

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday June 3, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building Auditorium

Supervisors in attendance: Jeff Goforth, Vicky Porter,

Tommy Porter

Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan, Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinshenker,

Amy Cook, Rick McSwain

1. Call to Order
 - a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:30 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 Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
6. Approval or Correction of May 6, 2025, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the May 6 meeting as written.
7. Approval or Correction of May 14, 2025, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the May 14 meeting as written.
8. Informational Items
 - a. Partner Report
 - i. Rick McSwain gave the partner report. Rick discussed that extensions for cost share programs no longer need to be

presented at commissioner meetings, and instead ask David Williams to approve them.

- ii. Rick discussed that flash grazing for cattle is now allowed in exclusion areas for 48 hours, twice a year.
- iii. Rick discussed that Daniel McClellan will be judging the Farm Family of the Year contest. Only 4 farms were submitted in Area VIII.
- iv. Rick discussed that there are 2 vacancies in the Division that available.

b. Education Report

- i. Abby Weinshenker gave the education report. Abby informed the Board that The Department of Environmental Education is still not in the State Senate budget but has been reintroduced to the House of Representatives Budget. Abby asks the Board to advocate to the state senate about this critical resource.
- ii. Abby discussed attending the Grow More training, hosted by the National Wildlife Federation. The train focused on improving outreach and communications with the agricultural industry.

c. Supervisor's Communications Report

- i. Daniel McClellan gave the Supervisor's Report. Daniel informed the Board that the Great Plains Drill is in Monroe, NC. The drill is waiting for final payment, then will be brought to the District. The demonstration day will be July 29 at the Cooperative Extension Ag Celebration Dinner.

d. StRAP Report

- i. Daniel McClellan gave the StRAP report. Daniel informed the Board that the District has a list of landowners that have inquired about the program and has asked the Board permission to apply for future funding.
- ii. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the Board moved to approve the District presenting the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners to seek permission to apply for StRAP Funding.

e. CCAP Report

- i. Daniel McClellan gave the CCAP report. Daniel informed the Board about a subdivision in Midland where a stormwater pipe is causing erosion. Daniel told the Board that there are 11 acres draining into this yard and grading was not done properly. The residents had previously tried to repair the stormwater pipe, but the repairs have failed. Vicky Porter discussed how the former sediment erosion control and watershed improvement commission used to help prevent these problems before they

were given to the state. Rick McSwain told the Board that it is difficult to get a CCAP Project funded but said to make a motion to proceed seeking funding.

1. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth and carried unanimously the Board moved to approve that the District apply for CCAP funding for this project.

f. Division Funds Report

- i. Chuckie Bass gave the Division Funds report. Chuckie informed the Board that contract 13-2025-001 has drilled the well and submitted a request for payment.
- ii. Chuckie informed the Board that contract 13-2024-002 has poured the concrete pad and submitted a request for payment.
- iii. Chuckie informed the Board that the District is waiting to hear from Cultural Resources for contract 13-2025-002.

g. Conservation Easements Report

- i. Amy Cook gave the Conservation Easements report. Amy informed the Board that she has heard back from the ADFP Trust Fund Advisory Committee. The applications ranked 3 and 7 out of 114 applications and that All Growth Zone applications are tentatively funded, but the Committee is waiting to hear about the state budget.
- ii. Amy informed the Board that the Sam Davis easement is still waiting on the survey and may need an extension. The results are due September 30. Tommy Porter said he will give Sam Davis a phone call to discuss this.
- iii. Amy Cook discussed that the District recently monitored its Agricultural Easements and found no issues.
- iv. Amy asked the Board about the Districts policy to only accept easement applications for cows fenced out of creeks because other easement applications throughout the state allowed for cows in the creek. Tommy Porter said it is still our policy, but if an application for an easement on high quality farmlands came in but allowed cows in the creek, then the application is allowed.
- v. Amy asked the Board permission to apply for future funding for conservation easement applications and to ask the County Commissioners for permission.
- vi. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously the Board moved to approve the District presenting the Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners to seek permission to apply for conservation easement funding.

9. Clarke Creek Conservation Easement and Ramseur Park with Greenway

- i. Sheila Lowry, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Concord, and George Berger, Senior Greenways and Parks Planner, attended the meeting to present plans for a greenway that will pass through the Clarke Creek Conservation Easement.
- ii. Vicky Porter introduced the Board and opened the floor for discussion.
- iii. Daniel McClellan reviewed the greenway plans, noting that the project has received approval from the state's Land and Water Fund. He also discussed the current property rights and usage.
- iv. George Berger explained that the initial phase includes a 1.6-mile segment of an overall 5.2-mile greenway. The greenway will connect Ramseur Park with nearby neighborhoods and schools, which is expected to reduce road traffic.
- v. Sheila Lowry added that increased walkability would help reduce local carbon emissions. George also mentioned that the greenway would feature wildlife viewing areas with overlooks to ensure safe observation without direct interaction.
- vi. Sheila noted the District's potential to use the greenway for educational purposes, with access and parking at Ramseur Park. However, a natural trail will need to be developed within the easement itself.
- vii. Jeff Goforth informed the City that the Board supports the greenway design but would prefer to transfer the property title to the City of Concord, as the District currently holds it.
- viii. Sheila responded that the City would need copies of the title and easement rights documents to review any existing restrictions. She confirmed the City would support the District's continued use of the property as an outdoor classroom. However, an official presentation to the City Council would be necessary, and a supervisor from the District should be present. Sheila stated that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be required and must undergo legal review prior to presentation.
- ix. Jeff explained that the request for property transfer is due to concerns over liability associated with increased foot traffic, which the District is not equipped to manage.
- x. George agreed on the need for an MOU and mentioned that nearby homeowners' associations have also expressed safety concerns and a desire for regular park patrols. He reiterated the importance of legal involvement and the need for an updated property survey before presenting to the City Council.

- xi. Jeff emphasized that the Board will not approve the greenway easement unless the property is officially transferred to the City, citing liability issues.
- xii. Sheila stressed the urgency of moving forward due to grant deadlines. Once the survey and legal review are complete and the MOU is accepted, the earliest possible presentation to City Council would be in July or August. She also asked about the existing dock on the property and whether the District intends to keep it, as the greenway route will pass nearby.
- xiii. Once all approvals are in place, the District will convene a special meeting to initiate the property transfer.

10. New Business

- a. Chuckie informed the Board that he conducted spot checks on May 12 with Mitch Haigler, and no issues were found.
- b. Chuckie Bass discussed application 13-2025-003 for Heavy Use Area.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the application.
- c. Chuckie Bass presented the contract 13-2025-003 to the Board.
 - i. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

11. Public Comment

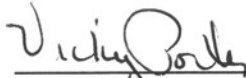
- a. No public comments.

12. Closed Session

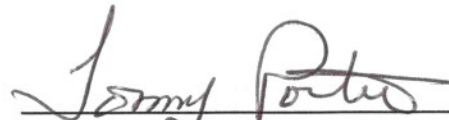
- a. At 6:51 p.m., Vicky Porter, Chair, handed the Board over to Jeff Goforth. Jeff Goforth made a motion to move into closed session.
- b. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Vicky Porter, and carried unanimously, the board moved to go to closed in session in pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) 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 plan, UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, and seconded by Vicky Porter, the session moved to return to open meeting at 6:52 p.m.
- d. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

13. Adjourn

- a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer