

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday March 4, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building Auditorium

**Supervisors in attendance: Eddie Moose, Jeff Goforth, Vicky Porter,
Tommy Porter**

**Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan, Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinschenker,
Amy Cook, Kelly Sifford, Rick McSwain, Commissioner Laura Lindsey**

1. Call to Order
 - a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:31.
2. Invocation
 - a. Tommy Porter gave invocation.
3. Conflict of Interest Statement.
 - a. *"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."*
 - b. Vicky Porter read the statement. There was no response.
4. Statement of Professionalism
 - a. *"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."*
 - b. Vicky Porter read the statement.
5. Approval of Agenda
 - a. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
6. Approval or Correction of January 21, 2025, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the January 21 meeting as written.
7. Informational Items
 - a. Partner Report
 - i. Rick McSwain represented the Division and gave a report. Rick informed the Supervisors of the Soil and Water Commission the following week, and that Barbara Bleiweiss is the new chair.
 - ii. Rick also stated that Dr. Porsch Spence will begin working for the Division.
 - iii. Rick informed the board that the Master Agreements will be coming out soon and will tentatively still have IRA funding.

- iv. Rick also informed the board of upcoming training called Fundamentals of Conservation, as well as the Spring Area VIII meeting reminder.
- b. Education Report
 - i. Abby Weinschenker provided an update on the District's conservation contest winners and the Area VIII date for the public speaking competition.
 - ii. Abby informed the board that the Envirothon for Area VIII and state need volunteers.
 - iii. Abby discussed the progress she has made with planning Creek Week 2025 with the board.
- c. Supervisor's Communications Report
 - i. Daniel McClellan gave the supervisor's report. He informed the board that staff have been working on strategic plan for the county. This is being done under the Stewardship Task Force for Preserve and Protect. He discussed wanting to conduct a new inventory of natural heritage sites in Cabarrus County. Vicky Porter supported this.
 - ii. Daniel discussed that supervisor travel has been moved to District Activities budget to fund a Preserving Working Lands workshop.
 - iii. Daniel informed the board that the Great Plains drill has been ordered from Brook Sales. The Foundation will provide matching funds for 70% and the drill will arrive by May A demonstration for the new drill will be completed before August 31.
 - iv. Daniel discussed that the Land and Water Trust Fund has agreed to the designs for a greenway on Clark Creek conservation easement after some modifications were made by the City of Concord. Concord has not reached out to determine a time to present to the board.
 - v. Daniel informed the board of a reduction in budget with Cabarrus County for Fiscal year 2026, which will affect the District.
- d. StRAP Report
 - i. Daniel McClellan gave the report of StRAP. The Little Cold Water Creek project has had payments processed and is closed.
- e. Division Funds Report
 - i. Chuckie Bass gave a report on division funds. Contract 13-2023-001 has been paid. Chuckie gave updates on the contracts for 2024. Chuckie has stated that 13-2025-801 is complete and paid. The contract cost less than was allocated, so the District has more available moneys to put towards another AgWRAP.
 - ii. Chuckie informed the board that spot checks need to be completed soon, and he is working on informing landowners.
- f. Conservation Easements Report

- i. Amy Cook gave the conservation easements report. Amy informed the board the grant applications for state and federal funding for easements are complete. The District will hear about the state applications in June.
- ii. Amy also discussed that NRCS sent a "letter of tentative selection" for both Wilburn Williams Family Farms tracts for Agricultural Easements. The tentative selection should make the applications for the state for these tracts to be more competitive.
- iii. Amy informed the board that the Sam Davis easement is still underway, and in the finishing stages of surveying and appraisal.
- iv. Daniel McClellan and Chair Vicky Porter took the time to discuss getting a cost-of-services evaluation in the future.
- v. Amy discussed obtaining a new software called Landscape Conservation Software to aid with conservation easement management and organization. The District previously has been relying upon Microsoft Excel. Amy informed the board that she needs approval in order to seek a grant to assist with paying for the software.

1. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve using Landscape Conservation Software for conservation easements.

8. New Business

- a. No new business.

9. Public Comment

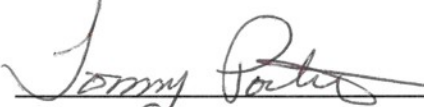
- a. No public comments.

10. Adjourn

- a. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer