



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



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

**Meeting Number**   6  

**Date:** January 28, 2010

**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  
Phil Hartis, NRCS ACES Employee

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **JANUARY 28, 2010** ARE APPROVED AS: READ ( ) / CORRECTED ( )

**CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION**

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:25 a.m. Invocation was given by Myles Payne.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the rescheduled meeting, held December 3, 2009, and the minutes of an additional teleconference needed, held December 15, 2009, were evaluated. Wendell Kirkham made a motion to approve both meetings' minutes as read. Myles Payne seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

**BUDGET REPORT**

The departmental budget report for the month of December 2009 was 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 an active contract status update, as well as a prioritized list of current PY10 applications for the review of the Board (*See Attached Spreadsheet*). It was noted that several existing contracts from prior program years are still active. If not sufficiently completed in the near future, these cooperators will require deadline extensions. A stream crossing Repair Contract #: 02-10-02-03 R, in the amount of \$7,245.00, was presented for authorization. The majority of costs for this repair would be covered by Impaired/Impacted Stream funds (\$6,000.00). Myles Payne motioned that the repair contract be approved as written, and Wendell Kirkham seconded. The Board voted unanimously in agreement of the needed repair. Lastly, Lee informed the Board that Division ACSP staff still intends to attend a district board meeting to discuss our Program Review, performed Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>. Lee will be sending a letter of non-compliance to those cooperators found negligent during the Program Review random in-field spot checks; to try and rectify these issues before the return of Division ACSP staff.

**NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant:**

Lee informed the Board that despite the cold weather, the Forced-Aeration Composter Field Day hosted Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> on the farm of local cooperator, Dale White, was a huge success. Approximately 30 attendees were present. From this Field Day, two more qualified clients/candidates for installation of a forced-aeration composting system have been identified within the County. 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.

**NC Forage and Grassland Council:**

On Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>, Lee attended a NC Forage and Grassland Council "Grazing Systems" workshop in Monroe, NC, with Alexander County Livestock Extension Agent, Allison Brown. Lee obtained knowledge on annual plantings of seasonal grasses to sustain rotational grazing efforts. Lee also reported that listening to some of the local producers' grazing plans helped to brainstorm new ideas for farmers in Alexander County.

**LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**

**2010 NW Envirothon Update:**

On Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>, Leslie attended an Area II NW Envirothon planning session in Ashe County. It was calculated that this year's event would be the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual NW Envirothon. Presenter's tests are due to Leslie, head of the Testing sub-committee, by Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for submitting team registrations and volunteer forms remains Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>. The next event planning session is scheduled for Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> in Caldwell County.

**NCASWCD Annual Meeting:**

Leslie and Myles reported back to the Board on the NCASWCD Annual Meeting proceedings, held Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriot in Raleigh, NC. Copies of the resulting 2010 Program Objectives, containing all amendments to the

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Association’s Articles and By-Laws, were made available for discussion. The Association continues to review the Supervisor and District surveys requested as part of its comprehensive strategic planning process; still aspiring to establish an Executive Director position.

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

The 2010 SWCD Poster, Essay, & Speech contest season is underway, with Leslie visiting schools and arranging judges for county-level competition. The location of the Annual SWCD Awards Banquet has been approved by First Taylorsville Baptist Church, for Davis Hall on March 30<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. Leslie will collaborate with caterer Nancy Holsclaw on meal and decoration preparations. Leslie asked Board members to be mindful of door prize possibilities.

**Area II Executive Committee Meeting:**

On Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>, Leslie and Myles met with the Area II Executive Committee in Alleghany County. Committee reports were given and planning of the Area II Spring Meeting began. At the Spring Meeting, scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Silver Dollar Music Hall in Sparta, NC, the NCASWCD plans to hold break-out Strategic Planning sessions for Supervisor input. Myles made known his possible intentions of running for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NCASWCD next year. Appointment to the NCASWCD presidency is a four year commitment. Once decided, Myles must declare his interest in writing by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**District Issues Committee (DIC) Meeting:**

Both Leslie and Myles were unable to attend the Area II DIC Meeting, held Jan. 25<sup>th</sup> in Stokes County, due to sickness. Leslie obtained a copy of the minutes of said DIC meeting for the Board’s review. A presentation on carbon credits had been given, as well as Division, District, and Partnership reports.

**RICK GRANT’S REPORT: (NA- Due to Medical Complications)**

**EQIP Update:**

In Rick’s absence due to illness, Lee has been visiting our county’s NRCS EQIP applicants. There are currently 9 local applicants requiring technical assistance farm visits in order to determine EQIP eligibility.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Rocky Face Educational Park Update:**

Wendell Kirkham reported having attended a public Rocky Face Park Committee meeting on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. A new assessment of the Rocky Face property resulted in a land value approximately \$100,000.00 higher than previously appraised. Now a higher amount of funding from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant can be requested. Therefore, it was proposed to increase Phase 1 spending and development focusing within the quarry area. The Rocky Face Committee agreed upon several suggested modifications to the Master Plan. The improved Master Plan was then presented to the Alexander County Board of Commissioners, who also approved the Plan as revised.

**Fourth Grade Foresters Program:**

Leslie presented the Board with a request from the Forth Grade Foresters USA program to sponsor trees to be distributed to our county’s fourth graders, in observation of Arbor Day, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Trees are \$1.59 each, plus shipping. The Board elected to research the chances of teaming with County Forrester, Dennis Whalers, and purchasing pine seedlings in bulk from the NC Forest Service. It was suggested that such a tree planting initiative be assessed and followed-up on as a possibility for Arbor Day of next year (March 10, 2011).

**Outdoor Recreation Appraisal Report:**

The SWCD office possesses a copy of an Alexander County outdoor recreational development appraisal report, completed in 1973. The report depicts approximately 35 various sites throughout the county advantageous for potential recreational development. Wendell Kirkham declared, and the Board agreed, that the report desperately needs to be updated, which may require obtaining prospective grant funding. Wendell stated that he has been in contact with Jack Hoke, Superintendent of Alexander County Schools, to discuss the benefits of such a project in reinstating the ACHS GIS program.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows*

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|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Next Meeting Date: <u>February 25, 2010</u> | Time: <u>8:00 a.m.</u> | Place: <u>District Office</u> |
| Signed _____                                |                        | Date _____                    |