

CABARRUS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tuesday December 3, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Cabarrus County Extension Building Auditorium

Supervisors in attendance: Eddie Moose, Jeff Goforth, Vicky Porter,

Tommy Porter, Mitchell Haigler

Others in attendance: Daniel McClellan,

Chuckie Bass, Abby Weinschenker, Rick McSwain

1. Oaths of office are conducted for Thomas Porter and Edward Moose and notarized by Amy Cook at 5:33 p.m.
2. Call to Order
 - a. Vicky Porter started the meeting at 5:38 with the addition of Contract Application 13-2025-01.
3. Invocation
 - a. Tommy Porter gave invocation.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Approval of Agenda
 - a. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the agenda for the meeting.
7. Approval or Correction of November 5, 2024, Minutes
 - a. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the minutes of the November 5th meeting as written.
8. Informational Items
 - a. Partner Report
 - i. Rick McSwain discussed that the Master Agreement from the Division is in the works. Rick said that design sheets for cost share programs are going to be available online. Rick reminded the supervisors that the annual meeting is coming up in January 2025.

Rick discussed basic training dates, with the Piedmont training occurring on February 25, 2025.

b. Education Report

- i. Abby Weinshenker reminded the board about the new Facebook account for Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District.
- ii. Abby said that the Election of Officers need to be held for 2025.
 1. Abby Weinshenker asked for nominations from the Board for office of Chairperson of the Cabarrus Soil & Water Board. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, Vicky Porter was nominated for the position of chairperson. Abby asked for any other nominees and hearing none, the Board voted unanimously to elect Vicky Porter as Chair of the Board. Abby gave control of the meeting back to Vicky. Vicky Porter asked for nominees for Vice-Chair of the Cabarrus Soil & Water Board. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to elect Jeff Goforth as Vice-Chair of the Cabarrus Soil & Water Board. There were not any other nominees for this position. Asking for nominees for Secretary/Treasurer of the Cabarrus Soil & Water Board, there was only one name nominated. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Eddie Moose, and carried unanimously, the Board moved to elect Tommy Porter as Secretary/Treasurer of the Cabarrus Soil & Water Board.

c. Supervisor's Communications Report

- i. Daniel McClellan discussed the Save the Farm Workshop on April 17, 2025, and moneys allocated to host the workshop. He discussed the since no supervisors will be traveling to NACD this fiscal year, to defer the funds from the travel budget for supervisors to District Activities to host the event. Vicky Porter entertained the motion to defer funds and said that the workshop is necessary for farmland preservation. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to defer FY 2025 Travel Fund for Supervisors to District Activities for the Save the Farm Workshop.

d. Strap Update

- i. Daniel McClellan said that the Little Coldwater Creek project is underway, with Chuckie Bass to check in on the progress. Daniel said that the funds have been approved to be extended until December 2025.

e. Division Funds Report

- i. Chuckie Bass said that a program review from the state will be on December 4, 2024.
- ii. Chuckie has been working on the applications and contracts for 2025.

f. Conservation Easements Report

- i. Amy Cook said that state and federal applications for conservation easement funding have been submitted.

- ii. Amy said that the Sam Davis easement is underway and in the preliminary stages of surveying.
- iii. Amy said that she is planning to monitor the District's non-agricultural conservation easements within the next few weeks.
- iv. Amy discussed a potential donated conservation easement that has limited Right of Way access and is under a Forest Service Management Plan and PUV. Amy asked the board their opinion on if the District should accept the donated easement. Jeff Goforth said the board will entertain the donation once the title has a clearly marked Right of Way.

9. New Business

- a. Abby Weinschenker presented the finalized dates for board meetings for 2025. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously the board moved to approve the meeting dates for 2025.
- b. Chuckie Bass presented the application for 13-2025-001. UPON MOTION of Jeff Goforth, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the board moved to approve the application.

10. Public Comment

- a. No public comments.

11. Closed Session


- a. At 6:28 p.m., Vicky Porter, Chair, turned the meeting over to Jeff Goforth, Vice Chair.
- 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 Statute 139-8.2 and Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- c. After discussion of conservation plan, UPON MOTION Tommy Porter, seconded by Eddie Moose, the session moved to return to open meeting at 6:29 p.m.
- d. UPON MOTION of Eddie Moose, seconded by Tommy Porter, and carried unanimously, the conservation plan that was discussed in closed session was approved.

12. Adjourn

- a. UPON MOTION of Tommy Porter, seconded by Jeff Goforth, and carried unanimously, the board moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.



Vicky Porter, Chairperson



Tommy Porter, Secretary/Treasurer