

**Minutes of the March 19, 2009
WAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING, RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
FY 2008-2009 Meeting No. 9**

BOARD PRESENT: Donnie Woodlief, Thomas Dean, John Phelps,
and William Cole

STAFF PRESENT: Dale Threatt-Taylor (District Director), Bonnie Williams (District Secretary), Tom Hill (NRC), Sheila Jones (Environmental Educator), Teresa Hice (NRC), Teresa Furr (NRC) Larry Petrovick (NRC) and Matthew Kinane (NRCS),

GUESTS PRESENT: Sam Laurie and Marilyn Grolitzer.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost share applications totaling \$10,869 were approved. |
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1. Call to Order:

Donnie Woodlief, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.
John Phelps gave the invocation

2. Approval of Agenda

Two additional items:
Communication Committee Update by Bill Cole
PCB report by Marilyn Grolitzer
Were added to the agenda and approved

3. Consent Items

- a. Approval of February 19, 2009 Minutes
- b. Approval/Confirmation of Cost Share Items
- c. Approval/Confirmation of Treasurer Report

All items were approved.

4. Ag Cost Share Updates

Teresa Furr explained details of the cost share, pasture renovation, DEP and drought grant allocation items to be approved. She also reported that \$600.00 was received from the Soil and Water Division for the completion of 6 drought contracts.

5. USDA Privacy Act

Matt Kinane shared information from NRCS concerning the Privacy Act guidelines in the 2008 Farm Bill and how it affects working with farmers, producers, and other agencies.

6. NCSWCD Executive Director Contribution

Bill Cole has discussed the Executive Director Position with Dick Fowler, District Programs Outreach Coordinator. There are two committees working on this. The

Executive Director Committee headed by Bobby Stanley is looking for a consultant to help with the job search, define the job description, and help with strategic plan development. The Strategic Direction Committee headed by Grover Pearson is looking at future funding once the position is approved. The Board discussed contributing to the Director Position, the benefits of having this position, and agreed they should contribute. No amount was agreed upon. Bill asked that this item be carried over to the April agenda and to invite Dick Fowler to give a presentation about the position.

7. Envirothon Update

Sheila Jones reported that eight Wake County Envirothon teams competed at the regional Area IV Envirothon event on Friday, March 13, at the Bridgestone Firestone Wildlife Habitat and Refuge, in Wilson County. Two Wake County teams are in the Top Ten and will advance to the State competition to be held on April 24/25 at Cedarock Park in Burlington, NC. The District agreed to pay the \$50 fee for each team to enter. Sheila conducted a teacher/advisor workshop while there and Teresa Hice helped with team scoring. House Representative Marilyn Avila from Wake County attended the event.

8. Brentwood Update

Teresa Hice notified the Board that the Brentwood CCAP Project as presented previously could not be installed. A fence at a cost of \$2,550 and guaranteed maintenance for ten years is needed. There is no money in the grant to cover these items. Even if the money is found for the fence, the Wake County Public School system, Brentwood Exchange Club, and City of Raleigh have declined to do the maintenance. Therefore, the Brentwood School Stormwater Wetland project is ended at this time. The \$40,000 grant must be in contracts by June 3, 2009. Teresa is looking at contacting property owners in the area to see if they would like to do individual practices such as rain gardens and cisterns to slow stormwater runoff and stop erosion problems. Another possibility is to install stormwater BMPs in the Black Horse Run Subdivision on the Upper Barton Creek to help reduce stormwater runoff into that creek.

At the National Day of Service/No Child Left Inside event at the Brentwood Elementary School on January 19, a preliminary nature trail with teachable moments areas was identified. Teresa and Sheila have another workday scheduled for March 29. The Board members are invited to be a part of the workday.

9. Committee Reports

Bill Cole reported the Fundraising Committee is recommending that a nonprofit entity be set up separate from the District under the 501c3 status. Donations made would be a tax write off and more corporations, organizations, etc, could be approached as sponsors. They would like to do spring and fall fund raising events. Larry composed a one-line description of Wake SWCD activities "We protect the natural resources in Wake County for today's citizens and future generations".

Bill reported the Communications/Outreach Committee has decided to set up a list of emails of Friends of the District. He asked that another meeting of the committee be

held on March 26 at noon. At some point, a PIO for the District needs to be appointed. It appears that the Fundraising and Communications committees are so dependent on each other that both need to have immediate attention.

Sam Laurie asked about the Soil and Water Department Budget and Staffing. Dale said progress has been made but there are still items to be defined.

Dale Threatt-Taylor had a copy of the March 18, 2009, Fuquay-Varina Independent that used a picture of one of the District's VAD signs on the front page article 'Agriculture – it touches all of us'.

Sheila also had an article from the Eastern Wake News that featured one of the poster winners, Anna Beth Watkins from the Wendell Elementary School. Channa Witanachchi, who received the Envirothon Mentor of the Year, was featured in the DENR employee newsletter.

John Phelps presented a map of the City of Raleigh's future landuse plan, which was given to him by Sara Robertson. Dale said Dr. Maurice Cook is currently looking at the supporting document to give comments on it to the District. The comment period ended February 28. John would like for Dale to draft a letter offering the District's technical assistance in reviewing the Comprehensive Plan.

Marilyn Grolitzer talked about her concerns of impact to the environment by developers filing bankruptcy and installed sediment and erosion control devices not being maintained or never being installed. She would like to know who is responsible for these subdivisions once they are abandoned. Dale plans to get an answer to this question.

Marilyn and Sam attended a Neuse River Keeper Foundation meeting and learned that PCB from the Ward Transformer Company has been found in more locations. Any major storm could cause the movement of this hazardous waste further down the Neuse River and impact water usage and wildlife.

10. Adjourn

Donnie Woodlief, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:19 pm.

Donnie Woodlief, Chair

Note: The Board records all its meetings. Persons interested in details beyond written minutes may listen to tapes by contacting the District Office at (919) 250-1050.