

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

January 4-6, 2004  
Sheraton Imperial

The NCASWCD met for its 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Raleigh/Durham, NC, on January 4-6, 2004.

**Sunday, January 4, 2004**

Memorial Service: 7:00 p. m.

The convention began with a memorial service for deceased District Supervisors and Staff, led by Chaplain Willis Overby. Twenty two persons were recognized: Larry Payne, Alexander; Gilbert Anderson, Columbus; Hal Barker Lewis, Guilford; Howard J. Williams, Haywood; Robert E. Cathy, Henderson; Thomas W. Hill, Sr., Hertford; Max R. James, Iredell; James W. Hughes, Johnston; Paul Britt, Montgomery; Garland Strickland, Nash; David Greene, New Hanover; Dewey Monroe Thompson, Richmond; Samuel Lane Fairchild, Rockingham; Henry Alvin Boone, Stanly; Ned Glenn, Watauga; Woody Richardson, Watauga; Karl Best, Wayne; James Hunt, Sr., Wilson; Jim Graham, Rowan; Paul Paige Riddick, Gates; Bruce Lewis, Graham; David Hopkins, Rockingham.

The invocation and meditation were by Chaplain Willis Overby. Inspirational music was by "Redeemed". President James Mason presented length of service awards. President Mason read the memorial statements. Chaplain Willis Overby closed with a benediction.

**Monday, January 5, 2004**

Supervisor's Breakfast: 6:30 a. m.

The Supervisor's breakfast was held at 6:30 a. m. on Monday, January 5, with Second Vice President Tom Davidson as moderator. The invocation was given by Charles Snipes. Area Chairs who were present were sworn in by President James Mason. Special guests were introduced by Tom Davidson: Marc Curtis, NACD; James Ferguson, SWC; Dave Vogel, DSW; Mary Combs, NRCS; Cecil Settle, Foundation. Commissioner of Agriculture Britt Cobb spoke on change in North Carolina agriculture. Announcements were made by Tom Davidson. Candidates for the Commission seat spoke briefly. Bill Ross, Sec. DEHNR was recognized. The breakfast adjourned at 7:20 a. m.

First General Session: 7:45 a. m – 12:00 noon

The first General Session began at 7:45 a. m. Monday morning under the theme "SUMMIT ON WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION". Two videos were shown: (1) NC

Farm Bureau, (2) One North Carolina Naturally. President James Mason opened the session at 8:00 a. m. with the pledge to the flag of the United States and the National Anthem presented by "The Grains of Time" from NC State University.

Following comments by President Mason, Bill Ross, Secretary of DEHNR, moderated the first session entitled "Value of Protecting Private Working Lands". The keynote speakers were Ralph Grossi, President, American Farm Trust, and Larry Seizer, President and CEO, The Conservation Fund.

The second session was moderated by David Vogel, Director of DSWC, and entitled "Today's Conservation Toolbox". Featured speakers were Palmer McIntyre, Piedmont Land Conservancy; Paul Carlson, Executive Director, Land trust for the Little Tennessee; Glen Bradley, Supervisor, Moore SWCD; Terry Sharpe, Wildlife Resources Commission, CURE; and Gene Bennett, Private Landowner, CURE.

The third session was moderated by Dick Fowler, Assistant State Conservationist, NRCS, and entitled "Building the Conservation Toolbox of the Future". Featured speakers were Ross Korves, Senior Economist, American Farm Bureau Federation; Michael Holden, Moore County Commissioner; Glen Bradley, Supervisor, Moore SWCD; Jim Cummings, Assistant Commissioner, NCDA; Steve Steadham, Consultant; Steve Woodson, Associate General Counsel, NC Farm Bureau Federation; Mikki Sager, NC Representative, the Conservation Fund; Jimmy Pate, Robeson County Landowner; and Bill Purvis, NC Farm Bureau Federation Forestry Committee Chairman.

Closing comments were made by President James Mason and First Vice-President Grover McPherson.

Committee Meetings: 1:45 – 5:00 p. m.

The eight standing committees of the Association met in concurrent sessions Monday afternoon. The results of those committee meetings are contained in the Association Action Items.

President's Reception: 5:30 – 6:30 p. m.

Hosted by President James Mason.

General Assembly and Awards Program; Auxiliary Auction: 7:30 p. m.

The Awards Program was moderated by Bob Stanfield, Supervisor, Rockingham SWCD. Awards were presented as follows:

- (1) Environmental Educator of the Year: Johnsie Hayes, Rockingham SWCD
- (2) NCASWCD/NRCS Earth Team Award: Columbus SWCD
- (3) NACD-Syngenta Ag Products Conservation Education Awards:
  - District of the Year: Haywood SWCD
  - Teacher of the Year: Harriet Shooter, Cumberland SWCD

The Auxiliary Auction to raise funds for the Scholarship Fund was held at 8:00 p. m.

DEA Entertainment: "After Hours" at 9:00 p. m.

**Tuesday, January 6, 2004**

General Session: 8:30 a. m. CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND SHOWCASE

President James Mason presided. Charles Snipes gave the invocation. Announcements by President Mason. Introduction to the CWMTF by President Mason.

Bill Holman, Executive Director, CWMTF, spoke on "Working with Districts". He described the function of the CWMTF and spoke on the future course of the Fund including changes in CREP, easement values, working forest conservation easements, farmland preservation, storm water, and evaluation of results. He was complimentary toward District involvement in CWTF projects.

The first session was moderated by Tom Massie, CWMTF. The featured Districts were Surry, Mecklenburg, and Rutherford. Surry SWCD emphasized stream bank restoration, Mecklenburg SWCD emphasized urban BMPs, and Rutherford SWCD emphasized buffers for cattle exclusion. Tom Massie concluding by stating that grants are competitive and that each District should find a project fitted to their needs.

President James Mason moderated for the election of officers. Albert Troutman presented the Nominating Committee report.

President – Grover McPherson

First Vice President – Tom Davidson

Second Vice President – Ben Rollins

Secretary – Paul Lilly

Treasurer – Bruce Whitfield

Assistant Treasurer – Doc Buckner

Chaplin – Willis Overby

Assistant Chaplin – Charles Snipes

NACD Board Member – John Finch

NACD Alternate Board Member – Franklin Williams

Motion was made by Wade Carrigan and seconded by Albert Troutman to accept the nominations. The motion passed. The election for the vacant Commission seat was held by ballot during the break.

The second session began at 10:45. President James Mason introduced Patrick Ballentine, Republican candidate for Governor. Tom Jones of the CWMTF was moderator for the second session. The featured Districts were Halifax, Alamance, and Pitt. Halifax SWCD emphasized the CREP program, Alamance SWCD emphasized an Ag sediment initiative, and

Pitt SWCD emphasized the environmental education center at Contentnea Creek and the swine buyout program. Tom Jones had closing comments.

President James Mason thanked the presenters and announced that Bob Stanfield had been elected to the Soil and Water Commission.

General Session-Business Meeting: 2:00 – 5:00 p. m.

Association First Vice President Grover McPherson presided. The first report was by Mark Curtis, NACD, Mississippi. He spoke on working lands, and about a new CEO being hired.

Steve Troxler, candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke to the group.

James Mason gave a report on NCASWCD. He commended the Strategic Planning Committee and spoke on the budget struggle this past year.

James Ferguson, Chair, NCSWCC, spoke on training for Supervisors, accountability, local administration of cost share programs, and review of the 1992 rules.

David Vogel, Director, NCDSWC, spoke on working with the legislature, new partners in working lands, grants from the CWMTF, and commended President James Mason for a job well done.

Mary Combs, State Conservationist, NRCS, spoke on the partnership, Technical Service Providers, the Conservation Security Program, and introduced NRCS personnel present.

Cecil Settle, Executive Director, Foundation, spoke on capacity building in Districts, public education, supervisor training, outdoor learning centers, and funding.

John Finch, NACD Board Member, said that North Carolina is heard at the national level. He reported on progress toward getting the SE rep position filled, and asked for support in getting the position located in North Carolina. A motion to that effect was made by Marvin Cavanaugh and seconded by Cokie Jones. The motion passed.

Betty Matthews, President of the Auxiliary, reported that the auction had raised \$784, and that quilt tickets were available.

David O'Neal spoke about the damage from Hurricane Isabel and expressed thanks for help from across the state.

Doc Buckner resigned as Assistant Treasurer and asked that James Mason be selected to fill that position. A motion was made by Albert Troutman and seconded by Wade Carrigan to accept the resignation of Doc Buckner and appoint James Mason to replace him. The motion passed.

The rest of the General Session was devoted to reviewing the reports of the standing committees. The results of this session are reported in the Association's Program Objectives. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p. m.

*Banquet and Awards Program: 7:00 p. m.*

President James Mason presided. Chaplain Willis Overby gave the invocation. Following dinner, President Mason introduced the head table.

Conservation Farm Families were recognized. Dale and Janet Robertson from the Transylvania SWCD, Mickey T. Clayton and Willie Thomas Clayton from the Person SWCD (State winners), and Jimmy and Debra Dail from the Greene SWCD.

Bill Davis, Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee, recognized the Committee and announced the two Supervisors inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. They were William Vance Griffin of Pollocksville, and I. H. "Cokie" Jones of Advance.

Betty Matthews then held the drawing for the Auxiliary quilt.

Outgoing President James Mason spoke about the past year, and thanked the many people who had helped him. He then presented the President's award to Steve Harris and George Stewart for their work with the legislature.

Becky Herring, Chair of the Durham County Commissioners, administered the Oath of Office to Grover McPherson, In-coming President. Other officers had been sworn in by Commissioner Herring prior to the banquet.

Incoming President Grover McPherson first recognized the accomplishments of Outgoing President Mason and thanked him for his service. He then introduced his family members. He spoke on working lands conservation, the legislative effort, and finances.

The meeting was adjourned by Outgoing President Mason at 9:10 p. m.

Minutes by Paul Lilly, Secretary