CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Tuesday August 4, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
715 Cabarrus Ave W, Concord, NC 28027
Supervisors in attendance: Vicky Porter,
Tommy Porter, Eddie Moose, Mitch Haigler,
Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan, Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinshenker,
Rick McSwain, Commissioner Laura Lindsey

1. Call to Order
    a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:28 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 by the Board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
6. Approval or Correction of June 2, 2026, Minutes
    a. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the Board moved to approve the minutes of the June 2 meeting as written.
7. Information Items
    a. Partner Report
        i. Rick McSwain gave the partner report for the Division. Rick reported that the state has approved a budget and that an extra 2 million dollars was allocated for cost-share programs and 48.9 million dollars was allocated for conservation easements with 2 million in reoccurring funds each year.
        ii. Rick reminded the Board that the Southeastern NACD will be in Cherokee this year.

iii. Rick informed the Board that there was a commission meeting two weeks prior and there was a discussion of allocating part of the extra cost-share money for a biochar program that does not have enough grant funding. Each district will potentially lose some money in their cost-share allotments as a result. The biochar grant uses debris from Hurricane Helene, creates jobs, and pays farmers that are using biochar on their lands while improving soil health.
iv. Rick informed the Board that there is a District issues meeting on August 27 in Davie County from 10am to 12pm.
v. Rick informed the Board that will be some changes in safety rules that can impact residents in the county that have a pond on their property.
vi. Rick informed the Board that David Williams is retiring on October 1.

b. <u>Education Report</u>
   i. Abby Weinsheker gave the education report. Abby informed the Board that she hosted two professional developments in early July: Project Wet and Project Learning Tree. Abby discussed that the Department of Environmental Education was cut from the state budget, and that it is what provides a lot of support for when she hosts workshops. She discussed that the department benefits formal and nonformal educators by connecting them to needed resources and training.
   ii. Abby informed the Board that she assisted with county park summer camps.
   iii. Abby informed the Board that Creek Week planning is underway and will take place September 25 to October 3 and is sponsored by Subaru Concord this year.
   iv. Abby informed the Board that she has been working with the school district on varying professional developments on capped teacher workdays.
   v. Abby informed the Board that the Southern Piedmont Envirothon Committee toured Catawba College and had a discussion whether the Southern Piedmont Envirothon would be hosted there again.

c. <u>Supervisor's Communications Report</u>
   i. Daniel gave the supervisor's communications report. Daniel informed the Board that the transfer of the Clarke Creek easement to the City of Concord is complete, and that the District has an MOU with them for educational events to take place on the property.

d. StRAP Report
    i. Daniel McClellan gave the StRAP report. He informed the Board that he had not heard more about StRAP funding.
e. Division Funds Report
    i. Chuckie Bass gave the division funds report. Chuckie informed the Board that Sutter and Eudy are waiting to hear back from cultural resources.
    ii. Chuckie informed the Board that Lost Acres and Richard Suggs have completed the requests for payment and are waiting on the state.
    iii. Chuckie informed the Board that he will be applying for a supplement for a contract from fiscal year 2026, and that fiscal year 2025 is complete.
f. Conservation Easement Report
    i. Daniel McClellan gave the conservation easement report. Daniel informed the Board that the Wilburn Williams Family Farms easements are underway and that the initial survey is complete. The survey is waiting for state review.
    ii. Daniel informed the Board that the Sam Davis easement is working on the appraisal.
    iii. Daniel informed the Board that Rick and Steve Earnhardt are starting projects with Agricultural Growth Zone funds and are awaiting state approval.
    iv. Daniel informed the Board that the Helms application received federal and state funding. Amy Cook will have to present the contracts to the Commissioners of the county.
    v. Daniel informed the Board that the District will be applying for another round of Agricultural Growth Zone funds and asked the county for $600,000 from the back tax fund as matching funds. It is on the consent agenda for later in August for the Commissioners.
    vi. Daniel informed the Board that the District has been granted a cost-of-services grant.

8. New Business
    a. Abby presented the annual report for fiscal year 2026.
        i. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the Board moved to approve the 2026 annual report.

9. Public Comment

No public comments.

10. Adjourn

a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Mitch Haigler, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

Vicky Porter

Vicky Porter, Chairperson

Tommy Porter

Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer