



MINUTES OF MEETING
HANOVER-CAROLINE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Hanover, Virginia February 10, 2009

Board Members Present:

Donald L. Wells – Chair / Director
Mac Saphir – Secretary / Director
Bruce Cauthorn – Treasurer / Director
Bill Orrock - Director

Park Dodd – Director
Leigh Pemberton – Associate Director
Tim Etheredge – Associate Director

Staff Present:

Sharon Conner – District Manager
Marian Moody - Conservation Specialist
Jim Tate – Conservation Specialist
Rebecca Jones – Education Specialist
Ann Edmonds – Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Wayne Davis – Department of Conservation and Recreation
David Nunnally – Caroline County Senior Environmental Planner
Mike Flagg – Hanover County Director of Public Works

Absent:

Joe Stepp – Vice Chair / Director
Rose Bradshaw – Associate Director
Brian Wooden - Natural Resource Conservation Service
Dave Terwilliger - Department of Forestry

Call to Order:

The February 2009 meeting of the Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District was held in the Hanover USDA Service Center Conference Room on Tuesday, February 10, 2009. Mr. Wells called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

Secretary Report:

The minutes of the January 2009 meeting were presented as e-mailed to the Directors. A motion was made by Mr. Dodd and duly seconded by Mr. Cauthorn to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for January 2009 was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Saphir to file the January 2009 Treasurer's Report for audit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cauthorn and the motion carried.

Agency Reports:

Department of Conservation and Recreation:

Mr. Davis' report was provided in the packet.
The next JED meeting is Feb 26th. Mr. Davis expressed the need for training at the JED meetings to attract district employees, helping technical employees to achieve the required Level 1 certification.
Mr. Davis noted regional training on the FY 2010 VACS program on May 18th and regional training on the 2010 Tracking Program June 4th

Cooperative Extension:

Mr. Saphir reported:

February 18th - Water Quality Clinic for Caroline and King George County results will be reviewed.

February 20th - Mr. Saphir will be speaking at the Caroline Farm Program Meeting at Mattaponi Springs. Ms. Bradshaw will be speaking at the Hanover Farm Program Meeting at Michelle's Tavern February 13th.

February 20th - Mr. Saphir will participate in meeting with Alan Partin.

May 13th - The Fredericksburg Livestock Show

February 25th - Richmond Area Vegetable Growers Conference

Hanover County:

Mr. Flagg thanked the District staff for their help and support with the many land disturbance issues that the District and the county are dealing with. Mr. Flagg expressed the need to continue to work together to assist landowners in the best practices for conservation.

Caroline County:

Mr. Nunnally thanked the District for their prompt response to review and update, with SWCD information, the natural resources section of Caroline County's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Nunnally reported that the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board has directed the DCR staff to re-visit the results of the report from DCR on Caroline County's Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

NRCS:

Report from Brian Wooden was handed out.

District Business:

2009 Ag BMP Cost-share Program Report:

Ms. Conner reported that all cost-share funds have been allocated.

Payments continue to be made.

Ms. Conner stated that NRCS is requiring Environmental Evaluation forms for all practices, adding considerable work load to the District, DGIF and DCR.

Ms. Conner discussed the problem of biosolids companies and private planners both providing nutrient management conservation plans for the same tract. DCR requires that one plan be provided for each practice. An audit will be conducted to resolve this issue. The District and NRCS have complete several site visits.

Ms. Conner stated that Eagle Point Farm has not committed to their proposed grazing system conservation plan thus holding up cost-share funds.

A motion was made by Mr. Cauthorn to send a letter to Eagle Point Farm stating that the district requires a commitment and implementation of the plan by March 10th, in order to retain the cost-share funds. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd and the motion carried. Mr. Wells requests a letter be sent, from the District, to Darrell Marshall, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and copy to Roy E. Seward urging conclusion on the Ag Stewardship Act complaint against Eagle Point Farm.

State Ag BMP Cost-Share Advisory Committee Update:

Mr. Tate participated in a conference call meeting. He reported:

Several sub-committees have been formed to review the BMP program.

Mr. Tate reviewed some of the proposed changes to the program.

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Plans:

Ms. Moody presented two plans for approval:

Dr. Surya Dhakar T 10472 Hanover

Monique Gautreaux/William Hetterscheidt T 10475 Hanover

A motion was made by Mr. Saphir to approve the Dhakar plan and to amend the Gautreaux plan to adequately address the erosion potential on the property and to require enough control measures. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd and the motion carried. The revised Gautreaux plan will be presented at the March board meeting.

Ms. Moody stated that the Rural Land Disturber Workshop will be held March 11, 2009 at Michelle's at Hanover Tavern.

Education Program Report:

Ms. Jones reported:

Local Envirothon will be held at Camp Hanover on March 24th.

Judges are needed for the oral presentation.

MWEE Survey has been sent to 6 teachers from Hanover and Caroline Counties.

A strategic planning meeting will be held to compile results and prepare a curriculum.

Earth Day/Rainbarrel Workshop will be held in conjunction with the Master Gardener's plant sale on April 18th. The District will have a booth and sell bird boxes. We will also provide a presentation and demonstration of construction of rain barrels.

Ms. Conner added:

The District will be involved with the education aspect and planting of the 5 acres of wetlands planting at the Meadow Farm.

Ms. Conner and Ms. Jones attended the BSA conservation committee meeting.

The District will be working with Fort AP Hill on a conservation project for the boy scouts, relating to the Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge.

Legislative Update:

Mr. Wells reviewed the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation 2009 Legislative Tracking Report #4 and #4a, which is included in the packets. Mr. Wells made note of the changes and the status of the proposed legislation.

Tributary Strategies Reports:

James River:

Ms. Jones attended the steering committee meeting on January 9th to plan the Annual Roundtable Meeting which will be held March 12th at Longwood University. She has also participated via e-mail in changes to bylaws and planning of the Annual Meeting topics.

York:

Ms. Edmonds had nothing new to report.

Rappahannock River:

Mr. Saphir reported that the nonpoint source work group is working on market based solution for water quality improvement.

Mr. Saphir reported that he will be presenting, for education, the results of the Rappahannock River Basin Summit to several localities.

Other Business:

The education committee will meet prior to the March board meeting 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. to review scholarship applications.

There being no further business, Mr. Wells adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Correspondence in Packets:

- DCR Activity Report
- NRCS Report
- SWCD Staff Activity Reports
- Treasurer's Report
- Legislative Report #4, #4a

UPCOMING EVENTS

- District meetings -** March 10, 2009 April 14, 2009 May 19, 2009
- Farm Program Meeting – Hanover; Michelle’s Restaurant
- Farm Program Meeting – Caroline; Mattaponi Springs
- Eastern VA Forage Conference – February 21, 2009; New Kent Middle School, 8:30 am
- Area III Envirothon Training – February 21, 2009; Henricopolis SWCD
- Richmond Area Vegetable Growers Conference – February 25, 2009
- VA Horse Forage Conference – March 3, 2009; Charlottesville
- Land Disturber Workshop – March 11, 2009; Michelle’s Restaurant
- Meadow Farm Wetlands Project – Early March
- VA Water Monitoring 2008 Conference – March 20, 2009; Richmond
- Area III Meeting Meeting – April 2, 2009; Petersburg Country Club
- Local Envirothon Competition – March 24, 2009; Camp Hanover
- Earth Day Event/Rainbarrel Workshop – April 18, 2009; DSS Facility
- Area III Envirothon – April 30, 2009; Dorey Park
- District 5-year Strategic Planning – May 12, 2009
- Master Gardener/Naturalist Farm Training – May 2009

Respectfully submitted:

Ann Edmonds, Administrative Assistant

Date Approved

Donald Wells, Chairman

Date Approved

Mac Saphir, Secretary

Date Approved