

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday September 1, 2020 5:30 p.m.

On Conference Call Phone bridge due to Covid-19

Supervisors present: Vicky and Tommy Porter, Jeff Goforth, Ned Hudson, Jennifer Caligan

Others present: Lynn Shue (BOC liaison), Kelly Sifford (Department Head), Daniel McClellan (Staff), Tammi Remsburg (Staff), Chuckie Bass (Staff), Grayson Sarif (NRCS), Ralston James (Division S & W), Kevin May Jr (guest)

(1) Call to Order

Vicky Porter called the meeting to order at 5:40 due to connectivity problems with the phone bridge.

1.1 Invocation

Tommy Porter provided the invocation.

1.2 Conflict of interest statement

Vicky Porter read the conflict of interest statement:

“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, the meeting moved on.

(2) Approval of Agenda

UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the agenda with the following corrections: Add 5.3 Wilson Easement; Eliminate items 6.3c, 6.3d, 6.3e and 6.3f for applications and contracts not being ready; Add 6.4 Watershed Improvement Commission.

(3) Approval or Correction of Minutes for August 4, 2020 Meeting

UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the minutes for August 4, 2020 as written.

(4) Informational Items

4.1 Education/Communications Report

Tammi Remsburg reported that her virtual Food Land and People training has been so popular, that she and Breanna Walker from Union SWCD have turned it

into 3 separate trainings to accommodate. The sign for our Farm Family, Cook Cattle Farm is on order. The Area 8 Fall Meeting will be via virtual video call and optional phone call-in. It is October 14th at 10:00. Links will be sent out as they come in. There will also be a practice run date TBD. The NACD annual meeting is still scheduled in-person February 6-10 in New Orleans. Think about who could attend. Jennifer Caligan introduced herself as our new appointed board member, filling Zach Moffitt's unexpired term.

4.2 Division Funds Report

Chuckie Bass reported that without a state budget, cost share money has not been fully allocated. He expects more in the near future.

4.3 Conservation Easement Report

Daniel McClellan reported that the Oliver Hill Easement was still on a September 30 deadline for the state. Dick Fowler sent a notice that ADFP monitoring will be occurring this year.

4.4 Update on NRCS

Grayson Sarif reported that the new NRCS employee has started in Union County. There are about 2-4 contracts for each type of grant in Cabarrus County.

(5) Old Business

5.1 Area meeting venues (March 3, 2021 and October 13, 2021)

Tammi Remsburg presented the quotes from the food and event venues. After discussion it was decided to table the final decision until the Area 8 Executive Committee meeting in January. Jeff Goforth will present the options to that committee.

5.2 Barrier Easement

Daniel McClellan reported that the easement was closed on August 13th. This makes 4 conservation easements in that area of the county.

5.3 Wilson Easement

The district was sent a document "Waiver of Rights of First Refusal" for the Davidson Highway property that was discussed in previous meetings. After discussion on this waiver, UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter and carried unanimously, the Board moved to accept the Waiver of Rights of First Refusal. This will provide the first step to allow transfer of easement from

Cabarrus SWCD and Three Rivers Land Trust Inc. to Davidson Lands Conservancy upon sale of property.

(6) New Business

6.1 Annexing the Cox Mill property into Concord

Kelly Sifford explained that she is on the planning committee for the City of Concord's Cox Mill Road property adjacent to our Easement property. It would make things easier if we annexed into the city along with the city's property and part of the Cox Mill Elementary School property. There was discussion about access to our property and what can be done on it. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter and carried unanimously, the board voted to approve allowing staff to pursue the application for annexation of the easement property.

6.2 Update Policies

Tammi Remsburg presented the following policies that needed updating:

6.2a Election of Officers- It was decided to keep the December election due to board members rotating off at that time. The Statute will be changed to the right one (NCGS 139-7).

6.2b Seed Drill Rental-Item #4 (deposit of ½ acres) will be eliminated due to not being used. The \$50 deposit will be the only one required.

6.2c Work Schedule- It was suggested that the wording be made more generalized to allow for changes as needed to cover the office as much as possible.

6.2d Weed Wrench Loan- A deposit of \$25 was suggested to assure that they would be returned. The same process as the drill rental would allow better tracking.

UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the discussed changes to the policies and procedures.

6.3 Contracts

(Applicant #1) 13-2021-001 Lost Acres Farm LLC
(Sam Davis) Stream Exclusion Well Watering Tanks
NCACSP (Supplement to previous project (13-2020-009))

6.3a Application-UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Ned Hudson and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the application 13-2021-001 for Lost Acres Farm LLC.

6.3b Contract-UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Ned Hudson and carried unanimously, the Board moved to approve the contract 13-2021-001 for Lost Acre Farms LLC.

Chuckie Bass had asked to remove items: 6.3c Application, 6.3d Contract and 6.3e Application, 6.3f Contract due to them not being ready. This was done in item 2 of the meeting.

Spot checks need to be scheduled before the end of September. The Board asked the staff to send out possible dates and they will fill in. It was recommended that livestock areas be visited by different groups of spot checkers to help with bio-security.

6.4 Watershed Improvement Commission

Daniel McClellan led a discussion about the Watershed Improvement Commission (WIC). This board currently has no function for its existence. There was discussion on the subject. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Ned Hudson and carried unanimously, the Board moved to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners to disband the WIC.

(7) Public comment (3 minutes each)

Vicky Porter asked if there was any comments. None were presented.

(8) Adjourn

UPON MOTION of Ned Hudson, seconded by Tommy Porter and carried unanimously, the Board moved to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Vicky Porter, Chairperson

Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer