

## **Minutes**

### **Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting**

**March 03, 2005 – Revised**

The Forsyth SWCD Board met in regular session at 8:35 a.m. on Thursday, March 03, 2005 in Room 39 at the Forsyth County Agriculture Bldg. The meeting was called to order by Kerry Venable, Chairman.

Present: Kerry Venable, Chairman  
Grover McPherson, Vice-Chairman  
Ed Wall, Secretary/Treasurer  
Wes Schollander, Member  
Christine Collins, Office Assistant  
Mike Bowman, Soil & Water Conservationist

#### **1. Minutes/Financial Report**

- A. Minutes of the regular session of the SWCD for February were reviewed, Kerry Venable remained neutral. Grover approved as written, Second by Ed Wall. Approved unanimously.
- B. Financial Report for SWCD Board was reviewed. Motion made by Kerry Venable for approval. Ed Wall approved, Second by Grover McPherson. Approved unanimously.

#### **2. Natural Resources Conservation Service**

A. Randy Blackwood is training in Tennessee the week of February 28 through March 4, 2005. Kerry Venable inquired about training contents and frequency. Grover McPherson advised that all new NRCS Employees will be given extensive training to further their knowledge when filling positions formerly held by employees with several years experience. Grover explained that he himself had went to Mary Combs with the concern that the new employees were being promoted to these positions without adequate training or experience and that a better training program would need to be provided. The training sessions Randy has been attending is a result of those concerns which Mary addressed by setting up a proposed training for employees in the state. Grover went on to state that NRCS has set up a program Nationwide and that there is an outfit in Greensboro that has gone to the training and some future training will be given in Greensboro.

B. Kerry Venable updated Board on applications for EQIP contracts.

- a) Tony Church – Well, Livestock Exclusion, Heavy Use Areas, Watering Facilities
- b) David Chappell – Pasture and Hayland Planting
- c) Edgar Miller – Stock Trail, Access Road, Heavy Use Area
- d) David Dillon – Pasture and Hayland Planting
- e) Rodney Speas – 5 year long term no-till

C. Kerry Venable advised Board that EQIP monies have been allocated and additional monies can not be given if not used due to other counties waiting on funding.

D. Kerry Venable advised Board should have more control over the ranking and approval of NCACSP contracts. Stokes and other counties are heading in this direction.

### **3. Cost Share Program Report**

- A. Mike Bowman presented contracts for approval.
  - a) William Wetherall (34-05-10-12) cropland conversion 12 acres. \$5,558 Motion made by Grover McPherson, Second by Wes Schollander. Approved unanimously.
  - b) Ed Wall (34-05-05-16) 5 year long term no-till 12.3 acres. \$1,538 Motion made by Grover McPherson, Second by Wes Schollander. Approved unanimously. Ed Wall abstained.
  - c) Ricky Lasley (34-05-14-12) 3 year conservation tillage of vegetables 13 acres and 3 year conservation tillage tobacco 10 acres. \$8,250 Motion made by Grover McPherson, to approve application subject to Commission reallocating funds. Second by Ed Wall. Approved Unanimously.
  - d) Kerry Venable (34-05-13-12) \$\_\_\_\_\_ Motion made by Grover McPherson to approve application subject to Commission reallocating funds. Second by Ed Wall. Approved unanimously. Kerry Venable abstained.
  - e) Deborah Messick (34-05-06-16) Reseed eroding hillside \$511. Motion made by Grover McPherson for approval of request for payment on repair contract. Second by Ed Wall. Approved unanimously.
- B. Grover McPherson inquired as to the status of the application for Access Road contract for Kerry Venable. Tommy Burchette has been to site to begin design for project (August and November 2004). The application has never been presented to the Board for approval due to practice being declined by Mike Washington on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Board is requesting that Tommy give a preliminary cost estimate to be used in making a reallocation of funds request to the Commission for Kerry Venable's application (see "d" above).
- C. Board discussed various no-till practices and acceptable substitutions.
- D. Kerry Venable asked Grover McPherson to get clarification, through the Commission, if applications may be taken and approved prior to Engineer providing project design and final cost when Engineering Assistance is being requested. Grover McPherson advised that a \$ amount would have to be provided in order to present to the Commission for reallocation of funds approval. Kerry Venable stated that applications should be taken even if Engineering is being requested so that application will be put in line for funding.

### **4. Farmland Preservation**

- A. 25% of Farmland Preservation participates will be evaluated on the same day as the Cost Share spot checks which will tentatively be scheduled following the Board Meeting April 14, 2005.

### **5. Old Business**

- A. William Linville Memorial – Ed Wall has contracted 16" x 20" plaque to be made honoring William for his years of service at each agency. Plaque will be bronze mounted on wood border. Plaque to be ready for presentation on "Volunteer Day" March 26<sup>th</sup>. Mark Tucker has advised Ed that Farm City will contribute to the plaque. Original quote was \$960; Ed did not have the final cost. Cost to be divided between Farm City, Forsyth Soil & Water and Farm Bureau.

- B. Danny Nelson – Board unanimously agreed to have letter written from Forsyth Soil & Water to the Soil & Water Commission reporting the situation with Danny Nelson and advising of the Board’s desire to turn the matter over to the Commission. Kerry Venable will make courtesy attempt to contact and discuss matter with Mr. Nelson prior to the Commission’s Meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>. Grover McPherson advised that if resolved he would kill action when presented before the Commission. Ed Wall made motion to take this course of action. Second by Wes Schollander. Approved unanimously.
- C. Vacant Board Seat – Kerry Venable presented a list of individuals interested in fulfilling vacant seat on the Board. The list included: Bill George, Zane Sells, Todd McPeak, Albert Bullard and a phone call from Vern Switzer. Ed Wall included Stacy Manning. Wes Schollander included Chuck Woolard. Grover McPherson suggested contacting Joe Marion since formerly on the Board to inquire if Joe would consider filling the seat for the remainder of the term and running for reelection in 2006.

**6. New Business**

- A. 2005 Resource Conservation Workshop – Board elected to support student for the event. \$400 to be provided by the Board for the student’s registration and travel expenses. Motion made by Kerry Venable, Second by Grover McPherson. Approved unanimously.

**Adjourn**

**The next meeting date:**

April 14, 2005  
The Forsyth County Agriculture Building

Respectfully submitted,

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Recording Secretary

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Chairman, Forsyth SWCD

cc: NCDENR: Division of Soil and Water  
Steve Ferguson, DSWC Area 2 Coordinator  
Mike Sugg, Assistant State Conservationist  
Ron Graham, Deputy Manager