

Minutes
Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
June 11, 2009

The Forsyth SWCD Board met at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2009 in the Forsyth County Agriculture Building, Auditorium A. The meeting was called to order by Grover McPherson, Chairman.

Present: Grover McPherson, Chairman
Toby Bost, Vice-Chairman
Ed Wall, Secretary-Treasurer
Steven Anderson, Member
Beth Tucker, Member
Mark Tucker, Director, Cooperative Extension
Mike Bowman, Soil & Water Conservationist
Linda Birdsong, Community Conservation Coordinator
Dede DeBruhl, District Conservationist

Minutes/Financial Report

Minutes of the regular session of the SWCD Board meeting on May 14, 2009 were reviewed. The minutes were approved as presented.

The Financial Report of the SWCD Board was reviewed. The item was approved as presented.

Forsyth County

Mark Tucker reported on the Lake Hills Dam Project. The county budget was amended in order to place the \$130000 awarded by DWR in the Soil and Water Conservation District's Board account. The \$130,000 has been received by the county and then reimbursed to Pilot View. DWR has also sent information indicating that the other \$170,000 that was requested for the project in the original grant request has also been approved. Tucker also indicated that the 09/10 budget for the county and for our Department has been approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Dede DeBruhl reported on recent activities. See attached report.

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Michelle Lovejoy was unable to attend the meeting and submitted a report for review by the board.

Grover McPherson updated members on state budget proceedings. Grover reported that the Executive Committee has approved a work plan and a request for proposals to hire a consultant to assist with the NCASWCD Executive Director position.

NC Agriculture Cost Share Program Report

Requests for Payment

A request for payment was presented from Karen Bruce for CPO 34-08-14-16 in the amount of \$4,190. Ed Wall made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Beth Tucker and was passed unanimously.

BMP Fund Audit

Mike Bowman reviewed the 2009 BMP Fund Audit with members. Beth Tucker made a motion for approval. The motion was seconded by Steven Anderson and was passed unanimously.

Old Business

RCW Student Application

Austin Willard, a rising sophomore at North Forsyth High School, will attend the RCW as the Forsyth district representative June 21-26 at NC State University.

BMP Demonstration Model

Toby Bost spoke with Forsyth Tech personnel about the construction of a portable BMP model for district use. Toby also received cost estimates from two construction companies. Steven Anderson will look into the possibility of having the building constructed by WSFCS Career Center students.

New Business

Staff and board conducted annual spot checks of ACSP and CCAP contracts.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

The next meeting date:

July 9, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

The Forsyth County Agriculture Building, Auditorium A

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

Chairman, Forsyth SWCD

cc: NCDENR: Division of Soil and Water
Michelle Lovejoy, Area 2 Coordinator
Kay Starns, NRCS Area 2 Secretary
Damon Sanders-Pratt, Deputy County Manager

NRCS REPORT

Forsyth SWCD Board Meeting – June 10, 2009

EQIP update – I did not have any applications (had a few inquiries) for the special organic sign-up that ended on 6/5/09. I did submit articles to the W-S Journal and the Stokes News.

I only have one contract that was funded under the regular EQIP sign-up. Remember that we did not have county allocations this year. Everyone competed statewide or area wide depending on the application.

I am currently busy with construction work on 4 existing contracts and trying to make payments in a timely matter. Lots of construction going on in Stokes so it's hard to schedule ahead of time. We are getting ready to undergo the quarterly audit process towards the end of this month.

Working with Edgar Miller and DWQ on WSP closure and getting “unpermitted”.

Visiting an EQIP farm today to check on practice status.

Have lots of 1026s to complete (HEL/wetland determinations). Also some work on CRP extensions.

FY 2010 Budget update – The House Ag Appropriations subcommittee is scheduled to vote on conservation spending this Thursday. The Obama administration is proposing spending caps on most of all the conservation programs. This would reduce spending levels that were set up in the 2008 Farm Bill. The 2008 Farm Bill included 4 billion dollars in increases for conservation over the 5 year lifespan of the Farm Bill. Under Obama's plan, most programs would still get more \$ on 2010 than they did in 2009 but this amount would still be below the funding levels set in the Farm Bill. Also, the Obama Administration proposes to eliminate the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Resource Conservation and Development Program. However, the subcommittee members have said that these two programs (which fall under discretionary spending, not farm bill) are popular in their districts. The previous administration tried to cut the watershed programs but was not successful.

I'll keep you posted.

Last Thursday, I learned (via email) that I will be getting a student intern again this summer. The intern is Kevin Gibson, same as last year. He is supposed to call me and let me know when he will report.