

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday March 3, 2020 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building

**Supervisors in attendance: Vicky Porter, Tommy Porter, Jeff Goforth, Ned Hudson,
Zach Moffitt**

**Others in attendance: Kelly Sifford (department head), Daniel McClellan (staff),
Chuckie Bass (staff), Tammi Remsburg (staff), Grayson Sarif (NRCS), Lynn Shue (BOC liaison),
Patty Shue (guest)**

(1) Call to Order

Vicky Porter read the following statement to open the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

“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.” Hearing none, she moved on to item #2.

(2) Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth and passed unanimously, the Board moved to approve the agenda as written.

(3) Approval or Correction of Minutes for January 28, 2020 Meeting

UPON MOTION of Zach Moffitt, seconded by Tommy Porter and passed unanimously, the Board moved to accept the minutes for January 28, 2020 as written.

(4) Informational Items

4.1 Education/Communications Report

Tammi Remsburg reported that she, Vicky and Daniel went to give the Cabarrus SWCD Conservation Teacher of the Year award to Ashleigh Miller in front of her peers this morning. In addition, Leah Long, from Concord High had sent an email about wanting to apply for the RCW scholarship. Since we received it too late for the last Board meeting, and we had a deadline to get her registered, we had her come in and talk with staff on why she wanted to attend. We decided to sponsor her as well as the previous candidate. Tammi also reported 16 Envirothon teams and over 2400 students participated in the annual contests.

4.2 NRCS Update

Grayson Sarif reported that a job posting for the 4th staff member was out until April. He reported that there were a handful of EQUIP and CSP applications in for Cabarrus County. He is waiting to see if they are chosen to fund.

4.3 Division Funds Report

Chuckie Bass reported that he had tried to contact M. Bost about Ag Cost Share contract #13-2019-002. After staffs' repeated attempts to contact him, the Board discussed the matter. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Ned Hudson and passed unanimously, the Board moved to send a letter to the producer cancelling the contract, due to lack of communication on his part.

4.3.a Bullock Project Update

Daniel McClellan reminded the Board of the T. Bullock CCAP contracts # 13-2019-501 and 13-2020-501 that were requested for payment in the December 3, 2019 meeting. The payments were made based on a letter from Cindy Safrit, one of the Division of Soil and Water engineers. The homeowner had the contractor (which was recommended by Ms. Safrit), do some additional work in the yard beyond the scope of the grant project. He was not satisfied with the work and called Ms. Safrit back to the property to observe his issues. He was told that Ms. Safrit would send him a letter to give to the contractor to reduce the cost of the supplemental work due to it not being correctly done. Mr. Bullock didn't receive this letter until February. In the meantime, the contractor put a lien on his house for non-payment. The district is not obligated to intervene in this situation; however, since we wanted to make it right with the homeowner, a meeting happened with Ted Bullock, Jeff Young, Cindy Safrit, and Daniel McClellan. Jeff Young said that the cost share project was not functioning properly either. He has taken over this project. He wanted to know if the CSWCD Board would be willing to approve another contract from repair money to make the project functioning. The Board wanted Jeff Young to let staff know what needed to be done and what money was available to make the project correct.

4.4 Conservation Easement Report

Daniel McClellan reported that the Hill Easement was nearing completion-awaiting appraisal. The Barrier Easement appraisal has been sent a second time to NRCS. Since it is past the 90-day deadline for ADFP, Daniel will need to get a letter from the appraiser stating that it is still good. The Davidson Land Conservancy property has been put up for sale. The Easement may need to be re-written to be more specific about what can be done on the property. Our Board and the Three Rivers Land Trust will need to agree to changes in the easement.

4.5 Annual Meeting update

Ned Hudson and Jeff Goforth reported that the Annual Meeting was non-controversial. Jeff attended the Legislature Committee meeting and Ned attended the Education Committee meeting.

4.6 NACD Meeting update

Jeff Goforth reported that there were good sessions to go to and that it was great to see what others in similar suburban counties were doing. He said that in many parts of the country, they do not have Cost Share programs like ours. He wondered if we might be able to get NACD grants. Daniel said that they had tried in the past and it was very competitive. Jeff also asked if the state is offering incentive to keep natural resource college students in the state after graduation. We are not aware of anything.

(5) Old Business

5.1 Houston Property

Daniel McClellan reported that the property had been looked at on aerial maps and visited by staff and they see no way to access the property. Kelly Sifford suggested that the Houstons might need to see if they can land swap with the adjacent owner to create that access. The Board decided that better access would need to be found by the Houstons before they would consider taking the easement on.

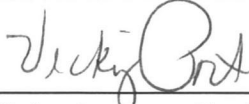
(6) New Business

6.1 Farm Family of the Year

Daniel McClellan reported that the Propst Family did not want to pursue the Farm Family of the Year at this time. Daniel had also talked to Bryan Cook and he would be willing to do District award only. Daniel will get in touch with him again and see if he would be willing to be passed on to the next step in the process.

(7) Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Ned Hudson, and passed unanimously, the Board moved to adjourn at 7:01 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chair



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer