



**MINUTES**  
**ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

**Meeting Number**   7  

**Date:** February 25, 2010

**SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 25, 2010** ARE APPROVED AS: READ ( ) / CORRECTED ( )

**CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION**

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:18 a.m. Invocation was given by Kent Herman.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting, held January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010, were evaluated by the Board. Myles Payne made a motion to approve the meeting's minutes as read. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

**BUDGET REPORT**

The departmental budget report for the month of January 2010 was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board. Leslie reported having attended a County department head meeting on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, with County Manager Rick French and Finance. Departmental budget requests for the 2010-11 fiscal year are due on April 1<sup>st</sup>. All county departments have been asked to reduce their current budget by 5%. Upon some deliberation, Kent Herman suggested submitting an initial request without the desired cut. Kent's motion was seconded by Myles Payne, and the Board unanimously voted in agreement. Leslie agreed to have the prepared 2010-11 Budget Request for the Board's approval at next month's meeting.

**LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:**

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

Lee provided the Board with an active contract status update (*See Attached Spreadsheet*). A revised stream crossing Repair Contract #: 02-10-02-03 R, in the amount of \$8,265.00, was presented for Board authorization. Richie Herman motioned that the repair contract be approved as revised, and Kent Herman seconded. The Board voted unanimously in agreement of the necessary repair costs. Due to timeliness and availability, Lee suggested that the Board consider the utilization of a Private Engineer (vs. Division) to perform installation design on Streambank Stabilization Contract #: 02-10-03-16. Richie Herman made a motion that funds be encumbered for the maximum ACSP funding amount of \$30,000.00 to hire a PE to complete the stabilization project, upon verification that the selected PE meets NRCS TSP certification standards and is willing to sign a required maintenance waiver. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed to proceed toward PE procurement.

**CCAP Project Repair Needed:**

Lee has been monitoring the WAMS wetland area throughout the abnormally wet winter. Erosion problems are occurring at the main wetland drainage channel, and storm water is not being well retained in the wetland pools. Division engineer on the project, Cindy Safrit, is trying to arrange for the contractor to repair the drainage channel issues, free of charge. A contract repair has been discussed with our CCAP Specialist in Raleigh, Shelly Baird.

**NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant:**

Last month, Lee stated that our district would like to obtain an additional allocation of NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant monies in order to fund more forced aeration composter contracts within the county. Upon further investigation, Lee informed the Board that districts are not currently eligible to apply for and/or pursue NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant monies.

**Grazing Systems Workshop:**

On Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, Lee attended an additional "Grazing Systems" workshop, hosted by NC Cooperative Extension in Caldwell County. The workshop focused on stockpiling fescue successfully.

**LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**

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

County-level judging of the 2010 SWCD Poster, Essay, & Speech contests took place Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup>. First place county winners are invited to attend the Area-level Contest Night, being held Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Caldwell County Library. Our local SWCD Awards Banquet is set for Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m, at First Taylorsville Baptist Church, Davis Hall. Kent Herman suggested that the Board purchase 4 more DEA fundraiser cookbooks, from the District checking account, to give away as Award Banquet door prizes. Myles Payne seconded this gesture, and the Board unanimously agreed.

**Area II Spring Meeting:**

Leslie collected registration fees from those planning to attend the Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> Area II Spring Meeting in Alleghany County. The Spring Meeting agenda calls for ACSP training and small group facilitation on the NCASWCD Strategic Planning process. The Area-level Poster contest will be held at this time.

**2010 NW Envirothon Update:**

On Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Leslie attended an Area II NW Envirothon planning session in Caldwell County. As of the Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> registration deadline, 38 middle school and 14 high school teams are planning to compete. Leslie has been attending after school practices for the 6 EAMS and 3 WAMS teams representing Alexander County. Due to the severe winter we have experienced, a possible snow date of Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> was set for the event. The next NW Envirothon planning session is a location clean-up day scheduled for Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> at the McGee Center in Wilkesboro. An Area II District Issues Committee Meeting will be held in conjunction with this day of preparations.

**RICK GRANT’S REPORT:** *(Please See Attached Reports/Calendars)*

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Rescheduling of March Board Meeting:**

Due to the fact that the next regularly scheduled Board meeting falls on the same day as this year’s NW Envirothon, Leslie recommended a rescheduling of the March meeting. In order to present and take action on the 2010-11 departmental budget request, the meeting must take place before April 1st. It was decided to convene briefly, immediately after the Conservation Awards Banquet on Mar. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Quarterly VAD Board Meeting Rescheduled:**

In lieu of our regularly scheduled VAD Board Meeting, Leslie, Lee, and Wendell reported attending a regional Land Trust symposium, held on Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> at the Statesville Civic Center; as there were no current VAD applications on file to take action on. The symposium, entitled, “Agricultural Support and Farmland Preservation: Protecting Our Food Supply against an Uncertain Future”, focused on local agricultural community initiatives to improve farmers’ entrepreneur skills and increase marketability of local agricultural products. Keynote speakers included NC Secretary of Commerce Keith Crisco, and Steve Troxler, NC Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Outdoor Recreation Appraisal Report:**

The Alexander County outdoor recreational development appraisal report, completed in 1973, which the Board wishes to update, was addressed again. The estimated costs of such an endeavor, as well as a more suitable title were discussed. Wendell Kirkham expressed the desire to complete and submit a Unifour Foundation Endowment Fund grant application, in the amount of approximately \$5,000.00, by the Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> deadline. Richie Herman motioned that Wendell proceed as requested. Kent Herman seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in support of Wendell’s proposed funding attempt.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:47 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows*

Next Meeting Date: <u>February 30, 2010</u>	Time: <u>6:00 p.m.</u>	Place: <u>Davis Hall/Banquet</u>
_____ Signed		_____ Date