



MINUTES

ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

Meeting Number 8

Date: March 26, 2009

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Bill Chapman, Chairman
Myles Payne, Vice-Chairman
Wendell Kirkham, Treasurer
Kent Herman, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

Leslie Meadows, Education Coordinator/Admin.
Lee Holcomb, Soil and Water Conservationist
Fred Alexander, NRCS District Conservationist
Rick Grant, NRCS Catawba District Conservationist
Michelle Lovejoy, DSWC Area II Coordinator

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

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 9:03 a.m., after a fond farewell breakfast for Fred Alexander. Invocation was given by Kent Herman.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from last meeting, held February 26, 2009, were evaluated by the Board. Kent Herman made a motion to approve the meeting's minutes as read. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

BUDGET REPORT

The budget report for the month of February was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board. Leslie also reported that she, Bill, & Myles had met with County Manager Rick French on March 18th to discuss the need for a county vehicle and updated computer for our department. She presented to the Board the FY 2009-2010 SWCD budget requests, due to the county finance department by March 31st. Myles Payne motioned that the 2009-2010 Budget Request be approved and submitted, upon reevaluation of a decrease in the "Training" line-item. Wendell Kirkham seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously in agreement.

LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:

North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP):

Lee updated the Board on the status of all current PY09 ACSP contracts (*See Handout*). Having ensured an adequate waste utilization plan, Lee requested payment (RFP) on Spreader body contract #: 02-09-04-03, in the amount of \$7,000.00 upon the Board's approval. Myles Payne motioned that payment be granted, and Wendell Kirkham seconded. Kent Herman abstained, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of payment. Due to current Division budget reductions, Lee noted that all unencumbered ACSP funds must be returned to the State after May 1st.

Drought Response Grant Program:

Several PY09 drought response action items were brought before the Board (*See Handout*): Myles Payne motioned that a revision to include a concrete feeding area, in the amount of \$4,200.00, for contract #: 02-09-103-03, bringing contract total to \$18,580.00, be accepted pending appropriate signatures be obtained. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to authorize said contract revision. The additional \$4,200.00 will come from the regular Ag. Cost Share funds, because concrete feeding areas cannot be financed with drought response funds. Action to approve a presented well and exclusion contract #: 02-09-104-03, in the amount of \$37,219.00, was motioned by Kent Herman. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to approve contract as written. Past drought response circumstances were discussed briefly.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Update:

Lee briefly reminded the Board that we still await engineering design on the WAMS Stormwater Wetland CCAP project. Documents were lost in the mail, and are being sent again.

High Rock Lake Grant Update:

Lee regretfully informed the Board that High Rock Lake Grant funds in the amount of \$30,848.00; once proposed to be allotted to Alexander County for use toward management practices within the South Yadkin Watershed, was initially postponed and have now been denied. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund will be returning all grant monies to the State's General Fund.

MINUTES ALEXANDER SWCD – February 26, 2009**USDA Computer Network Access:**

Lee announced to the Board that he was granted security clearance by the USDA to gain access to the federal government computer network. As part of the USDA Common Computing Environment (CCE) approval, NRCS has agreed to cover seat charges for software licenses, Internet connection, and IT support. However, Lee's current desktop computer is outdated. New hardware has been requested and is pending upon the county IT departmental budget.

Section 1619 of Farm Bill:

New laws, regarding landowner confidentiality and preventing release of personal information, provided in Section 1619 of the Farm Bill were discussed. As these restrictions directly oppose NC Public Records law, Board members have chosen to postpone signing the USDA NRCS 1619 Confidentiality Agreement until further advised.

Miscellaneous:

Lee made the Board aware that the PY09 \$5,000.00 earmark for CREP projects had been returned to the Division so that other districts could use the funds, at no penalty concerning future funding. Lee also relayed aiding several farmers to update their 0.0200 waste permits for renewal before the April 3rd deadline. Due to the size of these records, Kent Herman made a motion that the district cover postage for submitting revised Waster Utilization Plans, from our departmental budget "postage" line-item. Myles Payne seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in agreement.

LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**Area II Spring Meeting:**

A brief recap of the Area II Spring Meeting held Mar. 12th at First Baptist Church in Taylorsville was given for those unable to attend. The meeting was a great success! Several roundtable discussions were held, allowing feedback from districts regarding Area II & NCASWCD By-laws and the proposed Water Conservation Assistance Program.

2009 NW Envirothon Update:

Leslie announced that 5 EAMS teams are to compete in the NW Envirothon on April 2nd in Wilkesboro. Leslie hosted the final Area II Envirothon Committee planning meeting in Taylorsville on Mar. 4th. A total of 12 high school and 34 middle school teams have registered to attend; presenters, tests, graders, and awards are arranged. Clean-up Day for the event is being held currently, Mar. 26th, at the McGee Center.

2009 Contest Season:

Leslie informed the Board that our district had a 3rd place 5th Grade Poster and 2nd place 6th Grade Essay winner at the Area II Contest Night, held Mar. 19th at the McGee Center in Wilkesboro! As Area II Chairman, Myles Payne was present to emcee the event. Kent Herman motioned that Myles be reimbursed his travel expense for attending Area Contest Night, 50 miles at .40¢ per mile, from the district checking account. His motion was seconded by Treasurer Wendell Kirkham. Myles Payne abstained, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of reimbursement. Leslie also reminded the Board of the district's upcoming Annual Awards Banquet, March 31st at the Hiddenite Center. A decision on the gift of appreciation to the Payne Dairy Family for continually hosting our 5th Grade Environmental Field Days was requested. Kent Herman motioned that a monetary gift of \$100.00 be given to the Paynes, from the district checking account, and was seconded by Treasurer Wendell Kirkham. Myles Payne again abstained, as the Board voted unanimously in agreement.

2009 Resource Conservation Workshop:

Leslie reminded the Board that issue of "accountability" still remained to be addressed; concerning the 2009 RCW applicant. The workshop will be held June 21st-26th, on the campus of NC State University. The recommended ACHA AP Science student, Durham Castellaw, is scheduled to be present at next month's meeting. It was unanimously decided to request that a parent attend the April meeting along with the prospective student, if at all possible. Leslie agreed to relay this prerequisite to teacher and student.

FRED ALEXANDER'S REPORT:

Upon Fred's reassignment to Herford & Gates County, he officially resigned his Alexander County duties over to NRCS District Conservationist (DC) Rick Grant. Rick Grant shared with the Board his plan to work Mondays and Wednesdays in Catawba County, Tuesdays and Thursdays in Alexander, and to split Fridays as needed.

MICHELLE LOVEJOY'S REPORT: (Please see the attached report)

Michelle Lovejoy brought to the Board's attention an existing 9% reduction in the State/DSWC budget for this fiscal year, with a possibility to increase to an 11% reduction, which is why unallocated funds are being reverted back to the state. The next fiscal year's budget has been released from the Governor's Office with no major cuts to the Division. All funds have the potential to be cut by the House or Senate; more details will be provided at a later date.

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OTHER BUSINESS:

Expense Reimbursement:

Kent Herman motioned that Leslie be reimbursed the expense of providing Bojangles breakfast for Fred’s last board meeting, from the district checking account. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Wendell Kirkham, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of reimbursement.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows

Next Meeting Date: <u>April 23, 2009</u>	Time: <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Place: <u>District Office</u>
_____ Signed		_____ Date