



MINUTES OF MEETING
HANOVER-CAROLINE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Hanover, Virginia September 15, 2009

Board Members Present:

Donald L. Wells – Chair / Director
Joe Stepp – Vice Chair / – Director
Bill Orrock – Director

Bruce Cauthorn – Treasurer / Director
Mac Saphir – Secretary / Director
Park Dodd - Director

Staff Present:

Sharon Conner – District Manager
Jim Tate – Conservation Specialist
Ann Edmonds – Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Wayne Davis – Department of Conservation and Recreation
Robert Bennett - Department of Conservation and Recreation
Mike Flagg – Hanover County Director of Public Works
Brian Wooden – NRCS
David Nunnally – Caroline County Senior Environmental Planner

Absent:

Dave Terwilliger - Department of Forestry
Marian Moody - Conservation Specialist
Rebecca Jones – Educational Specialist
Leigh Pemberton – Associate Director
Rose Bradshaw – Associate Director
Tim Etheredge – Associate Director

Call to Order:

The September 2009 meeting of the Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District was held in the Hanover USDA Service Center Conference Room on Tuesday, September 15, 2009. Mr. Wells called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Secretary Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report for August 2009 was presented. Ms. Edmonds reviewed the report. Mr. Orrock made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Dodd to approve the August treasurers report. The motion was approved.

Agency Reports:

Department of Conservation and Recreation:

Mr. Davis' report was provided in the packet.

Mr. Davis referred to Governor Kaine's FY 2010 budget reduction plan, pages 40 & 41, provided in the packets, which reflects the reduction to DCR and the districts.

Mr. Davis distributed the Assessment of SWDC Compliance with the FY08-09 Scope of Services for DCR Operating Funds and commended Hanover-Caroline district for their work and the excellent committee structure in place.

Mr. Davis and Mr. Tate completed spot-checks, in which Mr. Tate reported one producer, Engel Family Farms, out of compliance on a 5 yr contract. Following a discussion of how to handle the situation, a motion was made by Mr. Orrock to start the no-till program, on that field, over beginning with the FY 2010 year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saphir and the motion carried

Mr. Bennett commented on the good working relationship between partners in regards to the success of programs.

Mr. Bennett reported on the Chesapeake Bay wide TMDL initiative, which has the support of the 6 governors and the president. The initiative will help to drive actions for the restoration and clean up of Chesapeake Bay. This program developed by the EPA will have a two year milestone to assess progress. On October 2, 2009, from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. federal and state officials will participate in a state wide public meeting via phone or Webinar to discuss the initiative. DCR will send out notice for the meeting.

NRCS:

Mr. Wooden distributed his written report and reviewed

Mr. Wooden noted that the computer agreement that was signed by NRCS and the district ends September 30, 2009. Mr. Wooden presented an amendment to extend this agreement to June 30, 2010. A motion was made by Mr. Orrock to approve the amendment, the motion was seconded by Mr. Stepp and the motion carried.

Mr. Wooden and Mr. Tate have completed the as-built survey for Debby Colby.

The first round of EQIP funds had been awarded and allocated.

The new Conservation Stewardship Program is now nationwide. Payments are a bit lower but there is an annual payment and a supplemental payment. Signup is August 10 thru September 30 2009.

Cooperative Extension:

Mr. Saphir reported:

Pesticide training will begin in early October.

Mr. Saphir is working with the district on the "Back to the Farm: Growing your own Vegetables" program to be held on October 24th at Mt Olympus Farm.

Mt Olympus is hosting a Farm and Family day, in cooperation with Extension, this fall. It has been a good year for the Caroline cannery

Hanover County:

Mr. Flagg thanked the district for their contribution of educational events and the reporting of these events.

Hanover County was awarded the 2009 Achievement Award by the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) for Hanover County's Curbside Recycling Program

It has been a record year at the Hanover cannery
Mr. Flagg received notice of DCR advisory review of local ordinances.
Some remaining state money will be use for the paving of most state maintained gravel roads in the county

Caroline County:

Mr. Nunnally reported that a meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation Board and DCR will be held later this week, regarding the issues of the proposed Stormwater Regulations.

Construction at Meadow Farm is continuing in preparation for the State Fair.
Corrective measures have been taken on the wetlands restoration for Barlow.

District Business:

2010 Cost-share Program

Ms. Conner distributed the FY 2008-2009 Cost-Share Progress report.

Ms. Conner reported:

The Ag committee has met and reviewed the data in the report. The committee recommends the approval of the cost share allocations as indicated in the report. A motion was made by Mr. Orrock and duly seconded by Mr. Saphir to approve the allocation of FY2010 cost share funds. The motion carried.

State Cost-share BMP Committee Report:

Mr. Tate reported:

He will be a chair of the cover crop committee, and member of the bio-solids, and stream protection committee.

An update of the new tracking program and training was given.

A new Turf and Landscape Nutrient Management Certification program has been introduced. Nutrient Management classes will take place on September 23, October 8 & 9. The exam will be on October 23, 2009.

Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act:

Mr. Tate presented the Debbie Colby plan, Hanover County, for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Saphir to approve the Colby plan. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dodd and the motion carried.

2009 District Conservation Awards Update:

Ms. Conner reported three awards have been confirmed:

BMP Forestry Award - Robert Willis,

Urban Forestry Award - Randolph Macon College, which will be given to the Environmental Studies Program. They will also be nominated for the Soil and Water Society Conservation Award.

Clean Water Bay Friendly Farm Award - Bruce Anderson and Jane Ruffin

Urban Conservation Award - Hanover County will provide a nomination

The awards Banquet will take place on November 19, 2009 at the Doswell Community Center.

Finance committee Report:

Ms. Conner reported that the finance committee has met and reviewed the 2011 budget. The committee recommends the approval of the budget. A motion was made by Mr. Orrock to approve the 2001 proposed budget, which includes a ten percent cut of state

funds and level funding from Hanover and Caroline county. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stepp and the motion carried.

Education Program Report:

Ms. Edmonds reported:

Back to the Farm: Growing your own Vegetables program will be held October 24, 2009 at Mt Olympus Farm. Notices have been sent to the local newspapers and registration is available on the district website.

Rain Barrel workshop was held 9/1/09 and 9/2/09 the district sold 75 rain barrels with a profit of \$1,000.00 which will go the educational fund.

Ms. Conner reported:

Meaningful Watershed Experience Curriculum development is continuing. Six stations have been completed. November 3, 2009 teachers will attend a training session at the Meadow Farm. Spring 2011 is the target date for 1600 Hanover students to experience the watershed education. Approximately 400 Caroline students will participate fall of 2011.

2010 National Boy Scout Jamboree - The district and NRCS is working with Fort A.P. Hill on several conservation projects that will involve the scouts. NRCS will pay for the district booth

SFVA Meadow Kick-off Event:

Ms. Conner attended and participated in the planting of trees and perennials around the conservation area.

State Fair Event:

The association is hosting a booth and is seeking volunteers September 24 – October 3, 2009.

Legislative (Budget) Update:

On the agenda is increase essential funding for the districts to \$120,000.00 per district Retain funding for Agricultural Best Management Practices.

Support funding and tax credits for urban best management practices.

The Association will support if introduced, legislation to close the loophole in the Erosion and Sediment Control law concerning agricultural and forestry land clearing

The moratorium on Uranium mining and milling will be moved to a VASWCD policy rather than a legislative agenda item until sufficient environmental study has been completed by the Natural Research Council.

Tributary Strategies Reports:

Rappahannock River:

Mr. Saphir reported that the Rappahannock River Basin Non-Point Source Work Group is hosting a symposium to introduce Eco-System Services on December 9, 2009.

The next meeting will be September 16, 2009 at Graves Mt.

The group will be addressing the environmental impact of gold mining.

York River:

Ms. Edmonds reported that final planning for the signage for the wetlands area at Meadow Farm is under way. The York River and Small Coastal Basins Roundtable will be contributing \$2000.00 to the project. The group has been invited to join the Teaming with Wildlife Coalition. The coalition works to secure funding for the restoration of non-game wildlife and habitats.

Other Business:

Hanover-Caroline Soil and Water Conservation District
Minutes of September 15, 2009 Meeting

Page 5

Mr. Wells stated that the scheduled December board meeting will conflict with the Annual meeting. The December Board meeting has been moved to December 15, 2009 at 10:00 followed by a luncheon.

Following today's meeting will be lunch at Hanover Tavern and site 52-B Dam inspection.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:55.

Correspondence in Packets:

- Cost-share Report
- DCR Activity Report
- NRCS Report
- SWCD Staff Activity Reports
- Governor Kaine's FY2010 Budget Reduction Plan
- DCR Assessment of SWCD
- FY 2009-2010 Cost Share Progress Report

UPCOMING EVENTS

- District meetings** - October 13, 2009 (Sharon will not be in town) November 10, 2009 December 15, 2009
- Hanover Budget Training – October 24 and 25, 2009
- National BSA Conservation Committee Meeting – October 6, 2009; Fort AP Hill
- Hanover Budget Due – October 23, 2009
- “Back to the Farm: Growing Your Own Vegetables” – October 24, 2009; Mt. Olympus Berry Farm, Caroline County
- Meaningful Watershed Experience Professional Development Program – November 3, 2009, Meadow Farm
- Hanover Budget Meeting – 11 – 11:30 am; Hanover Courthouse
- Annual Award Banquet – November 19 2009; Doswell Ruritan Center
- VASWCD Annual Meeting – December 6-8, 2009; Richmond, VA

Respectfully submitted:

Ann Edmonds, Administrative Assistant

Date Approved

Donald Wells, Chairman

Date Approved

Mac Saphir, Secretary

Date Approved