

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday May 6, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building Auditorium

**Supervisors in attendance: Eddie Moose, Mitch Haigler, Vicky Porter,
Tommy Porter**

**Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan, Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinshenker,
Amy Cook**

1. Call to Order
 - a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:23 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 Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
6. Approval or Correction of April 1, 2025, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the April 1 meeting as written.
7. Informational Items
 - a. Partner Report
 - i. No partner reports.
 - b. Education Report
 - i. Abby Weinshenker provided updates about the Area and State Envirothon competitions. Cabarrus County had 11 teams participate in the Area VIII competition, however, no teams qualified to be in the state competition.

- ii. Abby Weinshenker discussed the Conservation Award ceremony on April 29. Vicky Porter brought up the issue of space for seating on the lower level of the Frank Liske Park Barn. Abby mentioned the plan for the following year is to host the food upstairs with more seating and awards downstairs at the barn. Abby said the other option is that the new Afton Active Living and Parks has a large enough location.
 - iii. Abby informed the Board that the Department of Environmental Education is proposed to be cut from the new North Carolina State budget bill and has asked the Board to advocate to their representatives that it is a vital resource for Soil & Water educators.
- c. Supervisor's Communications Report
- i. Daniel McClellan gave the Supervisor's Report. Daniel reported that the District is still waiting for the Great Plains Drill to arrive from Brook Sales. Daniel discussed the option of changing drill rental rates to be competitive with other Districts in the area. The drill demonstration will take place during the Ag Celebration on July 29 before dinner.
 - ii. Daniel informed the Board that the Land and Water Fund has agreed to the designs for a Greenway on the Clarke Creek property after modifications were made by the City of Concord. The City of Concord plans
 - iii. Daniel informed the Board that the county has held their budget conference. The District has proposed cutting the \$10,000 to place a fence around the Clarke Creek Easement. The county accepted it for proposed budget cuts for FY2026.
- d. StRAP
- i. Daniel informed the Board that the Little Cold Water Creek project is completed, and the District has received reimbursement for the project.
 - ii. Daniel informed the Board that the District has a list of landowners that have inquired about the StRAP program, and that list is continuously growing. A higher ranked group was here to discuss their stream issue.
 - 1. Vicky Porter discussed having Public Comment moved up to 4.3B in the agenda so those that wish to discuss the StRAP Program do not have to wait through the full meeting. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously the board moved to amend the agenda for public discussion to 4.3B.

2. Shohn Brooks addressed the Board regarding a growing concern shared by him and his neighbors. He was accompanied by five neighbors from Middleton Circle in unincorporated Harrisburg, where they are experiencing worsening flooding issues due to nearby development. Shohn and his neighbors explained that the flooding has become severe enough to isolate the neighborhood from surrounding streets. One neighbor shared that she and her husband had to be rescued by boat during a tropical storm. Vicky Porter acknowledged that she is familiar with the area and its flooding risks but expressed concern about access for large construction vehicles and the need for property permissions. Another neighbor offered the use of his vacant lot to facilitate access. Daniel McClellan suggested requesting additional funding for a StRAP project in the area from the Association. Vicky Porter ensured the landowners that their concerns are being considered, but the District cannot promise any funding. Daniel McClellan said there might be a stronger case if every neighbor was in agreeance of the project. Shohn and his neighbors committed to engaging more residents and securing additional property participation to demonstrate the need for support.

iii. Division Funds Report

1. Chuckie Bass gave the report for the division funds. Chuckie informed the Board that Jennifer Aldridge has drilled a well but still has to get a power supply to the pump.
2. Chuckie informed the Board that Cletus Hill has forms built and reinforcement wire has been installed.

iv. Conservation Easements Report

1. Amy Cook gave the Conservation Easements report. Amy informed that Board that the Preserving Working Lands workshop went well. The workshop had 75 people register, with 10 vendors. Amy thanked the Board for allowing the unused Supervisor Travel Funds to be used for the workshop. Vicky Porter and Tommy Porter gave high praises for the workshop.
2. Amy informed the Board that the District is still waiting to hear results for our state applications for conservation easements and the Agricultural Growth Zone. The District is supposed to hear back in June.

3. Amy informed the Board that the Sam Davis easement is still underway and is in the finishing stages of surveying and appraisal.
4. Amy informed the Board that the District needs to monitor conservation easements in May, and asked if a supervisor would like to join. Tommy Porter volunteered to assist.

8. New Business

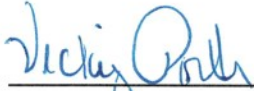
- a. Chuckie Bass informed the Board that the 2026 Strategy Plan and Program Audit are ready to submit to the Division.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the 2026 Strategy Plan.
 - ii. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the Program Audit.
- b. Chuckie Bass informed the Board that spot checks are being conducted on May 12. Mitch Haigler has volunteered to assist Chuckie with the spot checks.
- c. Chuckie Bass discussed application 13-2025-002 for Livestock Exclusion.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the application.
- d. Chuckie Bass presented the contract 13-2025-002 to the Board.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

9. Closed Session

- a. At 6:29 p.m., Vicky Porter, Chair, made a motion to move into closed session.
- 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 Statue 139-8.2 and Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- c. After discussion of the conservation plan, UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, and seconded by Eddie Moose, the session moved to return to open meeting at 6:30 p.m.
- d. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

10. Adjourn

- a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer