



# MINUTES

## ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

Meeting Number   5  

Date: December 3, 2009

### **SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

Bill Chapman, Chairman  
Myles Payne, Vice-Chairman  
Wendell Kirkham, Treasurer

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Leslie Meadows, Education Coordinator/Admin.  
Lee Holcomb, Soil and Water Conservationist  
Rick Grant, NRCS District Conservationist

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **DECEMBER 3, 2009** ARE APPROVED AS: READ ( ) / CORRECTED ( )

### **CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION**

After sharing breakfast together, Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:33 a.m. Invocation was given by Myles Payne.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the recessed meeting, held October 22, 2009, and the minutes of the consequent resumed meeting, held November 16, 2009, were evaluated. Myles Payne made a motion to approve both meetings' minutes as read. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

### **BUDGET REPORT**

The budget reports for the months October and November were reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board.

### **LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:**

#### **North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Update:**

Lee provided the Board with a status update on all active NCACSP contracts, as well as a prioritized list of current PY10 applications for the review of the Board (*See Attached Spreadsheet*). It was noted that Contract #: 02-10-701-03, funded by NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant monies, may be completed soon and could require a special meeting, before the Board meets again in January, to take action on a request for payment.

#### **CWMTF High Rock Lake Grant:**

Lee made the Board aware that upon reapplying, the Division has again been approved a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant; for implementing BMPs along impaired/impacted streams within the High Rock Lake Watershed. As a considerable portion of our County falls within said watershed, Lee has seized this opportunity to request an increased allotment of High Rock Lake funds.

#### **District Program Review by the Division:**

Lee informed the Board that Division ACSP staff was present, Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, to perform a Program Review of our district. While most administrative and contract documentation duties were satisfactory or above, the random in-field spot check were a poor reflection on the district. A high rate of non-compliance was discovered. Division staff will arrange to attend a district board meeting in the near future to discuss recommendations and possible payback on non-compliance issues.

### **LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**

#### **GIS Day at ACHS:**

Leslie reported that on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, she and Lee manned an educational station, via request of County GIS Specialist George Brown, as part of the first ever ACHS GIS Day. High school students were given the opportunity to learn ways in which GIS is used in farmland preservation and resource conservation planning. Wendell Kirkham also manned a GIS Day station of his own; depicting genealogy studies and using historical tax parcel data to map family homeplace sites. Wendell suggested the idea of procuring grant funding and utilizing high school GIS students to update an Environmental/Recreational Land-Use Survey of Alexander County. Such report was last compiled in 1973.

#### **NCASWCD Strategic Planning Survey:**

All Board members received a copy of the NCASWCD strategic planning survey, to be completed together as a district. It was decided that members would take the survey questions home for review and contact the office with any feedback. Myles Payne agreed to aid Leslie in compiling survey answers for submittal before the Association's Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**MINUTES ALEXANDER SWCD – December 3, 2009**

**NCASWCD Annual Meeting & GATOR Raffle Sales:**

Leslie reminded the Board that the NCASWCD Annual Meeting is scheduled for Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriot in Raleigh, NC. Copies of the proposed amendments to the Association’s Articles and By-Laws were made available. Leslie regretfully informed the Board of the possible theft of more fundraiser monies from the district office. In addition to the DEA cookbook sale money earlier in the year, \$90.00 of the NCASWCD John Deer Gator raffle sales has now gone missing; despite detailed record keeping. County Officials have been contacted. Myles Payne felt that without further information, the Board should proceed in covering the cost of the missing sales to the NCASWCD from the district checking account. Treasurer Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board unanimously voted in favor of rectifying the allegedly stolen funds. It was suggested that Leslie research pricing and purchasing of a secure lock-box for the district office.

**2010 Contest Season & Annual Awards Banquet:**

Leslie announced beginning preparations for the 2010 Poster, Essay, & Speech Contest Season. This year’s theme is: “The Living Soil”. Teachers will be contacted before Christmas break and presentations within the schools will begin in January. The location of the Annual Awards Banquet, tentatively scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup>, was discussed. Leslie agreed to inquire about Davis Hall (Taylorsville First Baptist) and utilization of caterer, Nancy Holsclaw, for the event.

**RICK GRANT’S REPORT: (Please See Attached Local Work Group Summary)**

**Local Work Group Meeting:**

On Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, Rick held an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Local Work Group forum for our county. Alexander SWCD staff, County Foresters, Co-operative Extension Agents, and FSA representatives were present to discuss and determine local resource needs/concerns, and to prioritize them for EQIP eligibility ranking. Rick provided the Board with a summary of the Local Work Group’s prioritized inventory.

**MICHELLE LOVEJOY’S REPORT: (Please See Attached Reports/Calendars)**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program/VAD Board Meeting:**

Lee and Leslie updated the Board on the quarterly VAD Board meeting held Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>. John Bonham, a farmland protection consultant for the Foothills Conservancy of NC, was present to speak to the Board about the importance of developing a cooperative relationship with our local Land Trust. Farmland put into a permanent easement is an effective way to protect and preserve there fertile open-spaces for future generations. Mr. Bonham also suggested his services in obtaining grant funding to devise a County-wide Farmland Protection Plan. Farm parcels belonging to Allen & Sharon Guy was approved, bring total VFPP enrollment to 7,513.719 acres.

**Breakfast Reimbursement & Executive Session:**

Leslie presented the Board with the receipts for providing breakfast. Myles Payne made a motion, and was seconded by Wendell Kirkham, to reimburse Leslie’s breakfast costs from the District checking account. The Board unanimously agreed. At approximately 11:04 a.m., Myles Payne declared an executive session be entered, in order to discuss end-of-year salary supplements for both District employees.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:18 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows*

Next Meeting Date: <u>January 28, 2010</u>	Time: <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Place: <u>District Office</u>
_____ Signed	_____ Date	