

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

December 3, 2014

Board Members Present: Chris Hogan, Karen McAdams, Clay Parker, Morris Shambley and Roger Tate.

Employees in Attendance: Brent Bogue, Gail Hughes, Lisa Pope Kenny Ray, Todd Roberts, and Division Employee, Ralston James. Guest Speaker: New Hanover SWCD Chairman, Bill Hart (CCAP).

Chairman, C. Hogan, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., immediately following Christmas Breakfast.

October 22, 2014 Minutes were approved as submitted. M. Shambley moved for approval, R. Tate seconded.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

G. Hughes discussed unencumbered funds; she currently has a waiting list of landowners who need CCAP funds and are waiting for them.

G. Hughes requested job approval authority for back yard rain gardens from the Division of Soil and Water. She has completed three (3) backyard rain garden designs which is a requirement for job approval authority for Back Yard Rain Garden Design and Installation. K. McAdams moved to approve; C. Parker seconded. Next month, G. Hughes, will send designs and other paperwork for the S&W Commission for approval.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Update

NRCS District Conservationist, B. Bogue, reported that Farm Bill information for the year has begun to “roll out”. It has been reported that approximately \$4 million will be cut. Hopefully no offices will be closed due to budget cuts.

Farm Bill meetings were held at Schley Grange Hall on November 10th to familiarize local farmers/landowners on the new Farm Bill Regulations, farm plans, programs offered, etc. B. Bogue updated the staff and board on the importance of having farmers complete their 1026's; being sure they have crops listed for insurance purposes. Dropping farms or picking up farms must be noted by FSA due to subsidy insurance requirements.

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

T. Roberts and K. Ray discussed the following ACSP Contracts/Request for Payments:

- M. Shambley – 68-2015-004: 13.0 acres 41 month sod based rotation cost share totaling \$2,275. R. Tate moved to approve, C. Parker seconded.

- M. Shambley – 68-2105-006: 5.51 acres 41 month sod based rotation totaling \$964.00. C. Parker moved to approve; K. McAdams seconded.

PLEASE NOTE: M. Shambley abstained from the vote for the two above contracts.

Taylor Fish Farm Update: Installation has begun, NCACSP staff reported. Pump installed. Electrical installation is forthcoming. Completion date is ASAP.

Staff members, Ray and Roberts, presented to the Board the **NCDA New District Master Agreements for Matching Funds and Technical Assistant Funds**. The completed contract is due to the Division by March 31, 2015. Chairman, C. Hogan, has authority to sign contract on behalf of board. M. Shambley moved to approve, K. McAdams seconded.

The Division of S&W Secondary Employment Policy and Procedures document was discussed with the Board. M. Shambley moved to approve; C. Parker seconded.

Master Agreement was approved. M. Shambley moved to adopt and approve agreement as proposed by the NCASWCD Commission; C. Parker seconded.

Education Update

- First Annual Blueberry Plant Sale is slated for February 7, 2015. 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 a big success with over 500+ local 4th graders in attendance. G. Hughes & L. Pope presented educational programs.
- Earth Walk: “Wetlands are Wonderful!” Presentations made by Hughes/Pope to Stanback and Stanford Middle School 7th grade students
- Poster, Essay & Speech Contests are underway. Speech Contest will be held tomorrow in the Food Lab. Receiving posters from a variety of grades. Winners Reception is TBA.
- Pope updated board on her NC Environmental Education Certification. Board approved for her to attend a free Project WILD workshop with overnight travel on November 5. C. Parker moved to approve travel and hotel costs (hotel \$77.97 with tax) from the travel expense account; R. Tate seconded.
- Hughes met with AP Earth Environmental Science high school students for a two day stream restoration class.
- This past year, OSWCD educators, Hughes and Pope, have presented environmental education programs to over 1,000+ students.

Budget

L. Pope distributed information on current account balances and expenditures.

NACD Dues were voted upon. K. McAdams moved to approve \$775 from Dues Account; C. Parker seconded.

Pope requested the Board to consider reimbursing C. Hogan for numerous travels to district office from his home. On behalf of the board, Chairman C. Hogan, attended Local Working Group Meeting on September 10; met with DEAPR Director and miscellaneous meetings with staff to discuss work related issues. M. Shambley approved to reimburse C. Hogan from the Matching Grant Funds; C. Parker seconded.

Miscellaneous Discussion

Pope reminded Board members of the upcoming NCASWCD Annual Meeting in Greensboro in January, 2015.

C. Hogan discussed his decision to seek the NCASWCD Second Vice President position. K. McAdams made a motion that the Board compose a letter of support for Hogan; M. Shambley seconded. L. Pope will handle necessary arrangements for support letter.

New Hanover SWCD Chairman, Bill Hart, met with the board today to request their support of the CCAP Program which may be in jeopardy at this time. After some discussion, Mr. Hart requested that the Orange SWCD Board of Supervisors attend CCAP Committee Meeting at the Annual Meeting next month.

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

By: _____
Morris Shambley, Secretary/Treasurer