

(7-A) North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation
Districts Area VIII

None

(7-B) NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation Endowment
Initiative

Ned Hudson updated the board on the endowments activities and progress of the initiative. Ned Hudson stated that the Endowment initiative has raised \$226,000 and that they are worried about meeting their goals and asking individual districts to help support their cause. Ned also brought up a motion that was made at the Area VIII meeting in October suggesting that each District contribute \$1,000 to the Foundation's Endowment Campaign. Dennis Testerman supplied a list of possible donors to the board members as a starting point.

(8) Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther, seconded by Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.



Jeff Goforth, Chairman



Ned Hudson, Secretary/Treasurer