

**MINUTES**  
**CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY August 4, 2015**

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

Staff Present: Daniel McClellan and Dennis Testerman

Others Present: Lynn Shue, Liaison, Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners and Kelly Sifford, Cabarrus County Planning and Development Department Director

**(1) Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Porter at 5:40 P.M.

**(2) Approval of Agenda**

UPON MOTION of Robert Brown, seconded by Jeff Goforth and unanimously carried, the board approved the agenda as revised.

**(3) Approval or Correction of Minutes for July 7, 2015 Meeting**

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the July 7, 2015 meeting.

**(4) Informational Items**

**(4-A) Board, Staff and Partner Reports**

Resource Conservation Coordinator for the past year, Hannah Hursey, has accepted a new job in the private sector in her native Davie County. From the beginning, Hannah has been the outstanding employee and colleague that all of her job references said that she would be. She stepped into a newly reclassified position gave 110% of her time and talents. During her recent annual performance evaluation, Hannah shared the following 3 highlights from her first year: serving as a counselor for some of the 96 high school students attending the annual Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State; training Envirothon teams sponsored by our district; and closing our first agricultural conservation easement that permanently protects farmland in our county. Hannah's last day with the District will be Friday, July 31.

Before advertising to hire a new Resource Conservation Coordinator, the opportunity exists to reclassify this position to reflect the role of the new hire in carrying out the district's annual Plan of Work and goals in the 2011 Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan called for the addition of a fourth staff member by FY2012 and a review of staff job descriptions.

NC Soil and Water Commission allocated \$19,010 or 30% of last year's allocation for the NC Ag Cost Share Program.

#### **(4-B) Land Trust for Central NC MOA Review**

Land Trust Executive Director Crystal Cockman was unable to attend the meeting. Dennis said that from his perspective as both a Land Trust board member and a district staff member, the partnership between these organizations is alive and well. As an example, he noted that yesterday he and Crystal and Davidson Land Conservancy Executive Director Autumn Michael monitored the conservation easement that the land trust and district hold on conservancy property.

#### **(4-C) 2016 National Association for Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in Reno, NV, Jan. 30-Feb. 3, 2016**

After discussion about board member availability, the board agreed that Jeff Goforth would represent the board at the 2016 national meeting.

#### **(4-D) 2011 District Strategic Plan**

Dennis gave an overview of the highlights of the current strategic plan. There was general discussion about the relevance of the goals after 4 years and the timing of the next strategic planning process.

#### **(5) Unfinished Business**

##### **(5-A) Partners for Green Growth Pilot Project Grant**

Steady progress on the Partners for Green Growth Pilot Project has occurred over the past month with all the municipalities with the exception of Mt. Pleasant either adopting resolutions of support or passing motions to that effect. Assurances of in-kind support towards means that the \$10,000 goal for matching funds has almost been met. The pre-application deadline is due July 31. Staff with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the

granting agency, have indicated to the district that available funds are adequate to provide grants to all anticipated applicants. Full applications are due by August 31.

## **(6) New Business**

### **(6-A) Resolution in Support of Clarification of State Association Contest Rules**

Ned presented the resolution that was submitted to the state association's Education Committee at its midyear meeting.

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board concurred with the resolution. The resolution will be forwarded to Area 8 for consideration at its fall meeting.

### **(6-B) Resolution in Support of Expanded Engineering Technical Services from State Division of Soil and Water Conservation**

There was a continuation of the discussion at a recent meeting concerning the delay in contract completion as a result in wait times associated with designs for engineered best management practices.

UPON MOTION of Robert Brown, seconded by Jeff Goforth and unanimously carried, the board adopted this resolution calling for the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission to review the engineering technical assistance capacity available through the Technical Services Section in the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation to respond to requests for technical assistance from local conservation districts. The resolution will be forwarded to Area 8 for consideration at its fall meeting.

### **(6-C) Board Self-Assessment**

There was general discussion about the Example Board Assessment Tool available on the National Association of State Conservation Agencies website that was included in the meeting agenda packet. The board agreed to place this assessment on the unfinished business section of the agenda for an upcoming meeting to give each member more time to reflect on their responses.

### **(6-D) FY 2016 Plan of Work**

There was general discussion about the Plan of Work for the current year.

UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the FY2016 Plan of Work was adopted.

**(7) Closed Session to Discuss Conservation Plans**

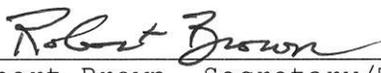
UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the board entered into closed session to review and approve 2 conservation plans due to "Legally Confidential Information" based on the requirements of the Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008."

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Louis Suther and unanimously carried, the board re-entered open session.

**(8) Adjourn**

UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Ned Hudson and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 P.M.

  
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Vicky Porter, Chairman

  
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Robert Brown, Secretary/Treasurer