

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday November 7, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

**Supervisors in Attendance: Vicky Porter, Tommy Porter, Jeff Goforth, Eddie
Moose, Kevin May, Jr.**

**Others in attendance: Kelly Sifford (assistant county manager),
Daniel McClellan(staff), Tammi Remsburg (staff), Amy Cook (staff), Chuckie
Bass (staff), Zach Russell (NRCS)**

(1) Call to Order

Vicky Porter called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

1.1 Invocation

Tommy Porter gave an invocation.

1.2 Conflict of interest statement

Vicky Porter read the following:

"In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board."

1.3 Statement of Professionalism

Vicky Porter read the following:

"Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to uphold the laws of the United States and North Carolina and their constitutions. Business is to be conducted in a professional manner, free of bias, of interactions that violate policies or individual liberties and that address business issues only. Interactions are to be held with integrity, courtesy, honesty and in compliance with the highest ethical standards."

(2) Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION of Kevin May, Jr. , seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the agenda with Item 4.5 being moved to the top of the informational items.

(3) Approval or Correction of October 10th Minutes

UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to accept the October 10th minutes as written.

(4) Informational Items

4.1 Partner Report

Zach Russell gave a NRCS report. He said that EQIP deadline was past, but there may be an additional funding source that could add another round of applications. December 5th is the deadline for CSP. Please pass the word!

Kelly Sifford gave a report from the county management. There is a new NC law G.S. 120-75.1 that says that the Joint Legislative Commission on Government Operations has been given additional oversight over local government including boards. The details are still being unpacked, but for now all questions or business with this commission is confidential.

4.2 Education Report

Tammi Remsburg reported that there are 3 teacher professional development trainings in the next 3 months that she will be teaching or co-teaching. Tammi also brought up the discussion on what to do for the awards ceremony which will be April 30th at the Frank Liske Park barn. We were advised by the Union County staff to consider using Publix as the food vendor. It would save us almost 1/3 of the cost of catering. The Board agreed that this would be a great way to offset costs and still provide good food that is kid-friendly. Tammi also told the Board that she will be retiring the end of next summer.

4.3 Supervisor's Communications Report

Daniel McClellan reminded the supervisors of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Annual Meeting in Durham January 7-10th and the NACD meeting in San Diego CA February 10-14th.

4.4 Division Funds Report

Chuckie Bass that he had met with 2 producers that might use cost share for stream exclusion. He also put in a request from the Division for additional money for cost share. Pass the word!

4.4A STRAP Update

Daniel McClellan reported that staff is still waiting on the county's review of the no-rise application for Dutch Buffalo Creek. The Division of Soil & Water has received another \$20 million for the next year.

4.5 Conservation Easement Report

Amy Cook reported that she and Daniel went to a PUV program training and plan to apply for that with the Williams easement. They will also be asking the county about using the back taxes for easement funding.

(5) New Business

5.1 Education Coordinator

Tammi Remsburg explained that the former education coordinator position was eliminated from the Division of Soil & Water when the employee retired 2 years ago. District educators have been picking up some of the slack, along with an area coordinator who recently retired. This position is really needed to coordinate education programs, such as contests and Envirothon, and be a support for district educators. The District was sent a letter proposing a coordinator position that will be an Association employee, with funds provided by the Association and District contributions. After much discussion, the CSWCD Board will support the education coordinator position, but will not provide any funding until the position becomes a more permanent job.

(6) Public comment (3 minutes each)

None

(7) Closed Session for 2 conservation plans

At 6:13 p.m. Chairperson Vicky Porter turned the meeting over to Vice-Chair Jeff Goforth. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to enter "closed session due to Legally Confidential Information" based on the requirements of the Section 1619 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008". Two conservation plans were approved.

(8) Adjourn

After returning to open meeting, UPON MOTION of Kevin May, Jr., seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to adjourn at 6:15 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer