SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
Environment & Ag Center, Hillsborough

April 9, 2014

Board Members Present: Chris Hogan, Morris Shambley and Roger Tate

Employees in Attendance: Brent Bogue, Gail Hughes, Lisa Pope, Kenny Ray, Todd Roberts and Division Representative, Ralston James

Chairman, Chris Hogan, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

February 12, 2014 minutes were approved as submitted. Morris moved for approval, Roger seconded.

Education Update

Area III Envirothon was held on March 25 at Elon University. All Orange district staff members participated and assisted with this large educational event. Gail reported on the number of Orange County teams that participated in this year's Middle School/High School event.

Lisa expressed her appreciation to Chris, Karen and Morris for their participation in this year's "The Living Soil" Poster and Essay Reception which took place on April 8th. 55 students, student's families, teachers and staff were in attendance for the event.

Upcoming State Envirothon event is April 24-26 at Cedar Rock Park in Alamance County. All district staff members will assist with this program during the 3 day event.

Orange County Government's first annual Expo took place on Friday, April 4 at University Mall, Chapel Hill. Gail and Lisa met with local residents discussing Soil and Water programs offered by the office and DEAPR.

Earth Walk at Gravelly Hill Middle School will be held on April 17th. Gail and Lisa will present educational programs to all Gravelly Hill 7th graders.

Lisa will present "Dig It!" presentations to six 1st grade classes at New Hope Elementary on April 28th.

Lisa has been asked by Sandra Weitzel, Division State Ed Coordinator, to participate in the Environmental Educators of NC which is being hosting at/by the Southeastern Environmental Education Association's annual conference in Asheboro on September 19, 20, and 21. The Board agreed for Lisa to deliver FLP presentations on one of these dates, provided that it doesn't conflict with DEAPR's Farm to Table event.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA – NRCS)

District Conservationist, Brent Bogue, updated the Board on the following:

- On June 10th, a Piedmont Warm Season Grasses Workshop will be held at Frank Hollowell's farm. For more info, contact the Orange/Person County Cattleman's Association. The Board agreed to contribute $100 to sponsor a portion of the meal for this event. Roger agreed that this donation would come from the Matching Grant fund; Morris seconded.
- EEO Audit: Brent reported that N.C. NRCS field offices have been chosen this year for a Civil Rights/EEO Audit. This will take place the week of May 19-23. , Brent discussed the Memorandum of Understanding with NRCS and the County; each party agrees to follow and support federally related programs and policies related to EEO/Civil Rights. Any programs administered through NRCS must follow EEO guide lines. Brent discussed Civil Rights responsibilities for partners and reviewed check list with board members present. He also discussed Section 1619 Compliance. OSWCD Chairman, Chris Hogan, agreed to be present for the audit.
- Brent discussed with the Board the Farm Bill and what new things it holds for NRCS.

Agriculture Cost Share Program (N.C. ACSP)

Todd and Kenny submitted the following ACSP Contracts:

- **68-2014-004 Bill Lee**: 16.52 acres 5 year long term no till totaling $2,479. Roger moved to approve, Morris seconded.

- **68-2014-402 Milton Durham:** Stream Protection totaling $7,596. (Priority Ranking: 565). Roger moved to approve, Morris seconded.

Application Approval Request:

68-2014-006: Tom Wilson – 32.125 acres 5 year long term no till totaling $4,819.00. Morris moved to approve, Roger seconded.

Annual Ag Cost Share Spot Check has been set for May 14. Chris offered to work the morning shift. Morris suggested a breakfast board meeting with spot check immediately following. More info is forthcoming on this event.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) New Applications/Contracts

Gail submitted the following CCAP contracts and requests for payments:

- **68-14-501 – Chapel Hill High School:** Critical area seeding totaling $2,232. (Ranking: 120 pts.) Roger moved to approve, Morris seconded.

- **68-14-502 – Orange County Schools/Orange High:** Rain Garden and critical area seeding totaling $1,153 (Ranking: 110 pts.) Roger moved to approve, Morris seconded.

- **68-14-503-Orange County Schools/Efland Cheeks Community Center:** Rain Garden and critical area seeding totaling $1,096. (Ranking: 110 pts.) Morris moved to approve, Roger seconded.

Extension Request

- **68-2013-003 – Billy Rogers:** Due to poor weather conditions, Gail requested a six month extension on behalf of Mr. Rogers. Roger moved to approve extension, Morris seconded.

Falls Lake – Horse 319 Program

- **050 – Crooked Creek Farm – David Brooks:** Livestock exclusion fencing, water tanks, water line totaling $12,859. Morris moved to approve, Roger seconded.

NCDA/Division of Soil & Water Update

Regional Coordinator, Ralston James, updated the Board on the following details:

- Legislative Day is slated for May 22nd
- The NCASWCD Commission meeting will also be held on May 22
- June 2nd is the deadline for Ad Hoc Survey (regarding District Alignment) to be completed. This survey is forthcoming. Ralston encouraged all supervisors to take a moment to complete this important survey.
- State Envirothon will be held on April 25-26 at Cedar Rock Park, Burlington. Ralston encouraged supervisors to attend and volunteer if possible.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Lisa reviewed with the Board current account balances and expenditures.

Chris discuss with the staff and board on his meeting today with DEAPR Director, Dave Stancil. Dave updated Morris and Chris on the newest "space issues" regarding renovations to our current office space and building, etc.

Gail reported that she and Dave have requested that Orange County pay $2,500 PCC (Piedmont Conservation Council) Dues again for PY 2014-15.

Gail updated and reviewed with the Board the recent Orange County Ag Preservation Board Farm Applications for Voluntary Ag District (VAD) and EVAD (Enhanced VAD) applications.

Randolph County received a grant several years ago for a Quilt Trail, placing painted quilt designs on local barns as to promote tourism and historic/agriculture significance. PCC has inquired to see if other counties might be interested in pursuing a similar grant to continue the quilt "trail" to other NC counties. Gail requested the Board's input. Roger made a motion for Gail to pursue this grant; Morris seconded.

With no further discussion, meeting was adjourned.

By: Morris Shambley Morris Shambley, Secretary