

BOARD MINUTES

RANDOLPH COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Asheboro, North Carolina

March 14, 2005

Supervisors Present:

Craig Frazier, Chairman
William Alston, V. Chairman
Richard Canoy, Secretary
Amy Hughes, Treasurer

Others Present:

Barton Roberson, DC
Jenny Parks, Admin. Assist.
Danielle Thomas, Soil Con.
Bob Abell, Soil Con. Tech.
John Hill, Soil Con. Tech.
Kelly Whitaker, S&W Eng.
Justin Lowe, FFA

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 a.m. Frazier welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Travel vouchers were signed and returned.

ACTION ITEMS:

February 14, 2005 minutes were reviewed and corrections were made. Canoy moved, seconded by Alston, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes as corrected.

March 3, 2005 minutes were reviewed and corrections were made. Alston moved, seconded by Hughes, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes as corrected. These minutes reflect the participants of the NCASWCD Area 3 Spring Meeting.

March 7, 2005 CALLED MEETING minutes were reviewed and corrections were made. Canoy moved, seconded by Alston, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes as corrected.

Hughes moved, seconded by Canoy, the board voted unanimously to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. A copy is attached to these minutes.

At this time Frazier introduced and welcomed Justin Lowe, NC FFA State Vice President. Lowe gave a presentation on the International Leadership Seminar for State Officers he attended in Austria, France and Germany. RSWCD contributed \$500 towards his trip. Frazier thanked Lowe for his presentation and wished him well on his endeavors.

Roberson gave the NRCS Report as follows:

-Roberson presented a Proposal for Special Project to Conserve Wildlife/Fish Habitat – an opportunity to apply for WHIP funds. Alston moved, seconded by Hughes, the board voted unanimously after having reviewed the information provided, a letter of recommendation be drafted and signed by Frazier on behalf of the board to provide recommendation for this project.

- Roberson reported that Ken Cox wishes not to construct his pond and we are waiting on word from Jonathan Brubaker on whether or not he wishes to construct.
- Thomas reported that the office has received 202 EQIP applications. Randolph County was only allocated \$240,000 to fund EQIP contracts this year. March 25, 2005 is the deadline for contracts written. Thomas reported that with the allocation given only the first 10 will possibly be funded. The 202 EQIP applications totaled over 1 million dollars needed.
- Roberson reported that there is currently 1 Wetland Determination waiting to be completed. This will be completed this spring.
- Hill is currently working on conservation plans that are also applying for acceptance into the County's Voluntary Ag District Program.
- Roberson asked the board to include a Civil Rights item on their April agenda.

Alston gave the RC&D Report as follows:

- The Randolph County Commissioners, at their March 1, 2005 meeting, unanimously approved Betsy Moody's appointment to the Piedmont Conservation Council, Inc. (RC&D) as their representative.
- Alston reported that they will be making a legislative visit to Raleigh on behalf of RC&D.
- Alston reported that there is currently no funding available for the PCC coordinator position. Further information will follow as soon as it becomes available.

Whitaker gave the NCACSP Report as follows:

- There are seven new applications to be ranked for board approval.
- Discussion was had regarding the Batching System cut off dates for the NCACSP.
- Whitaker reported that Roger Garner's contract was closed out and \$856 was returned to the State fund.
- Contracts for Jessup, Brown and Cheek were sent to the Division for approval.
- Whitaker has requested an additional \$117,910 to fund the next five contracts.

Whitaker gave the Community Conservation Report as follows:

- Whitaker reported that the rain barrel sale on Thursday, April 21, 2005 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Wal-Mart parking lot. Barrels must be pre-ordered by Monday, April 18, 2005 and a \$10 non-refundable deposit is required. There will be several press releases sent to the local newspapers as well as mail outs and public service announcements.
- Whitaker reported that the 2 grants that were applied for on the lagoon closures were awarded from the NC Soil and Water Foundation as follows:
 - Requested \$12,988 for Marvin Wall; was awarded \$13,000
 - Requested \$41,391 for Brad Coble; was awarded \$41,400
- Whitaker reported that the grant writing committee had met regarding fees and they determined to not charge a fee for grants less than \$50,000 and determine fees for grants \$50,000 and above on a case by case basis. Hughes moved, seconded by Canoy, the board voted unanimously to not charge grant writing fees for grants less than \$50,000 and determine fees for grants \$50,000 and above on a case by case basis, depending on workload.

Frazier reported that Randolph SWCD has been designated to participate on behalf of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation in the Division's agreement with the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program and NRCS.

Alston moved, seconded by Canoy, the board voted unanimously to approve payment of the NCASWCD Annual Dues of \$303.00.

Parks reported that the Area 3 Envirothon will be held at Elon University in Burlington on Tuesday, March 22, 2005. She encouraged supervisors and staff to help volunteer with this event.

Information regarding Big Sweep was presented for information.

Frazier reported that the Soil and Water Conservation awareness Day will be June 1, 2005 in the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh at 6:00 p.m. Those who wish to contribute may do so on their own.

It was decided to discuss the Conservation Farm Family information during the April Board Meeting.

Discussion was had regarding changing the time of the board meetings to a lunch meeting. Hughes moved to change the board meeting to a lunch meeting, there being no second, the motion failed due to lack of second.

Discussion was had regarding office space being sought. Alston moved, seconded by Canoy, the board voted unanimously to seek the 568 square feet available in the Farmers Mutual Insurance Building at \$10.00 per square foot including utilities. Frazier and Parks will follow-up on this item.

The following consent items were approved:

- March & April Calendars
- Employee Weekly Logs
- eNotes (2/15/05; 2/22/05; 3/8/05)
- NACD News & Views
- Appointment Letter to Betsy Moody for PCC
- Area 3 Meeting Information
- Julie Henshaw new NPS Planning Coordinator for DSWC
- USDA News

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Chairman Signature

Date Approved Minutes

The Next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting will be April 11, 2005 at 7:30 a.m.
Federal Building
241 Sunset Avenue, Asheboro, NC 27203