



MINUTES

ALEXANDER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Held at the District office in Taylorsville, NC

Meeting Number 11

Date: June 23, 2011

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 **JUNE 23, 2011** ARE APPROVED AS: READ () / CORRECTED ()

CALL TO ORDER and INVOCATION

Chairman Bill Chapman called the meeting officially to order at approximately 8:08 a.m. Invocation was given by Myles Payne.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes from the last meeting, held May 26, 2011, and the minutes of a special meeting, held May 31, 2011, were evaluated. Myles Payne motioned that the minutes of both meetings be approved as presented, and was seconded by Wendell Kirkham. The Board unanimously agreed.

BUDGET REPORT

The budget report for the month of May 2011 was reviewed in detail for the awareness of the Board. Leslie announced that the County Commissioners have released our "Recommended" 2011-12 Budget, in the amount we originally requested, and will likely be approved in the amount of \$102,319.00.

LEE HOLCOMB'S REPORT:

NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) Update:

Lee provided the Board with a list of current PY11 NCACSP contracts and their status (*See Attached Spreadsheet*). With an initial combined PY11 allocation of \$83,807.00, only \$5,199.00 was returned to the Division. Lee presented a request for payment (RFP) on poultry drystack/composter Contract #: 02-11-05-16, at 90% cost-share for a limited resource farmer, in the amount of \$33,489.00. Wendell Kirkham made a motion that the RFP be approved and payment granted, pending final specifications for cloth and gravel installation are verified by Lee. Myles Payne seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed. Another RFP was presented for poultry drystack Contract #: 02-11-701-16; primarily funded from High Rock Lake grant monies, in the amount of \$21,853.00. Myles Payne made a motion that the RFP be approved and payment granted, pending cloth and gravel specifications are verified by Lee to be properly installed. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board unanimously agreed. Chairman Bill Chapman read aloud a response letter received from Natalie Woolard, Chief of the Division's Technical Services section, stating the Division's intentions to modify their engineering service's prioritization and tracking systems. Lastly, Lee presented the Board with a summary of PY11 Spot Checks. Only two contract practices were found in need of maintenance; scheduled for a 30-day follow-up. No contracts were found in non-compliance. One randomly selected farm has yet to be visited. Bill Chapman will accompany Lee to said final spot check, immediately following today's Board meeting. Myles Payne motioned that the PY11 Spot Check reports be submitted to the Division as presented, pending the completion of the remaining visit. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the Board voted unanimously in approval.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Update:

With CCAP Repair Contract #: 02-10-502-03 R completed, a wetland replanting day was held on June 20th. With the help of Extension Director Lenny Rogers, SWCD staff transplanted vegetative wetland species from the established Sugar Loaf Elementary wetland to the WAMS CCAP site. On June 22nd, Lee reinstalled the broken wetland riser pipe. Hopefully, these additional renovations will help to stabilize and maintain the area.

LESLIE MEADOWS' REPORT:

County Meetings:

Leslie reported on two county meetings; a Department Head meeting held on June 1st, and an Employee Benefits meeting held June 9th. The County's 2011-12 Budget is virtually flat, except for debt service on the new jail project. A quarterly department head meeting schedule is to be reinstated this fiscal year, as well as annual employee performance

evaluations. Benefits changes reflect a 6% increase in medical costs. Dental, vision, and life insurance rates will remain the same.

OELC Grant Update:

On June 10th, Leslie met with WAMS Science teacher, Dr. Allen Price, to confer and compile the first OELC grant interim report for the Foundation (NCFSWC). Contacts and arrangements are being made to have draft sketches of the outdoor/wetland classroom designed, in order to obtain the appropriate building permits. Brian Lewis, head of ACHS vocational studies program, has devised a two-day excused absence for “shop” students to construct the covered OELC shelter, once school resumes in the Fall. Purchased recycling containers and picnic table kits will be assembled and weather-proofed by SWCD staff and the WAMS Envirothon Club. Signage and credit to our sponsors must be publicized. It was estimated that all facets of the project should hopefully be complete by the end of October 2011.

Area II Coordinator Position:

Leslie relayed to the Board that Area II Coordinator, Michelle Lovejoy, has accepted the NCFSWC Executive Director position, left vacant upon the retirement of Mr. Cecil Settle. Michelle’s last day with the Division will be June 30th, but will work closely with districts in her new capacity. A formal farewell for Michelle will be held June 27th, at the McGee Center, in conjunction with our regularly scheduled NW Envirothon Planning Committee summer meeting. In lieu of State budget concerns, Area II Chairman William Brown, has suggested all districts in Area II take part in a letter writing campaign to state that the Area II Coordinator position can not be frozen or cut, and to encourage the Division to fill the position as quickly as possible. The Board unanimously agreed to this letter of support, which Leslie was asked to draft for Chairman Bill Chapman’s review and signature. The Board also elected to present Michelle Lovejoy with a monetary gift of appreciation from the district’s checking account in the amount of \$100.00 (\$20/Supervisor).

Upcoming DIC Meeting:

Leslie informed the Board that a joint District Issues Committee (DIC) meeting, of Areas 1, 2, and 8, will be held July 26th, at the Burke SWCD in Morganton at 10:00 a.m. Any Supervisors wishing to attend should contact the office and arrange to travel with staff.

2011 DEW Registration:

Leslie announced that the 2011 District Employee Workshop (DEW) has been set for Aug. 15th – 18th, at the North Raleigh Hilton. Leslie expressed a desire to attend, in order to fulfill an EE certification requirement being offered; the *Method of Teaching EE* course. Pre-registration has begun. Myles Payne made a motion that Leslie be supported in DEW participation, and was seconded by Wendell Kirkham. The Board voted unanimously in approval.

RICK GRANT’S REPORT:

Rick Grant provided a monthly report of all ongoing NRCS programs within the District. Our district’s annual NRCS Local Workgroup session will be held today, June 23rd, at 11:00 a.m.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rocky Face Park Update:

Leslie summarized an email from David Icenhour, of Alexander EDC, on the progress of the Rocky Face Park project. As of May 27th, design of the quarry parking lot area and the architectural drawings of the proposed picnic shelter/restrooms/office have been drafted. Design of the septic system is underway. Also, the Felburn Foundation has agreed to match the County 50% for the purchase of the six additional lots known as the “Reavis Property”. The next Rocky Face Park Committee meeting has been scheduled for June 30th, at 6:00 p.m.

Salary Supplements:

At approximately 9:37 a.m., Myles Payne made a motion that an executive session be held in order to confer on end-of-(fiscal) year salary supplements for both Leslie and Lee. Wendell Kirkham seconded, and the board unanimously agreed to enter a closed session.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting officially adjourned at approximately 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie M. Meadows

Next Meeting Date: July, 28 2011 Time: 8:00 a.m. Place: District Office

