

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday April 1, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building Auditorium

Supervisors in attendance: Eddie Moose, Mitch Haigler, Jeff Goforth, Vicky Porter,

Tommy Porter

Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan, Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinshenker, Amy Cook, Rick McSwain, Commissioner Laura Lindsey, Lorien Deaton

1. Call to Order
 - a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:24 p.m.
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 Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
6. Approval or Correction of March 4, 2025, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the March 4 meeting as written.
7. Informational Items
 - a. Partner Report
 - i. Lorien Deaton, the AgWRAP Coordinator for the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation conducted a Program Review and came to present to the Board about her findings. Lorien stated that everything has been done correctly relating to contracts, however, some folders were missing WebSoil Surveys, BMP

Policies, updated maps, and photos. Lorien said these items may be missing due to changing policies over the years.

1. Lorien said that the Conservation-6 notes to be updated.
 2. Lorien said that some areas reviewed needed minimal maintenance and that the landowners have already been contacted.
- ii. Rick McSwain provided an update from the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Rick told the Board that Master Agreements have been sent out and the \$10,000 IRA money is still tentatively on the contract.
1. Rick informed the Board that the state has allocated \$2 million Emergency Watershed Protection employment for disaster zones from Hurricane Helene. Following that, Rick told the Board that \$25 million will be allocated from the state to assist with impaired and impacted streams in the disaster zones from Helene, of which can only be used on projects that do not have federal assistance.
- iii. Shauntae Britt from NRCS emailed a report. Shauntae stated that NRCS is still processing EQIP and CSP applications.
1. Shauntae told the Board that HEL compliance reviews will be conducted in the next 45 days, with 5 Tracts selected in Cabarrus County.

b. Education Report

- i. Abby Weinshenker provided the education report. Abby informed the Board that there are 2 students from Cabarrus County that are being sent to the state level for the Conservation Contest for public speaking. Abby said that she is still waiting to hear about winners for the rest of the contest.
- ii. Abby told the Board that no Cabarrus County Envirothon Teams will be moving to the state competition from the Southern Piedmont Envirothon.
- iii. Abby provided a Quarter 3 update, with the District's programs reaching 4,534 people this past quarter, 3,000 of the number is from the conservation contest.
- iv. Abby asked the Board who is planning to attend the award banquet on April 29, which both Vicky and Tommy Porter said they will be there.

c. Supervisor's Communications Report

- i. Daniel McClellan gave the Supervisor's report. Daniel reported on Area VIII Spring meeting on March 5th.
- ii. Daniel informed the Board that the Great Plains Drill has been ordered from Brook Sales. The Foundation is providing a grant that covers 70% of the cost. The drill is expected to arrive in April

or May. Daniel discussed having a demonstration day, which Vicky said that the Voluntary Ag Dinner would be a great time to do it. Daniel said he will ask cooperative extension if that will be possible.

- iii. Daniel discussed that the Land and Water Fund has agreed to a design for a greenway on the Clarke Creek property after modifications were made by the City of Concord. The District is waiting for the city to present to the Board about it.
- iv. Daniel informed the Board that the county budget conferences went well, and the proposed budget reduction is for the moneys allocated for the fence for the Clarke Creek property.
- v. Daniel informed the Board that the Master Agreement from NC Division of Soil and Water for matching funds and technical assistance. Daniel asked Vicky Porter to sign the Master Agreement.

d. StRAP Report

- i. Daniel McClellan gave the report for StRAP. The Little Cold Water Creek project has had payments processed and is working on closing the permit.

e. Division Funds Report

- i. Chuckie Bass gave the report for division funds. Chuckie discussed that a resident is interested and is actively pursuing a stream exclusion project.

f. Conservation Easements Report

- i. Amy Cook gave the conservation easements report. Amy informed the Board that the District has an interview on April 7th as part of the application process for the Agricultural Growth Zone application.
- ii. Amy discussed the Sam Davis easement. She told the Board that the appraisal is done and is waiting on the survey.
- iii. Amy reminded the Board of the Preserving Working Lands workshop on April 17.

8. New Business

- a. Chuckie Bass discussed application 13-2025-802 for an AgWRAP Irrigation Well.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the application.

9. Public Comment

- a. No public comments.

10. Closed Session

- a. At 6:30 p.m., Vicky Porter, Chair, turned the meeting over to Jeff Goforth, Vice Chair.

- b. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the board moved to go to closed in session in pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential. The information to be reviewed is protected by NC General Statute 139-8.2 and Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- c. After discussion of the conservation plans, UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, and seconded by Tommy Porter, the session moved to return to open meeting at 6:34 p.m.
- d. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

11. Adjourn

- a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer