

MINUTES
CABARRUS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, July 6, 2010

Supervisors Present: Jeff Goforth, Ned Hudson, Bob Ritchie, Louis Suther

Staff Present: Daniel McClellan and Dennis Testerman

Others Present: Ali Hasan and Michelle Moss

(1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Bob Ritchie at 6:30 p.m., followed by a general welcome and introductions of those present.

(2) Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda.

(3) Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting was deferred until the August meeting.

(4) Resource Conservation Workshop Reports

Ali Hasan and Michelle Moss, from Mount Pleasant High School and Central Cabarrus High School, respectively, gave reports on their experiences at the annual workshop at N. C. State University. Both students enjoyed the workshop and indicated that they want to be become more involved in conservation. Madison Burris, also from Mount Pleasant High School, was unable to attend due to an illness in her family, but indicated interest in participating in 2011 as a N. C. School of Science and Mathematics student.

(5) Unfinished Business

(5-A) FY2011 Budget Update and N. C. Div. of Soil and Water Conservation Assistance with Budget Presentations

Staff presented a chart summarizing the FY2011 District budget as initially proposed and with adopted changes. There was general discussion about the budget process, including the role of the District board's secretary-treasurer officer in past and future budget processes. Efforts are underway to secure sponsors for the annual District Conservation Recognition Banquet.

(5-B) Discussion of Conservation Partnership Operational Agreement

There was a general discussion of federal and county staffing needs in the District office. The District administrative secretary position was officially restored in the adopted FY2011 budget. The position was advertised by the county Human Resources Department and the required interview process will take place this week. The position should be filled by the end of July. There was also a general discussion of the previous two quarterly meetings of district and county leaders, as well as goals for the next meeting scheduled for July 21, including a review of differences between county and District policies.

(6) New Business

(6-A) Approval of NCACSP Contract Forms

Application—Mike Smith; Big Oak Farm; Contract #13-11-01-16;
Heavy Use Area Protection, Livestock Exclusion, Watering Tanks

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the Board approved this application.

(6-B) Dennis Testerman gave a brief update on the annual Plan of Operations.

(6-C) After a discussion of arrangements for upcoming regional and national meetings of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the board decided by consensus that Jeff Goforth should represent them at the regional meeting if he can coordinate the trip with his work schedule.

(6-D) The board noted that 4 candidates have filed for 2 available positions on the District board, including Jen Campbell, incumbent Jeff Goforth, Vicky Porter and Susan Schneider. There was a general discussion about the ongoing challenge of educating the public about the role of the District board as one of three elected countywide boards and the responsibilities of the District board members.

(6-E) Dennis Testerman gave a brief update on conservation easement efforts and the difficulty of protecting state-designated natural areas and farmland without adequate county funding to leverage state and federal grant dollars.

(7) Information/Reports

(7-A) Chairman' Report

Chairman Ritchie reviewed highlights of the past month. He expressed appreciation to Ned Hudson and Grace Mynatt for their

presentation at the county commissioners' budget workshop to appeal for restoration of the District's administrative secretary position.

(7-B) NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation and the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Leadership Initiative

Ned Hudson provided an update on the work of the Foundation and Leadership Initiative. The Foundation-funded study report on water use is due to be completed in October.

(7-C) NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Community Conservation Committee

Bob Ritchie gave an overview of the joint June committee meeting with the Water Resources committee. There was an update on the Working Lands subcommittee, especially work on the revised Working Lands Preservation Resource Manual.

(7-D) NCASWCD Legislative Committee

There was a general discussion about the FY 2011 state budget. The Working Lands Coordinator position held by Jerry Dorsett was funded.

(7-E) NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Area 8 District Issues Committee Meeting.

Dennis Testerman reviewed plans for a combined meeting of Districts Issues Committees of Areas 1, 2 and 8 scheduled for July 27. There was discussion of a suggestion by Ralston James that mentors be assigned to staff working towards certification as conservation planners. The following motion was made:

That mentors be recruited and assigned to assist conservation partners working on certification as conservation planners.

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the Board approved this recommendation.

(7-F) Cabarrus County Agriculture Advisory Committee

Committee member Louis Suther led a discussion of plans for the annual Celebration of Agriculture event to be held on his farm on July 22. The new District pop up canopy will be set up with a display and the seed drill will be on site. There was also general discussion of recent meetings of the Committee.

(7-G) Staff Reports

Daniel McClellan gave an update on the status of cost-share programs. \$98,000 in cost share funds was requested for PY2011. A

survey of impaired and impacted streams was also submitted to the state. \$55,725 was requested to implement best management practices on impaired and impacted streams.

Dennis Testerman initiated a discussion of an email from Div. of Soil & Water Conservation director Pat Harris concerning restoration of the District secretary position and questions she raised about the Division's role in assisting districts with budget preparations by supplying data on the relationship between conservation benefits and funding. The board agreed that the assistance provided by the Division was invaluable in helping to make the case for restoration of the position of the District secretary this year. Similar assistance in the future will be helpful in addressing staff capacity and program needs.

There was a general discussion of other topics mentioned by Mr. Testerman, including the judging of Barbee Farms for Mountain Region Conservation Farm Family of the Year on July 12. The county Communications and Outreach office staff produced a DVD about the farm. A new gas pipeline is being proposed on the District's Clarke Creek property. The county is negotiating with the pipeline company to reroute the proposed line. Recent UNC-Chapel Hill masters program graduate Mejs Hasan is working in the office as an Earth Team intern. Other Earth Team volunteers are working on research projects through Davidson College and UNC-Charlotte.

(8) Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Bob Ritchie, Chairman

Ned Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer