

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

January 6-8, 2008
Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC

The NCASWCD met for its 64th annual meeting at the Grove Park Inn, Asheville, NC, on January 6-8, 2008

Sunday, January 6, 2008

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

Hosted by President Ned Hudson.

Conservation Awards: 7:00 p. m. - Opened by Ned Hudson, presentations by Franklin Williams and Jeff Harris

The program began with length of service awards, followed by Conservation Awards.

Memorial Service: 7:45 p. m.

Background music was presented by Ann Lough on the hammered dulcimer. The memorial service was opened with prayer by Chaplain Willis Overby. This was followed with a hymn led by Bryan Evans. Chaplain Willis Overby then presented a meditation based on Matthew 25:34. Musical interlude by Ann Lough on the hammered dulcimer. President Ned Hudson read memorial statements for the twenty one people remembered with a candle lighting service. Those remembered were Marcus Bostian, Salisbury Area Office, Clemmon W. Bridgers, Fishing Creek SWCD, Jasper Cave, Alleghany SWCD, Ed J. Church, Sr., Rowan SWCD, L. D. Coltraine III, Cabarrus SWCD, William A. Davis, Robeson SWCD, Carey Edwards, Brown Creek SWCD, Blair Goodson, Lincoln SWCD, Bennie L. Harris, Jr., Vance SWCD, W. Robert Harris, Martin SWCD, William Herndon, Robeson SWCD, John Hunt, DSWC, Raleigh, Fernie C. Laughinghouse, Beaufort SWCD, Samuel T. Peace, Jr., Vance SWCD, W. O. Peele, Jr., Martin SWCD, Braxton Pittman, Wilson SWCD, George Marvin Robinson, Pender, SWCD, Jimmie B. Sink, Davidson SWCD, Olin Sims NACD President, WY. Willis Overby thanked the audience for their reverence. Hymns were led by Bryan Evans. Chaplain Overby closed the program with prayer.

Monday, January 7

Supervisor's Breakfast: 7:00 a. m.

The Supervisors breakfast was held at 7:00 a. m. with Bobby Stanley presiding. Invocation by Marvin Cavanaugh. New Area Chairs were given the oath of office. Announcements were made. Dr. Maurice Cook reported on the Smithsonian Soils Exhibit. Adjourned 7:45 a. m.

General Session: 8:00 a. m.

The first general session began at 8:00 a. m. with President Ned Hudson presiding. The invocation was by Chaplin Willis Overby followed by comments by Judge John M. Tyson. Jimmy Gentry of the NC Grange introduced Ashleigh Bargiol for the National Anthem and Valentine DeLeon for the Pledge of the US Flag. Next Nathan Ramsey, Buncombe County Commissioner welcomed the group to the mountains. President Ned Hudson recognized Bob Cordova, VP NACD, and then introduced Manly Wilder, Assistant Secretary DENR.

Mr. Wilder recounted his start with the Division and the many programs over the last few years. He then introduced Larry Wooten.

Mr. Wooten of the Farm Bureau Federation thanked Districts for their work and the strong relationship with Farm Bureau. He spoke on growth impacts on the state and pressures on land availability, water, farm operations, and county budgets. He referred to issues before the Legislature and offered the continuing services of the Farm Bureau.

The next speaker was Commission of Agriculture and Consumer Services Steve Troxler, again introduced by Manly Wilder. Commissioner Troxler spoke on farm land conservation, healthy farms, drought issues, and thanked supervisors for their work at the local level.

Manly Wilder introduced the next speaker, Secretary Bill Ross of DENR. Secretary Ross spoke on the recent 70th anniversary celebration, the contributions of H. H. Bennett, Conservation education, conservation partnerships, and conservation planning, including the DENR Conservation Planning Tool.

Mr. Wilder then introduced Pat Harris, newly appointed Director of the DSWC. Pat Harris thanked those who had helped her over her career, including her staff and her husband.

Ned Hudson presented a "Special Certificate of Appreciation" to Manly Wilder for his service to the Division.

A Community Conservation Award was then presented to Representatives from Bridgestone/Firestone of Wilson for their Freedom Wildlife Habitat and Refuge.

Break 10:00 10:30 a. m.

Spotlight of Conservation Education, Johanna Wood, Education Committee Chair, presiding.

The first speaker was Crystal Roberts, State FFA VP, who spoke about the importance of education and conservation to her.

Next, Dr. Val Vickers, Greensboro Day School, spoke on the value of the Envirothon and how she has used it in her teaching. She referred to “Nature Deficit Disorder”, and that environmental education improved performance in other areas.

Ned Hudson introduced Congressman Heath Shuler. Congressman Shuler welcomed the group to western NC, and spoke on the challenges facing the mountains.

The next speaker was Laurie Brokaw on Project Food, Land, and People. She recounted her background with the program and her experiences in different places.

Zac Searcy, 2007 Land Judging winner from Polk FFA spoke on the soil judging contest and its meaning to him.

Susan Woodard then spoke on the Resource Conservation Workshop and stressed the need for education. She recognized the many agencies that help with the workshop and thanked all who help.

Dru Harrison of New Hanover SWCD spoke about adult education programs in the District. She mentioned the groups participating and the topics covered.

John Isenhour from the NC Wildlife Commission summarized the morning’s theme of environmental education. He commended Districts for their work with the Envirothon and told about his own experiences with it.

Ned Hudson adjourned the morning session at 12:08 p. m/

Committee Meetings: 2:00 – 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 policies and positions and action items report.

Conservation Education Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

The Conservation Education dinner was held at 6:00 p.m., Joanna Wood, presiding.

Auxiliary Auction: 8:00 p. m.

The Auxiliary auction was conducted by Brian Evans.

Tuesday, January 8

General Session: 8:00 a.m.

President Ned Hudson presided and presented the Presidents report for the year. He spoke about the workload of the Association and of the challenges ahead.

The first speaker was Mary Combs, NRCS State Conservationist, who gave the NRCS report. She announced new appointments and reviewed work accomplished in the past year. She also spoke on the budget problems facing the state NRCS office and talked about staff realignments. She then presented the Earth Team Award to Cabarrus SWCD with Davidson SWCD and the Civil Rights Award to Buncombe SWCD.

Bill Davis represented the Foundation in presenting an award to Ned Hudson. President Hudson expressed appreciation and thanked those who helped support the 70th anniversary celebration.

John Finch introduced Bob Cordova, VP NACD. He described the activities of the national association including support for Districts, the accreditation program, Farm Bill activities, the upcoming national meeting, and the 509 Capitol Court Campaign. He concluded with a tribute to Olin Sims who was killed in a chainsaw accident in December.

Bill Holman, Duke University Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, spoke on Carbon offsets and credits and the role of districts. There is interest in sequestering Carbon and one way is through conservation practices. Districts may play a role in the future.

Jim Hollifield and Roger Hurst with Duke Energy spoke on road construction with minimal impacts in rugged mountains for power transmission tower construction. Timely seeding and water distribution were cited as key factors. The presentation was concluded with comments about an environmental audit of the project by Dr. Maurice Cook. He commended Duke Energy for their environmental stewardship.

Don Rawls, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2008 officers, presented the committee report as follows:

President	Bobby Stanley
1 st Vice President	Bill Pickett
2 nd Vice President	James Ferguson
Secretary	Paul Lilly
Treasurer	Bruce Whitfield
Asst Treasurer	James Mason
Chaplain	Willis Overby
Asst Chaplain	Marvin Cavanaugh
Parliamentarian	Bruce Miller
NACD Rep.	John Finch
Alt NACD Rep.	Franklin Williams

Moved by Don Rawls, second from the floor, that the slate be accepted. The motion passed.

Don Rawls announced the nomination of Richard Smith for a second term on the Commission. Motion by Don Rawls, second from the floor, that Richard Smith be elected. The motion passed.

Break until 11:00 a. m.

Pat Harris introduced Richard Rogers, Executive Director of the CWMTF, with a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Rogers spoke on the mission of the CWMTF, work that has been done, District involvement, and future trends.

Pat Harris introduced Lt. Governor Beverly Purdue. Lt. Governor Purdue spoke about her early involvement in 4-H, concern over the growth rate of the state, future quality of life, and concluded with comments about our duty as North Carolinians toward the preserving a good quality environment.

The session was adjourned at 11:55 by President Ned Hudson.

Legislative Committee Luncheon

Don Cox acted as moderator.

General Session-Business Meeting: 1:30 p. m.

Association First Vice President Bobby Stanley presided. Bruce Miller was Parliamentarian. Operating rules were announced; only Supervisors can present motions and vote.

Paul Lilly moved that the Minutes from the 2007 convention be approved, pending any needed changes, as posted on the Association's website. The motion was seconded by James Mason and the motion passed.

John Finch spoke on the need for the Capitol Court Campaign.

Cecil Settle reported on the activities of the Foundation. Three-part training is planned for this year, including training on conservation easements, with a manual, and training on grant writing. He later noted the deadlines for grants on lagoon closures and for tobacco farm activities.

Pam Hawkins reported on DEA activities and the purpose of DEA. Standing Committee reports were given and approved as reported in the Association's Program Objectives.

A report was given on Auxiliary activities.

Legislative Committee – Don Cox, Chair

Policy and positions 1-9 unchanged. Moved by Don Cox, seconded from the floor, that they be accepted. The motion passed.

District Operations – Paul Lilly, Chair

Paul Lilly moved the adoption of the resolution #1 concerning replacement of a vice president to go into effect immediately as operational policy and that it be presented as a Bylaws change next year. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Paul Lilly moved that the name change for Bay River SWCD to Pamlico SWCD be approved. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Paul Lilly moved the adoption of the policy and position items as listed. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Paul Lilly moved the adoption of action items 1 and 2 as listed. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Paul Lilly moved that all references to the NCASWCDs be changed to “Association” in the Committee reports where appropriate. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Community Conservation – Bob Ritchie, Chair

Bob Ritchie moved the adoption of policy and position items as listed. Seconded by Jeff Harris. The motion passed.

Bob Ritchie moved the adoption of action items as listed. Seconded by Jimmy Gore. The motion passed.

Education – Johanna Wood, Chair

Johanna Wood moved to adopt the report of the Education Committee. Seconded by Jimmy Mason. A question was raised concerning item 14. Jack Huss moved to amend the motion to delete item 14. Following discussion the motion to amend passed. Main motion as amended passed.

Water Resources – Marvin Cavanaugh, Chair

Marvin Cavanaugh moved the adoption of the committee report. Seconded by James Booth. The motion passed.

Natural Environment – Chester Lowder, Chair

Chester Lowder moved that the policy and positions as listed be adopted. Seconded from the floor. The motion passed.

Chester Lowder moved that the action items be adopted as listed. Seconded by Bill Yarborough. The motion passed.

Research and Technology – Bill Yarborough, Chair

Bill Yarborough moved the adoption of the report. Seconded by Sam Davis. The motion passed.

Finance – James Mason, Chair

James Mason moved that the report be accepted. Seconded by Jimmy Gore. The motion passed.

James Mason reviewed and explained the proposed budget. He then moved the adoption of the budget. Seconded by David Smith. Ned Hudson moved to amend the budget motion by adding \$500 to be donated to the Capitol Court Campaign in memory of Olin Sims. Seconded by Jeff Harris. The motion to amend passed. The main motion as amended passed.

James Mason noted that the committee is still studying the dues structure due to the need for the Association to more fully support the costs of the Association.

Franklin Williams commended Jeff Harris for stepping aside to allow Pat Harris to be selected as Director. Jeff received a standing ovation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p. m.

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

Officers other than the President were sworn in by Judge Monica Leslie prior to the start of the banquet. President Ned Hudson presided. Introduction of the head table. Chaplain Willis Overby gave the invocation.

No other minutes for the banquet are available. Secretary Lilly left the banquet due to his wife's illness.

Minutes by Paul Lilly, Secretary