

***ORANGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
Environment & Agricultural Center, Hillsborough, NC***

December 9, 2015

Board Members Present: Karen McAdams, Clay Parker and Roger Tate.

Employees in Attendance: Brent Bogue, Gail Hughes, Lisa Pope Kenny Ray, Todd Roberts, and guest, Don Cox.

Vice-Chair, K. McAdams, called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

The October 26, 2015 Minutes were approved as submitted. R. Tate moved for approval, C. Parker seconded.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

No new contracts at this time. Allocation for Orange County is \$6,583.00

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

NRCS District Conservationist, B. Bogue, reported that EQIP sign up ends in November. The majority of applications are for conservation assistance plans; transitioning to organic crops. Several forestry applications have been received. High Tunnels are still very popular and in high demand, Bogue reported.

Three teleconferences will be held, prior to Thanksgiving, regarding the reorganization of NRCS. Bogue is the acting/interim supervisor in his area at this time. The full time supervisory position has not yet been filled.

N.C. Ag Cost Share Program (N.C. ACSP)

T. Roberts, K. Ray and G. Hughes discussed the following ACSP Applications, Contracts and Request for Payments:

Requests for Payments ~ * Tentatively Approved

*** DDB Customs David Brooks – 68-2014-050:** Water tanks, water lines totaling \$5,203. (319 Falls Lake Horse Grant Funds) Parker moved to approve; Tate seconded.

***Michael Griffin – 68-2016-052:** Livestock Exclusion – Fencing totaling \$2,407. Tate moved to approve, Parker seconded.

Please Note: * Contracts tentatively approved based on completed work that meets specifications due to end of grant funding period is Dec. 31, 2015.)

Requests for Payment:

68-2015-007 – Fickle Creek Farm: Stream Protection (CS) includes water trough, waterline and fencing totaling \$2,743. Tate moved to approve, Parker seconded.

68-2016-001 – Bryant Neville: 8.57 acres sod-based rotation (CS) totaling \$1,500. Tate moved to approve; Parker seconded.

68-2016-006 – Milton Durham: 23.27 acres prescribed grazing (CS) totaling \$698. Parker moved to approve; Tate seconded.

New Applications

Elise Bortz – 68-2016-007: 0.5 acres Grassed Waterways. 540 pts. Parker moved to approve; Tate seconded.

68-2016-003 - Lee Hollowell: Stream Protection (CS) totaling \$3,872. Parker moved to approve, Tate seconded.

Additional allocation of funds received (two non-compliance refunds):

Contract No. 68-2006-24-09: \$1,333.00 refunded.

Contract No. 68-2005-05-09: \$357.00 refunded. Total refunded amount is \$1,690.00

New Contracts

68-2016-003 - Lee Hollowell: Stream Protection (CS) totaling \$3,872. Tate moved to approve, Parker seconded.

Elise Bortz – 68-2016-007: 0.5 acres Grassed Waterways. 540 pts. Tate moved to approve; Parker seconded.

Education Update

- Second Annual Blueberry Plant Sale is slated for February, 2016. Proceeds of sale will be used to support OSWCD Ed Outreach Programs. See L. Pope for details of sale.
- Farm to Table Two Day Event was cancelled due to heavy rains in the area during October. However, Pope was able to make the “We All Live in a Watershed” contest themed educational presentations to 125 fourth grade students at Cameron Park Elementary.
- The 2016 Poster, Essay & Speech Contests are underway and have been advertised to local schools and home school groups and through the county’s monthly newsletter made available to the public. This year’s theme is “We All Live in a Watershed”. The winners reception has been scheduled for February 16 and will be held the Food Lab.
- Pope reported that the District did not receive the Sierra Club Grant needed for the Blackwood Farm Discovery Trail. Since the Patterson Fund was created to use specifically for educational outreach purposes, the Board agreed to use funds from this account to begin trail project. Tate voted to spend up to \$3,000 on the

Discovery Trail from the Patterson Account; Parker seconded. The Board requested that credit be given to the Patterson's for their contributions (on signage at the park). The Board also requested that an estimate of building materials be created for the Board's approval at the next board meeting

- Pope updated board on her NC Environmental Education Certification. She attended the "Living Waters" Training at the Eno River State Park on November 18th.
- Hughes discussed with the Board the possibility of hosting the National Envirothon in N.C. in 2019. Funds will have to be raised. The Division has indicated that if event is held in Raleigh, the NCDA might be willing to donate funds and request staff members to volunteer. If N.C. is selected to host the National Envirothon, the Board is in favor. McAdams moved to support the National Envirothon event; Tate seconded.

Budget

Pope distributed information on current account balances and expenditures.

Hughes reported that new planning year is "gearing up" with January/February meetings scheduled with the Finance Department to discuss budgetary needs. Needs and requests for Soil & Water are due the end of February.

Today's meeting meal will be paid from the Due to Soil & Water account. Parker moved to approve \$80.00 to pay for today's meal; Tate seconded.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Pope reminded Board members of the upcoming NCASWCD Annual Meeting in Durham on January 3-5, 2016.

G. Hughes discussed the approved VAD and EVAD applications. The total acres of land placed in the VAD and EVAD programs now exceeds 10,000 acres in Orange County.

With no further discussion, meeting was adjourned. Minutes prepared by L. Pope.

By: _____
Morris Shambley, Secretary/Treasurer