

MINUTES
CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

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

Staff Present: Dennis Testerman and Daniel McClellan

Others Present: Larry Burrage, Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners Liaison, Chris Childers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist; Chris Ferris and David Thrift, Cabarrus County Tax Assessors Office; and Ralston James, NC Department of Agriculture, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Regional Coordinator

(1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Goforth at 5:15 p.m.

(2) Approval of Agenda

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

(3) Approval or Correction of Minutes

UPON MOTION of Louis Suther, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the July 2, 2013 regular meeting.

(4) Consent Agenda

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the board approved the Consent Agenda:

(4-A) Staff/Partner Report

Amy Griffith, fourth administrative support professional with the District, resigned after six and a half years, effective July 30. Final checkout on the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund contract water quality restoration project on the Cox Mill Elementary School campus was conducted on June 25. Soil and Water Conservation Commission approved one year extension for Caldwell Overcash Agriculture Cost Share Program contract 13-11-06-16 and Community Conservation Assistance Program contract 13-11-502-16 with Cabarrus County Schools. Cabarrus County FY 2014 budget funding for the District is the highest ever at \$454,000.

Capital Improvement Plan projects were included for the first time ever, including farmland preservation for prime and statewide important soils and wetland mitigation at J. M. Robinson High School.

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

NC Community Conservation Assistance Program Applications/
Contracts:

- Application - Thomas & Sarah Jones, Rain garden or Stormwater Wetland, #13-2014-501

(5) Unfinished Business

(5-A) 50th Anniversary Observance

Dennis Testerman reviewed the budget for the upcoming 50th anniversary banquet on August 28, 2013 that will kick off a year-long observation of the formation of the district as a single-county district out of the five-county Middle Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District. \$3,000 in private donations has been raised for this event, to be hosted by Vicky and Tommy Porter at The Farm at Brushharbor. Local elected boards are being asked to adopt proclamations in observance of this anniversary.

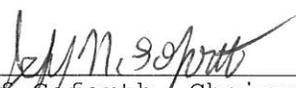
(6) New Business

(6-A) Discussion of Conservation Easements and Property Taxes with County Real Property Manager Chris Ferriss

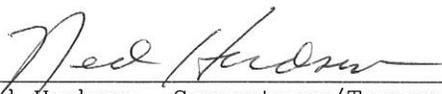
Chris Ferriss and Real Property Supervisor David Thrift from the county Tax Administration Department explained the process for assessing property with deed restrictions associated with conservation easements. They circulated a chart showing minimum and maximum land conservation adjustments for three categories of conservation easements: forever wild, with full restrictions; ecological asset protection; and working landscape/open space protection. There was general discussion about the land appraisal process for conservation easements.

(7) Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Robert Brown and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.



Jeff Goforth, Chairman



Ned Hudson, Secretary/Treasurer