



MINUTES

ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

Meeting Number 7

Date: February 26, 2009

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Bill Chapman, Chairman
Richie Herman, Member
Wendell Kirkham, Treasurer
Kent Herman, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leslie Meadows, Education Coordinator/Admin.
Lee Holcomb, Soil and Water Conservationist
Fred Alexander, NRCS District Conservationist
Carol Litchfield, NRCS ASTC-FO
Rick Grant, NRCS Catawba District Conservationist

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 26, 2009** ARE APPROVED AS: READ () / CORRECTED ()

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:11 a.m. Invocation was given by Wendell Kirkham.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from last meeting, held January 22, 2009, were evaluated by the Board. Richie Herman made a motion to approve the meeting's minutes as read. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

BUDGET REPORT

The budget report for the month of January was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board.

LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:

North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP):

Lee updated the Board on the status of all current ACSP contracts (*See Handout*). Spreader body contract #: 02-09-04-03, in the amount of \$7,000.00 was presented for the Board's approval. Richie Herman motioned that the contract be approved as is, and Wendell Kirkham seconded. Kent Herman abstained, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of approval. Other ACSP circumstances were briefly discussed.

Drought Response Grant Program:

Several PY09 drought response action items were brought before the Board (*See Handout*): Pasture renovation contract #: 02-09-109-03 in the amount of \$2, 250.00 was presented for approval. Richie Herman motioned that the 15 acre renovation contract be approved as written, pending landowner's signature. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval. Kent Herman motioned that a RFP correction for pasture renovation contract #: 02-09-107-03, revised to total \$3, 071.00, be accepted. Richie Herman seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed to fund the revised payment. Action to approve a RFP, in the amount of \$6,102.00, for well and livestock exclusion contract #: 02-09-102-16 was motioned by Richie Herman, pending appropriate signatures obtained. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve payment.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Update:

Lee briefly reminded the Board that we still await engineering design on the WAMS Stormwater Wetland CCAP project; hopefully to be received in March.

High Rock Lake Grant Update:

Lee reported that High Rock Lake Grant monies in the amount of \$30,848.00 have been proposed to be allotted to Alexander County, for use toward management practices within the South Yadkin Watershed. However, due to pending government budget reductions, this grant approval is currently pending. However, Lee has a poultry operator within the South Yadkin Watershed awaiting waste plan finalization for construction of a litter storage structure. High Rock Lake Grant funds could be used to finance this contract project, should we receive said allotment.

USDA Computer Network Access:

To follow-up on last month's discussion, Lee again stressed the need to connect a county computer to the USDA network for him to utilize; to keep our contract records updated, in lieu of losing a full-time NRCS DC. NRCS will cover seat charges for software licenses, Internet connection, and IT support. However, Lee's current desktop computer is outdated, so new hardware would need to be provided by the district. There is also a \$128.00 fee for Lee's national security clearance/background check. Richie Herman motioned that the district pursue USDA network access;

MINUTES ALEXANDER SWCD – February 26, 2009

budgeting a new desktop computer for Lee and paying Lee's security clearance fee from the district checking account. Wendell Kirkham seconded Richie's motion, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of obtaining USDA network access for our district. An NRCS agreement was signed by Chairman Bill Chapman, for USDA Common Computing Environment (CCE) approval.

LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**District Issues Committee Meeting:**

Leslie reported to the Board on topics discussed at an Area District Issues Committee meeting which she and Lee attended on Jan. 26th, in Harmony, NC. A \$250.00 increase in Association dues per district was announced. New BMPs for mountain-county prescribed grazing and invasive species control were suggested for TRC review.

Area II Spring Meeting:

Leslie collected fees from those Board members planning to attend the Area II Spring Meeting, to be held Mar. 12th at First Baptist Church in Taylorsville, NC. As the hosting district, Leslie has worked closely with Area II Coordinator, Michelle Lovejoy and caterer, Nancy Holsclaw, to organize the event. A county representative has yet to be determined to give the Alexander County welcome. Local NC House of Representative, Mr. Ray Warren, was mentioned. Leslie agreed to check on the possibility, as well as to follow-up with County Manager, Rick French.

2009 Contest Season:

Leslie continues to coordinate the county-wide poster, essay, and speech contests. Judging will conclude this week. Leslie reminded the Board that the district's Annual SWCD Awards Banquet is to be held March 31st at 6:30 p.m. at the Hiddenite Center Educational Complex. It was suggested to ask Spring Meeting caterer, Nancy Holsclaw, to provide the meal for this event as well.

2009 Envirothon Competitions:

Leslie anticipates approximately 4 to 5 EAMS teams to compete in the NW Envirothon on April 2nd in Wilkesboro. The deadline for presenters to submit their tests to Leslie is Feb 27th. As previously approved by the Board, Leslie has volunteered to aid with the 2009 Canon National Envirothon being hosted by NC, at UNC-Asheville, Aug. 5th-8th.

2009 Resource Conservation Workshop:

Leslie presented the Board with the 2009 RCW application packet. The workshop will be held June 21st-26th, on the campus of NC State University. Richie Herman motioned that the Board agree to sponsor a 2009 RCW student, despite last year's disappointment in having a sponsored student fail to attend. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of continued support. However, the adoption of a policy/agreement requiring signatures of both the student and parents was recommended. It was decided to revisit this issue of "accountability".

Alexander County Budget Meetings:

Leslie informed the Board that county officials have been requesting ideas for departmental budget reductions. She will attend the 2009-2010 budget proposals meeting on Feb. 27th. Departmental budget requests for the 2009-10 fiscal year will be due in March. It was suggested that a meeting with County Manager, Rick French, be arranged to discuss the special needs of our department, due to Fred's reassignment (i.e., a county vehicle and federal computer access...).

FRED ALEXANDER'S REPORT: (Please see the attached report)

NRCS ASTC-FO Carol Litchfield was present to discuss Fred's reassignment to Herford & Gates County. NRCS District Conservationist (DC) Rick Grant was introduced as our new part-time DC, which we will share with Catawba County. To aid in this transition, the Board and Staff briefly informed Rick of our District needs and EQIP leads.

MICHELLE LOVEJOY'S REPORT: (Please see the attached report)**OTHER BUSINESS:****NC Water Allocation Study:**

Wendell Kirkham reminded the Board that NC has been conducting a statewide water-use survey to determine purposed water allocation regulations/legislation. Several Board members commented on having completed said survey. Wendell made mention that the committee formed to review and report on the results of this survey was scheduled to meet Feb. 27th, in Raleigh.

MINUTES ALEXANDER SWCD – February 26, 2009

Farmland Preservation VAD Board Meeting:

Leslie and Lee reported on the recent quarterly VAD Board meeting they held on Feb. 17th. Leslie displayed the updated 2009 Alexander County VFPP Map, complete with color revisions and additional verbiage describing the mission and purpose of the VAD program. VAD Board reappointments were announced and it was noted that VFPP enrollment now totals 7, 040 acres. It was mentioned that other counties have actually seen an increase in VAD participation once they began charging an entry fee for VFPP enrollment. Wendell Kirkham recommended a “sign-up” fee be suggested for consideration at the next VAD Board meeting.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows

Next Meeting Date: <u>March 26, 2009</u>	Time: <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Place: <u>District Office</u>
_____ Signed		_____ Date