

**MINUTES**  
**CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY December 2, 2014**

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

Staff Present: Hannah Hursey, Daniel McClellan and Dennis Testerman

Others Present: Chris Childers, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Ralston James, Central Regional Coordinator & Team Leader, NCDACS Division Soil & Water Conservation; Kelly Sifford, Planning and Zoning Department Director; Aaron Newton, Local Food System Project Coordinator; Lynn Shue, Cabarrus County Commissioner & CSWCD Liaison-Elect

**(1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Porter at 5:40pm. Chairperson Porter welcomed newly elected county commissioner Lynn Shue. Commissioner Shue is scheduled to be appointed as the District's liaison with the Board of Commissioners.

**(2) Approval of Agenda**

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board approved the agenda.

**(3) Election of Officers**

UPON nomination by Ned Hudson and acceptance by Vicky Porter, the board unanimously re-elected Vicky Porter as chairperson for 2015. Upon nomination by Robert Brown and acceptance by Jeff Goforth, the board unanimously re-elected Jeff Goforth as Vice-Chairperson for 2015. Upon nomination by Ned Hudson and acceptance by Robert Brown, the board unanimously elected Robert Brown as Secretary-Treasurer for 2015.

**(4) Approval or Correction of Minutes**

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the November 4, 2014 meeting.

**(5) Consent Agenda**

**(5-A) Staff/Partner Report**

District staff has completed all possible tasks related to contracts and cooperative agreements for conservation easement grants and is waiting on appraiser, legal staff, partners and surveyors to complete tasks and/or approve documents. Voluntary recall of FY2015 Community Conservation Assistance Program allocation is anticipated on December 1. Two current applications will likely use the entire allocation. District staff expects to retain existing allocation and asked for additional funds to complete both applications.

#### **(6) Unfinished Business**

##### **(6-A) NCDA Ag. Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Applications**

Dennis Testerman reminded board that there are four applicants and the deadline for completing state applications online is December 19. The district can only submit two applications and a district ranking sheet will be used focus on priority projects. The Board of Commissioners approved the submission of up to two applications at their November meeting.

##### **(6-B) 2015 Plan of Work**

Discussion of this item was postponed until a future meeting.

##### **(6-C) Payments Under MOA with Mogensen Mitigation**

Dennis Testerman reported that the finder's fee detailed in the memorandum of agreement between the district and Mogensen Mitigation Inc. applies in the case of the Back Creek project proposed by the district. This project was initially passed over by the state Ecosystem Enhancement Program staff, but district staff have been assured that they will received the finder's fee in 2014. District staff and the consultant continue to explore alternative funding sources for this project.

#### **(7) New Business**

##### **(7-A) County Agriculture and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund**

Dennis Testerman, Aaron Newton, and Vicky Porter introduced a discussion of the background of this fund, as well as past and future uses of this fund. Vicky Porter and Aaron Newton also reviewed the history of the Elma C. Lomax Incubator Farm and local food initiatives. The farm was eliminated from the FY2015 county budget. Kelly Sifford reviewed the history of

disbursements from this fund. Recently, district staff, Carolina Farm Stewardship Association's Lomax Farm staff, and county management have been discussing a standardized application and allocation process for back taxes that are collected when properties are removed from the Present Use Valuation program. Specifically referenced was a coalition of organizations that would annually analyze the fund and make a disbursement recommendation as part of the county's annual budgeting process. Next steps include discussion at the January district meeting of specific recommendations to county management on 1) establishment of a coalition of local agricultural and natural resource organizations and 2) an application and allocation process that would guide the disbursement of monies from the special use fund for agricultural development and conservation easements. Recommendations for additional allocations from the county's general fund may also need to be considered.

**(7-B) Applications/Contracts/Requests for Payments for State Conservation. Cost-Share Programs.**

**(7-B-i) Agriculture Cost-Share Program**

**(7-B-i-a) Request for Payment-William Robinson; #13-2014-002; Cropland Conservation-Grass; \$3,947**

Contract work was checked out November 19<sup>th</sup>. Request for payment for \$3,947 was sent to the state.

**(7-B-i-b) Contract Extension-Scott London; 13-13-05-16; Critical Area; \$1,440**

Daniel McClellan explained that London was given a 6 month extension that expired at the end of November. McClellan has spoken with London and London is waiting on the contractor to work on the project but he has not shown up yet. State program staff told district staff that the board could make a decision to either cancel the contract or to agree that one third of the work is completed by saying the contractors quote would be enough for one third of the work policy. If the board decides that one third of the contract work is complete, the contract will expire in June 2015.

UPON MOTION of Robert Brown, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, approved that one third of the work has been completed and London can continue work until June.

**(7-C) Adoption of 2015 Meeting Schedule**

Hannah Hursey presented the proposed the 2015 board meeting schedule. The proposed schedule calls for the board to continue to meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 5:30 pm in the county governmental center's multipurpose room with the following exceptions: the board will meet on the second Tuesday in January and will meet in Conference Room B in April and August.

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, Adoption of 2015 board meeting schedule was approved.

**(7-D) FY 2016 CIP Budget Requests**

Ned Hudson and Dennis Testerman explained the proposed Capital Improvement Project summary spreadsheet for the FY2016 budget.

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Jeff Goforth and unanimously carried, approval of FY 2016 Capital Improvement Project proposal.

**(8) Reports**

**(8-A) NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

Vicky Porter reported that she asked to not be re-appointed to the commission.

**(8-B) NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation**

Ned Hudson no report. Dennis Testerman reported that the Foundation staff is working on a grant application for funding Outdoor Education Learning Center requests.

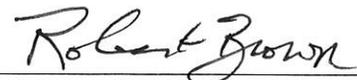
**(8-C) Staff and Partners Report**

There was discussion of current initiatives.

**(9) Adjourn**

UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

  
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Vicky Porter, Chairman

  
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Robert Brown, Secretary/Treasurer