

(DRAFT)

Minutes

North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Executive Committee Meeting
January 6, 2008

The Executive Committee of the NCASWCD met at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville at 1:00 p.m. with the following persons present.

Exec. Committee Members Present

Ned Hudson, President
Bobby Stanley, 1st Vice President
Paul Lilly, Secretary
Bruce Whitfield, Treasurer
Area 5 Chair, Steve Harris
Area 6, Chair, Bill Hart
Area 8 Chair, Chester Lowder

Others Present

Mary Combs, NRCS
Pat Harris, DSWC
Lynn Sprague, DSWC
Kristina Fischer, DSWC
James Ferguson, Haywood SWCD
Don Rawls, Pender SWCD
Don Cox, Orange SWCD
James Mason, Hertford SWCD
David A. Smith, Davidson SWCD
Grover McPherson, Forsyth SWCD
Jeff Harris, Martin SWCD
Marvin Cavanaugh, Stokes SWCD
Bill Davis, Wilkes SWCD

The meeting was opened by President Ned Hudson. Paul Lilly presented the minutes from the September 2007 Executive Committee meeting. Dave Smith moved and Grover McPherson seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed.

Bruce Whitfield gave a brief oral treasurers report and said more information would be available at the Finance Committee meeting.

President Ned Hudson welcomed Pat Harris as new Director of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Lynn Sprague gave an update on the Association web site. The site will be updated one time for a fee of \$500. Moved by Don Cox, seconded by Bobby Stanley that the fee be paid. The motion passed.

A discussion followed on the mileage rate for travel reimbursement by the Association. Moved by Bill Hart and seconded by James Mason that the rate be the same as paid by the state. During discussion concern was expressed that this is much more than the

current NCASWCD rate. A substitute motion was offered by Chester Lowder, seconded by Paul Lilly, that the rate be 40cents per mile. The substitute motion passed.

A motion was made by Bobby Stanley and seconded by Bruce Whitfield to approve \$50 per month to maintain the NCASWCD web site. The motion passed.

Area Chair reports:

Area 8: Chester Lowder – Nothing to report.

Area 5: Steve Harris – Reported on a good fall meeting.

Area 6: Bill Hart – Reported that the area fall meeting was good, and that the area now had bylaws.

Ned Hudson commented that all the area meetings had been good.

Ned Hudson talked about the annual meeting and stated that the program was intended to celebrate the good work done during the past year. He went on to say that all the resolutions were in the hands of the appropriate committees. Bobby Stanley called attention to the agreed-upon voting procedure, in that every supervisor present at a committee meeting has the right to vote, make motions, and discuss the issues.

Don Rawls discussed the issue of the vice presidency vacancy due to the resignation of Jeff Harris. Area 5 had no substitute candidate and deferred to Area 6. Area 6 had 4 candidates and voted by ballot. The Area 6 candidate for 2nd vice president is Bill Pickett, Duplin County. Grover McPherson moved, seconded by Bill Hart that Bill Pickett be accepted as 2nd vice president, and will be the candidate for 1st vice president. The motion passed.

Grover McPherson reported for the Strategic Planning Committee. He commented on the bylaw change needed to clarify the procedure for replacing a vice president. This is in resolution form for committee consideration.

David Smith reported for the Finance Subcommittee. Little to report. Most Districts did not support a dues increase for hiring an Association employee. Lynn Sprague noted that the issue is before the District Operations Committee again, and if it goes forward, the Executive Committee has the authority to proceed with hiring if money is available. Discussion followed on District finances. Concluded that a fixed source of financing was necessary in order to hire.

Don Cox listed the legislative priorities as:

1. Community Conservation
2. ASCP
3. Supervisor travel and matching funds

Discussion followed on the Conservation Education Day and concern about ethics rules and what constitutes lobbying.

The discussion returned to the issue of hiring an “executive director” or other employee. After considerable discussion, Don Cox moved, seconded by Chester Lowder, that the Executive Committee go on record as approving the idea of an Executive Director and that the Districts should be responsible for funding the position. Following more discussion, the motion passed. Several possible ways of raising funds were mentioned.

James Mason reported that the proposed budget contains a \$10,000 item to support certain activities of the Association. This is needed due to ethics concerns over separation of the Association activities from activities of the Division.

Don Cox reported on the planned recognition of Milton Heath. Money has been received to help pay the expenses.

James Ferguson discussed the NACD “509 Capital Court Campaign” for renovation of the national headquarters. Asking for contributions from Districts, about \$5000 per state.

Mary Combs greeted the committee, and said she would have fuller comments at the general meeting.

No reports from DEA or the Foundation.

Bill Hart requested funds to help send a New Hanover SWCD employee to the National Meeting to promote Community Conservation. No motion was presented and the issue was dropped.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes by Paul Lilly, Secretary