

MINUTES

Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
USDA Service Center - North Tazewell, Virginia
Monday, November 9, 2009 – 3:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Robert L. Moss, Jr., Chair
Joyce G. Buchanan, Vice-Chair
Virginia Turley, Treasurer
Sandy Etter, Director
John W. Blankenship, Jr., Director

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patricia Neel, District Manager
Elizabeth A. Bennett, Conservation Education Specialist
Lenden A. Thompson, Conservation Technician
Terisa S. Corell, TMDL Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eddie Neel, Associate Director
Tom Dumper, Associate Director
Stacy Horton, Conservation District Coordinator, Christiansburg Region
Tony Pane, Conservation District Coordinator, Abingdon Region
Tom Smith, NRCS District Conservationist, Tazewell
Martha Podren, TVA Watershed Representative, Holston-Cherokee-Douglas Watershed
Drake Asberry, VISTA, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable

Call to Order

Mr. Moss thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked if there were any community concerns. Mrs. Buchanan reported that she had spoken to Clyde Bowling's niece and that Clyde is still of good mind even though he is in poor health. Clyde will be 98 years old in February of 2010. The regular monthly meeting of the Tazewell Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Chair Robert L. Moss, Jr.

Approval of the October 13, 2009 District Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan and carried to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2009 meeting as distributed.

Approval of the October 2009 Treasurer's Report

Virginia L. Turley, Treasurer, presented the following balances:

District Account Balance – October 30, 2009 - **\$ 99,812.66** includes **\$ 4,001.40** restricted to Education Programs, **\$ 837.40** restricted to Kids in the Outdoors Education Event, **\$ 575.70** in the W. F. Neel Fund, **\$17,283.02** in the Water Quality Mobile Unit Fund and **\$ 2,287.69** in the Bluefield, Virginia DEQ category, leaving a balance of **\$15,454.33** for basic district operations/overhead.

BMP/CREP Cost Share Account Balance – October 30, 2009 - **\$ 200,141.50**

SWCD MMDA Account Balance – October 30, 2009 - **\$ 7,236.00** (Contingency Fund)

Upon a motion by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan and carried, the treasurer's report for period ending October 30, 2009 was approved as presented and filed for audit.

Announcements

A copy of the Announcements and Reminders for the month of November 2009 is attached and made a portion of these minutes. (Attachment 1). Mrs. Neel also announced that an application for the NRCS Outstanding Volunteer of the Year for 2009 has been submitted to the NRCS State and National office on the District's Ag Safety Day.

Approval of Meetings and/or Training for District Employees

Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Turley and carried to approve the following activities for **Patricia Neel, District Manager:**

Thursday, **November 12** – Annual Leave.

Use 32 hours additional Annual Leave and/or Compensatory Time between the November 9 and December 14, 2009 meetings, if scheduling and workload permit.

Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan and carried to approve the following activities for **Lenden Thompson, Conservation Technician:**

Wednesday, **November 18** – Attend the RC&D Awards Luncheon – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Claytor Lake State Park.

Thursday, **November 19** – Attend In-Service Training – Wytheville Service Center – Wytheville, Virginia.

Friday, **November 20** – Use 8 hours Sick Leave.

Use 32 hours additional Annual Leave and/or Compensatory Time between the November 9 and December 14, 2009 meetings, if scheduling and workload permit.

Motion made by Mrs. Buchanan, seconded by Mrs. Turley and carried to approve the following activities for **Elizabeth Bennett, Conservation Education Specialist:**

Wednesday, **November 18** – Attend the RC&D Awards Luncheon – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Claytor Lake State Park.

Monday, **November 23** and Tuesday, **November 24** – Use Annual Leave.

Wednesday, **November 25** – Use 4 hours Annual Leave.

November/December – Approved to present a Project Learning Tree activity to Tazewell Head Start Students.

November/December – Approved to use 16 hours Sick Leave. (Daughter's Dental).

Use 24 additional Annual Leave and/or Compensatory Time between the October 13 and November 9 2009 meetings, if scheduling and workload permit.

Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Turley and carried to approve the following activities for **Terisa Corell, TMDL Conservation Specialist:**

Wednesday, **November 18** – Attend the RC&D Awards Luncheon – 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. – Claytor Lake State Park.

Thursday, **November 19** – Attend In-Service Training – Wytheville Service Center – Wytheville, Virginia.

Thursday, **December 30** – Use 8 hours Sick Leave.

Report on Activities Approved between SWCD meetings

Mrs. Buchanan, Chair of the SWCD Personnel Committee, reported that the following personnel action was approved by her between the November 9 and December 14, 2009 SWCD meetings: Mrs. Bennett was approved to attend the Tazewell County Farm Bureau Women's Committee meeting on Thursday, November 5, 2009.

Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Turley and carried to approve the personnel activities allowed between SWCD meetings.

New River-Highlands RC&D Awards Luncheon

The New River-Highlands RC&D Awards Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 in the Waters Edge Meeting Facility located at Claytor Lake State Park in Pulaski County. Social hour will be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with lunch being served at 12:00 p.m. with awards presentations to follow. Registration is due by Friday, November 13, 2009. Attending from the Tazewell SWCD will be Joyce G. Buchanan, Terisa Corell, Lenden Thompson, Doris Thompson and Elizabeth Bennett.

Bimonthly Review of Annual Plan of Work. (November-December 2009)

Directors and staff were reminded of the goals and actions of the APOW for the months of November and December 2009.

Joyce G. Buchanan – Vice-Chair

October 29 – Delivered 500 Halloween Bags to Jack Asbury for party sponsored by the Town of Bluefield, Virginia.

November 2 – Attended luncheon with new VISTA personnel to finalize his work plan.

John W. Blankenship, Jr. – Pesticide Re-Certification and BQA Re-Certification

Mr. Blankenship, District Director and Tazewell County Extension Office 4-H Agent/Unit Coordinator, announced that there will be a Pesticide Re-Certification and BQA Re-Certification Class held at the Fuller-Perry Building on the Tazewell County Fairgrounds on Monday, December 14, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. This class is for Re-Certification, not new applicants. There may be a class scheduled for new applicants in the future.

Stacy Horton - Conservation District Coordinator – Christiansburg Regional Office

A copy of the Conservation District Coordinator's November 2009 monthly report is attached and made a portion of these minutes. (Attachment 2). With the recent reductions in state funding, DCR has had a reduction in staff. Among the positions lost was the CDC position in DCR's Clarksville Office. Barry Hughes retired with 30 years of service. As a result, the Tazewell SWCD has been assigned to Tony Pane, CDC in the Abingdon Region.

Lenden Thompson – Conservation Technician

Mr. Thompson presented his report to the District for the months of October and November 2009. All of the carryover BMP projects have been completed and Danny Neel and Jimmy Newman have been paid. Greg Meade will be made paid as soon as all his bills are turned in to the District. Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Buchanan and carried to approve the following Virginia Ag BMP applications:

| <u>Applicant</u> | <u>BMP</u> | <u>Tract #</u> | <u>Estimated Cost</u> | <u>Estimated Cost Share</u> |
|------------------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kenneth Necessary | SL-6 | | \$ 9,978.00 | \$ 7,483.500 |
| MoComp, Inc. (John Moore) | SL-6 | | \$ 58,771.90 | \$48,078.925 |

Elizabeth A. Bennett – Conservation Education Specialist

The Conservation Education Specialist's report for the period of October 13 through November 9, 2009 is attached and made a portion of these minutes. (Attachment 3.)

Terisa Corell – TMDL Conservation Specialist

The TMDL Conservation Specialist's report for the period of October 13 through November 9, 2009 is attached and made a portion of these minutes. (Attachment 4)

Tom Smith – NRCS District Conservationist – Tazewell

Tom Smith, NRCS District Conservationist, presented his report for November 9, 2009 to the district. It is attached and made a portion of these minutes. (Attachment 5) Motion made by Mr. Blankenship, seconded by Mrs. Turley and carried to approve the following conservation plans as presented by Mr. Smith:

| <u>Participant</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Tract #</u> | <u>Acres</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Kenneth Necessary | Va Ag BMP | 1703 | 80.3 |
| MoComp, Inc. | Va Ag BMP/CREP | 2823 | 104.4 |

Martha Podren – TVA Representative, Holston-Cherokee-Douglas Watershed

Martha Podren spoke to the district and thanked them for providing office space for the new VISTA, Drake Asberry. She also reminded the District that she has some limited funding available to help with best management practices in the Clinch Watershed.

Other Items of Interest

----Attachment 6 (Seeder Performance Report).

Mrs. Neel informed everyone that the Seeder Performance Report (Attachment 6) was not included in their meeting folder as no revenue was produced by the seeder during November 2009.

----District Manager Position Vacancy.

As of today, Mrs. Neel, District Manager, has received sixteen applications for the office manager position. The District Personnel Committee met today to evaluate applications. Interviews will be scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2009. After the interviews, the district scheduled a call meeting for Tuesday, November 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. for the entire SWCD Board to approve the hiring of the new office manager.

----- 2010 Area IV Envirothon Competition

Mrs. Neel reported that she has completed the duties she was assigned for the Envirothon and she will tally scores on the day of the competition.

Mrs. Neel also announced that a response has been received from Michael Wooden, Farm Service Agency State Executive Director that an employee from the Russell County Service Center will be in the SWCD office to serve Tazewell County producers on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, beginning December 8, 2009.

Motion made by Mr. Etter, seconded by Mr. Blankenship and carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

The next regular board meeting of the Tazewell SWCD will be on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. It will be held at the Tazewell Service Center located at 117 Dial Rock Road, North Tazewell, Virginia.

APPROVED: _____ December 14, 2009

CHAIR: _____

SUBMITTED BY: Patricia Neel, District Manager