

Minutes

Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting February 5, 2007

The Forsyth SWCD Board met at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2007 in Auditorium A of the Forsyth County Agriculture Building. The meeting was called to order by Grover McPherson, Chairman.

Present: Grover McPherson, Chairman
Wes Schollander, Vice Chairman
Toby Bost
Beth Tucker
Mike Bowman, Soil & Water Conservationist
Michelle Lovejoy, Area Coordinator

1. Minutes/Financial Report

Minutes of the regular session of the SWCD for January 18th were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Financial Report for SWCD Board was reviewed. The financial report was approved as presented.

2. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Grover informed the Board that Gary attended a funeral today and would not be able to make it to the meeting.

3. Cost Share Program Report

NRCS Engineering Technician Mike Fisher made a site visit last week for an animal waste storage structure, which could be a \$30,000 contract. The cooperater is currently hauling waste off site, and updated 2-T rules led her to be interested in the project.

4. Farmland Preservation

Grover spoke with Ron Graham last week and Ron indicated that he had reservations about a decision made by the Board to allow the Beeson family to subdivide land into three tracts. The deed allows three additional homes for family members only and they want to subdivide the land and sell to non-family individuals. The opinion of the County Attorney is that only family members can subdivide, and this project is not allowed according to the recorded deed restrictions. Ron requested Grover to speak to the Board of Commissioners on the overall status and purpose of the program. In Grover's opinion, the original program language changed, and the current guidelines do not prohibit subdivision of properties in the Farmland Preservation Program.

5. Old Business

Wes Schollander asked about the Mecklenburg SWCD power point presentation on Community Conservation. Michelle and Mike will present it at the next board meeting.

6. New Business

Conservation Awareness Day is March 21, and all board members are welcome to attend. The State Association requests that each board send at least one representative to talk to legislators. Grover is unable to attend, as he will be out of state. Wes & Toby will try to attend. A discussion concerning the donation request and a brief history of the event followed. Beth Tucker made a motion to contribute \$100, seconded by Toby Bost and the motion carried unanimously.

A request for a donation to support the Northwest Envirothon was discussed. Wes Schollander made a motion to donate \$50, seconded by Beth Tucker and the motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Lovejoy informed the Board about an upcoming training event for CCAP and the need for a staff member to attend. Toby Bost made a motion for Mike Bowman to attend the training, seconded by Beth Tucker. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board discussed the Land and Water Commission report and debated whether to support or oppose the issue.

The Area 2 Spring Meeting was discussed.

Michelle Lovejoy brought the members up to speed on the Job Approval Authority situation.

The Hall of Fame announcement was presented to the Board members.

The Board discussed the various programs available to Districts.

A discussion ensued on the subject of Voluntary Ag Districts. The Board had a request from the City/County Planning Board, through Ron Graham, to set up a program in Forsyth County. Grover wondered if there would be enough community interest to make it work. Grover suggested that Mike Bowman continue working with the Planning Director, Paul Norby, on the development of the program.

Ron Graham sent a request asking the District to provide assistance with a citizen's complaint dealing with Silas Creek flooding issues. Discussion ensued on the flooding event that occurred on New Years Day. Grover suggested that Mike Bowman meet with Cooperative Extension and City Stormwater staff to determine if a solution exists and what options are available.

The Board members were presented with a resolution from Pilot View RC&D. They need a local sponsor to assist with the application for grant funds in support of a stream restoration project on Bath Creek. Beth Tucker voiced her concern about language contained in the resolution dealing with payment for services. A motion to approve the resolution, pending contact with Charles Anderson and the successful obtaining of answers concerning the payment issue and the divulgence of where the rest of the funds are to be secured, was made by Wes Schollander and was seconded by Toby Bost. The motion passed by a vote of three to one, with Beth Tucker voting no.

Adjourn

The next meeting date:

March 5th, 2007 5:00 p.m.

The Forsyth County Agriculture Building, Auditorium A

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

Chairman, Forsyth SWCD

cc: NCDENR: Division of Soil and Water
Michelle Lovejoy, Area 2 Coordinator
Jacquie Simon, Assistant State Conservationist
Ron Graham, Deputy County Manager