



MINUTES

ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

Meeting Number 7

Date: February 24, 2011

SUPERVISORS PRESENT:

Bill Chapman, Chairman
Myles Payne, Vice-Chairman
Wendell Kirkham, Treasurer
Eugene White, Member

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 24, 2011** ARE APPROVED AS: READ () / CORRECTED ()

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION

Chairman Bill Chapman officially called the meeting to order at approximately 8:26 a.m. Invocation was given by Myles Payne.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting, held January 27, 2011, were evaluated. 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 budget report for the month of January 2011 was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board. Leslie announced attending a county budget meeting on Feb. 18th. The county finance department has asked that flat 2011-12 budget requests worksheets and reports be submitted by April 1st.

LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:

NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Update:

Lee provided the Board with a list of active NCACSP contracts outstanding from PY09-PY11 (*See Attached Spreadsheet*). All contracts have reached construction phase except streambank stabilization Contract #: 02-10-03-16, still awaiting design and approval from Division engineers. Remaining funding available for PY11 was discussed. Due to dwindling funds; only \$12,680.00 left this PY11, the Board deliberated over the ranking scores of the remaining PY11 applications. A motion was made by Myles Payne, and seconded by Eugene White, to proceed with plans to fund a poultry drystack application filed early in the first batching period. The Board unanimously agreed, and considered administering a second batching period process for future program years.

NC Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Update:

Lee updated the Board on the engineering issues preventing the repair work allocated to WAMS Wetland CCAP Contract #: 02-10-502-03R. Division NPS Section Chief, Julie Henshaw, notified Lee in December 2010 that the contract deadline could be extended until 6/1/2011 in order to ensure contract completion. Lee requested a formal extension of the repair contract deadline, from 12/31/10 to 6/1/11. Wendell Kirkham made a motion to officially accept said six month deadline extension to June 1st. A second was given by Myles Payne, and the Board voted unanimously in approval of the revision.

NC Cattleman's Conference:

As a newly appointed member to the NC Forage & Grassland Council's Board of Directors, Lee was required to attend the NC Cattleman's Conference on Feb. 18th at the Hickory Metro Center. A NC Forage & Grassland Council Committee meeting was held. NC Department of Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler was there to comment, as well as Keynote Speaker, NC Lt. Governor Walter Dalton.

Stockpiling Grasses Demonstration:

On Feb. 22nd, Lee assisted Cooperative Extension Agent Allison Brown in a Stockpiling Grasses demonstration/field day, sponsored by NCSU. Stockpiling grasses involves periodically moving pasture fencing to extend the growth period of grasses cattle will eventually feed upon. This demo day was held on the farm of Charles Johnson, where Lee and Allison assisted with implementation of the stockpiling plan beginning on Dec. 15th. Stockpiling grasses saved Mr. Johnson approximately \$5,000.00, as an alternative to baling and feeding hay all winter. The stockpiled fescue pasture also provided the cattle with better nutrition throughout the winter than cut hay.

LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:

NCFSWC OELC Grant Offer:

Leslie reported that a special Board meeting was held on Feb. 11th to approve our completed Outdoor Environmental Learning Center (OELC) grant, in the amount of \$2,500.00, for aiding WAMS in their efforts to construct an outdoor classroom structure on the CCAP stormwater wetland site. The grant application was mailed in to the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation. If awarded, the district will have to convene with WAMS Teacher Allen Price to administer the grant funds properly and timely.

PR Appearances:

Opportunities arose to increase awareness of district programs we offer and our continued conservation efforts. Leslie and Lee stated having given a district report to the Alexander County Board of Commissioners on Feb. 7th. These meetings are filmed and televised by the local government cable channel. Leslie also spoke at a Taylorsville Rotary luncheon on Feb. 9th.

NW Envirothon Planning Committee:

On Feb. 21st, Leslie attended a NW Envirothon Planning meeting at Forsyth SWCD in Winston. To date, 13 high school and 39 middle school teams have registered from Area II. Alexander County has registered 12 middle school teams; 5 from WAMS and 7 from EAMS, respectively. Leslie has been attending team practices at both middle schools. A NW Envirothon clean-up day at the McGee Center is planned for Mar. 29th, in conjunction with the next Area II District Issues Committee (DIC) meeting.

2011 Area II Spring Meeting:

The 2011 Area II Spring Meeting will be held Mar. 10th at Burke SWCD in Morganton, NC. In priority with the NCASWCD Strategic Plan, this meeting will focus on advocacy training. Leslie collected registration fees from those Supervisors planning to attend. Carpooling travel arrangements were made

2011 Annual Contest Season:

Leslie relayed that judging of the county poster, essay, and speech contests had taken place this week. Having spoken with Davis Hall (Taylorsville First Baptist) and caterer Nancy Holsclaw, Leslie has chosen a Banquet dinner of county-style steak for \$8.00/plate. Nancy Holsclaw will also handle arranging and decorating tables for the March 29th event. Door prize donations were discussed. A motion was made by Eugene White to award Mr. Donald Payne, of Payne Dairy Inc., a \$100.00 gift of appreciation for allowing the use of his farm for our annual 5th Grade Environmental Field Days. Wendell Kirkham seconded, Myles Payne sustained, and the Board voted unanimously in favor of the recognition.

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

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

VAD Board Meeting:

Leslie reported that the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program VAD Board held a quarterly meeting on Feb. 15th. Two new applications were up for Board approval. One application was declined for failure to meet size requirements for present-use-value taxation eligibility. The approved application for a single parcel brought current total VFPP enrollment to 7668.789 acres. It was decided to invite Mr. Sam Bingham, an experienced County-wide Farmland Protection Plan consultant, to speak at an upcoming VAD meeting. Mr. Bingham has aided Buncombe, Clay, and Cleveland Counties in development of comprehensive Farmland Protection Planning.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows

Next Meeting Date: <u>March 24, 2011</u>	Time: <u>8:00 a.m.</u>	Place: <u>District Office</u>
_____ Signed		_____ Date