



# MINUTES

## ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC



Meeting Number 10

Date: May 27, 2010

### **SUPERVISORS PRESENT:**

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Lee Holcomb, Soil and Water Conservationist  
Leslie Meadows, Education Coordinator/Admin.  
Rick Grant, NRCS District Conservationist  
Hannah Rogers, RCW Student Applicant

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **MAY 27, 2010** ARE APPROVED AS: READ ( ) / CORRECTED ( )

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

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:23 a.m., once a quorum was assembled. Invocation was given by Wendell Kirkham.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes from the meeting, held April 22, 2010, were evaluated by the Board. Myles Payne made a motion to approve the meeting's minutes as read. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

### **BUDGET REPORT**

The departmental budget report for the month of April 2010 was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board. Leslie announced June 11<sup>th</sup> as the deadline for final 2009-10 budget requisitions. All outstanding purchase order invoices must be submitted by July 26<sup>th</sup> for proper payment. We are still awaiting the County's recommendations to our 2010-11 Departmental Budget Request.

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

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

Lee presented the Board with several remaining action items from ACSP PY09 (*See Spreadsheet*). It was explained that the uncompleted concrete feeding area portion of Contract #: 02-09-103-03, allocated from ACSP funds, expires (6/1/2011), versus the completed livestock exclusion portion of the same Contract #: 02-09-103-03, funded by Drought Program money, expires (6/2/2010). Myles Payne made a motion that Lee make expiration date clarification to all associated contract documents, for logistical purposes. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board unanimously supported expiration clarification. Livestock exclusion Contract #: 02-09-104-03 has been completed, resulting in a current request for payment (RFP) in the amount of \$37,219.00. It was noted that a supplement for Contract #: 02-09-104-03, in the amount of \$3,581 will be needed in PY11, due to an increase in the number of necessary watering tanks and tonnage of gravel. Myles Payne motioned that the current RFP amount be approved as presented, with the understanding that supplemental funding is still needed. Wendell Kirkham agreed, and the Board unanimously approved said payment. Lastly, Lee informed the Board of a producer cancelling pasture renovation Contract #: 02-09-105-03; resulting in the release of \$3,000.00 back to the Drought Program fund. Said contract cancellation was unanimously acknowledged by the Board. As our ACSP Strategy Plan for PY11 is due to the Division by June 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board discussed alterations to our current ACSP parameter form/ranking sheet to favor priority BMPs. Myles Payne made a motion to accept and approve the desired changes to be made to the PY11 ranking sheet. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in agreement of amending the ranking sheet for PY11. Lee reminded the Board that within the second week of June, he will begin contacting individual Supervisors to accompany staff on PY10 Spot Checks, by the Division's June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

#### **Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Update:**

CCAP funds for the needed repairs to the WAMS Stormwater Wetland, in the amount of 3,750.00, have been granted to the district via the Division. On May 26th, NCSU Wetland Specialist, Bill Hunt, visited the WAMS storm-water retention area to offer CCAP maintenance advice.

#### **High Rock Lake/Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) Update:**

Lee also announced that our district has once again been assured BMP funding from the High Rock Lake/CWMTF grant initiative, which was began in 2007. Once these allocated funds have officially been released, in the amount of \$30,848.00, a prospective upland BMP along the South Yadkin is already on file.

#### **NRCS Pastureland Ecology/Grazing Management Course:**

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May 11th – 20th, Lee was in NRCS training at NCSU; where he successfully completed the National Employee Development Course, Pastureland Ecology 1. Lee received hands-on experience in sectioning off appropriate sized pastures per size of herd.

**LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:**

**Environmental Education Program (EE) Update:**

Leslie briefly summarized a variety of environmental education events which have occurred since last month's meeting. The West Alexander Middle School Envirothon team that advanced to the NC State Envirothon held April 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington, placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of 50 Middle School teams. Leslie traveled to Catawba River Park on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, to volunteer as a station Project Food, Land, & People presenter for Burke SWCD's 5th Grade Environmental Field Days. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, Leslie and Agricultural Extension Agent, Allison Brown, provided a morning of "soils" education and activities for 1st graders at Hiddenite Elementary.

**2010 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW):**

The 2010 RCW student applicant, Hannah Rogers, was present to be introduced and interviewed before the Board. Upon review of Hannah's application, Wendell Kirkham made a motion that Hannah be approved to attend; becoming the first female RCW student ever selected from ACHS! Myles Payne seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed to sponsor Hannah's RCW registration fees and travel expenses from the departmental budget. Once Hannah returns from the 2010 RCW, scheduled for June 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> on the campus of NCSU, she has agreed to return and report back to the Board on her experience.

**NACD Survey for Districts:**

Leslie presented the Board with a series of survey questions issued to districts nationwide, from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD). The NACD survey questions were briefly discussed and Wendell Kirkham was assigned to help staff complete, if needed. Leslie agreed to answer and return said survey to NACD before the June 16<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**Supervisor Elections/Reappointments:**

Leslie reminded the Board that those Supervisors filing for re-election, or new any known new candidates, must do so at the local Board of Elections, between June 14<sup>th</sup> – July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Successful candidates will take office on the first Monday in December following the election. It was also noted that Chairman, Bill Chapman, is up for reappointment by the Division in December. Recommendations for reappointment are due to the Division by November 1, 2010.

**RICK GRANT'S REPORT: (Please See Attached Report/Calendars)**

**MICHELLE LOVEJOY'S REPORT: (Please See Attached Report/Calendars)**

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Voluntary Farmland Preservation (VFPP) Update:**

Leslie reported that NCDENR Working Lands Coordinator, Jerry Dorsett invited our district to take part in a Farmland Preservation Workshop, entitled "Enhancing Agricultural Development". On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Leslie traveled with GIS Specialist George Brown and Tax Mapper Doug Fox to the Morganton Extension Center, for their presentation on problems encountered with issuing a "Notice of VAD" to potential property buyers. Other VAD issues/challenges discussed at this workshop included: possible amendments to the VAD ordinance to allow for "automatic" re-enrollment renewal after the 10 year agreement period, the eligibility of county recreational lands to be enrolled in the program, and the availability of grant funding for developing a county-wide Farmland Protection Plan, even if never officially adopted by the County Commission. A quarterly VAD Board meeting was held May 18<sup>th</sup>. The farmland of Kenny & Teresa Cline was approved, increasing total VFPP enrollment to 7,563.589 acres. The VAD Board also discussed the possibility of inviting Lynn Sprague, director of the Polk County Mill Spring Agricultural Dev Center, to speak to our local farm community and county officials. Leslie has agreed to pursue this endeavor in collaboration with Cooperative Extension.

**Rocky Face Park Project:**

Lastly, Leslie announced that the County has been approved to receive NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant-monies to develop an educational park/natural area on the Rocky Face Mountain property. Once the PARTF contract documents have been procured, the County plans to hire an environmental consulting firm to begin trail design.

**ADJOURN**

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows*

Next Meeting Date: June 24, 2010 Time: 8:00 a.m. Place: District Office