

BOARD MINUTES

ORANGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT Environment & Agricultural Building, Hillsborough

September 9, 2015

Supervisors Present:

Chris Hogan, Chairman
Morris Shambley, Treasurer
Clay Parker, Supervisor

Others Present:

Brent Bogue, NRCS
Gail Hughes, Soil Con
Kenny Ray, Soil Con
Todd Roberts, Soil Con
Lisa Pope, Admin Asst.

Chairman, C. Hogan, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. immediately following the Local Working Group Meeting.

August 12, 2015 Minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted. C. Parker moved for approval, M. Shambley seconded.

Educational Update

The Board discussed the need to increase **Area III Educational Dues** with rising costs of educational events such as the Area Envirothon. The Area III Educational Dues have remained at a consistent \$50 for 20+ years with no increases. The board was in favor to increase the Area III Educational Dues from \$50 to \$100. A formal vote will be taken at the Area III Fall Meeting on October 21, 2015 in Chatham County.

Farm To Table: This year's educational outreach program will be held at the Blackwood Farm Park on September 30th and October 1st. 450+ Chapel Hill-Carrboro/Orange County School 4th grade students are expected to attend. L. Pope has secured donations from Farm Bureau and Carolina Farm Credit totaling \$1,500. to offset cost of event. Pope and Hughes are involved in assisting the DEAPR Educational/Programming Team with this event as well as serving as resource presenters.

Discovery Trail at the Blackwood Farm Park: Pope is working with the DEAPR Parks Division on a hands-on educational trail. Plans for trail have been approved by D. Derby and D. Stancil. More information on this project is forthcoming from Pope.

N.C. State Fair: Volunteers are badly needed for this year's event. Pope requested Board members to consider volunteering at the S&W booth October 15-25. Hughes and Pope will work the booth on October 20th.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Bogue gave N.C. NRCS restructuring update: Teleconference was held two weeks ago to discuss how supervisory positions will be filled based on seniority, experience and years of

service. Bogue stated that he was offered the “Super DC” position for region but declined the supervisor position. He feels that he can be of more help in the field assisting landowners, other NRCS staff/District staff members in his area. District Conservationists will have collateral duties; more information on this is forthcoming. No one will lose their jobs during restructuring process.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

There are no new contracts at this time and no CCAP funding allocated at this time; waiting on legislators to approve budget.

319 Horse Fund Application and Contract Approval

68-2016-051 – Mike Griffin & Frances Griffin: Stream Protection System/Livestock Exclusion and water tank. CS = \$2,775. (Separate cost share funds for horses)

- ✓ Shambley moved to approve application; Parker seconded.
- ✓ Shambley moved to approve contract approval, Parker seconded.

Cost Share Program (N.C. ACSP)

Roberts & Ray discussed and reviewed the PY 2015-2016 Priority Worksheet. Shambley moved to approve proposed worksheet; Parker seconded.

The Board moved to approve all applications including Limited Resource Farmers and New and Beginning Farmers at the 75% cost share rate. Shambley moved to approve; Parker seconded.

68-2014-010 – Cedar Grove Farm: Hughes discussed Stock trail, water tank system. This contract is a request for payment and was approved at the August Board Meeting for a maximum of \$8,500. Corrected actual amount is \$7,678. Shambley moved to approve; Parker seconded.

Application & Contract PY 2016

- **68-2016-001 – Bryant Neville:** 8.5 acres 41 month sod-base rotation (CS) totaling \$1,488. Ranking: 510. Parker moved to approve; Shambley seconded.
- **68-2016-002 – Roger Tate:** 1.02 acres Grassed Waterways/.42 acres field borders (CS) totaling \$3,290. Ranking: 495. Parker moved to approve; Shambley seconded.
- **68-2016-003 – Lee Hollowell:** Stream Protection System (CS) totaling \$2,772. Ranking: 485. Parker moved to approve; Shambley seconded.
- **68-2016-004 – Russell Walker:** Stream Protection System totaling \$7,921. (CS). Ranking: 485. Parker moved to approve; Shambley seconded.
- **68-2016-005 – Mickey Clayton:** .51 acres Grassed Waterways & .27 acres Field Borders totaling \$1,509. (CS) Ranking: 445. Parker moved to approve; Shambley seconded.

NOTE: The Board approved the above applications separate from the approval of above contracts.

Request for Payment

- **68-2013-401: Milton Durham:** Prescribed Grazing (JL) \$3,300. Shambley moved to approve; Parker seconded.

Budget and Other Miscellaneous Discussion

G. Hughes discussed Budget. L. Pope provided the Board with current account balances.

Voluntary Ag Program: Hughes reported on the newest VAD applications which include:

- W&F Family Farm, LLC
- Francis Griffin
- Mike, Edward & Katherine Griffin
- Claude Hughes & Linda Sakiewicz
- **Total VAD acres to date is: 281.39**

Division Update

NCDA/Division Regional Coordinator, Ralston James, updated the Board on the following:

- Area III Fall Meeting in Chatham County on October 21. More information from Chatham SWCD is forthcoming.
- Resolutions at the Area III Fall Meeting will include discussion on consistency amongst Treasurers (i.e.: Keep the same Area Treasurer instead of changing each year).
- Julie Groce is the new Executive Director for the NCASWCD.

With no more discussion meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

By: _____ Morris Shambley, Secretary/Treasurer