

## GUILFORD SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FY 2022 – 2023 Meeting Number 8 April 5, 2023 Minutes

## **Supervisors Present:**

George Teague, Chair Josh Myers, Vice Chair Anna Amoriello, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Briggs, Member Grace Summers, Member

#### **Others Present:**

Jamey Walker, S&W Conservation Manager Gary Cox, S&W Conservation Technician Nicole Carolan, Soil & Water Coordinator Millie Langley, Soil Conservationist Brandon King, NRCS Sup. Soil Conservationist Leslie Bell, Director - Guilford Co. Planning & Dev.

The board meeting was called to order by Chairman, George Teague, at 09:00 AM at the Guilford Agriculture Center Barn Kitchen Meeting Room. George Teague welcomed everyone in attendance. He then read the Conflict of Interest Statement and asked if there were any conflicts of interest; none were stated. He then noted the Statement of Professionalism that the Commission recently recommended including at each board meeting.

#### **Agenda**

George Teague asked everyone to review the agenda as presented. Josh Myers moved to approve the agenda as presented and Ray Briggs seconded, the motion was approved.

#### **Minutes**

George asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from the February meeting (March meeting was cancelled). Ray moved to approve the February minutes as presented. Josh seconded, and the motion was approved.

#### **Comments from County**

Leslie Bell reported that county budget work was still moving forward. He noted that the BMAP program cost (\$6,000) was added to our budget and that would be paid soon. He is also adding paid Interns positions to the Planning Department and Soil & Water Budgets.

## **NRCS**

Brandon King gave the NRCS update. He mentioned that the Local Workgroup needs to meet. He said that the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) is going on now so EQIP is sort of on hold for the moment. He mentioned that FPAC is working with the county on a lease and office space needs. Anna Amoriello mentioned that the FB Building is definitely going up for sale. She asked Leslie to call Elaine Fryar so they can discuss with the county. The impending sale of the Farm Bureau building was discussed as an opportunity for either the county or NRCS to purchase since the Farm Bureau is currently constructing a new building on Burlington Rd (Hwy 70), just east of town.

# **District Conservation Programs**

Gary Cox presented the Cost Share Program update. He asked for the following NC-ACSP Contracts to be approved by the board. Ray moved to approve the contracts as presented; Grace seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

41-2023-005 Buds & Blooms \$7,000.00 (CS) Sediment Removal 41-2023-008 Ronald Roberson \$3,006.00 (CS) Heavy Use Area

One Request for Payment was presented for information only:

41-2021-501 Stoney Creek HOA \$32,397.00 (\$15,000 CC; \$17,397 CCG) Stream Restoration

Millie and Gary showed some slides of the two projects below.

Gary reported that StRAP project was completed on March 15<sup>th</sup> with 1,260 feet of stream cleaned up! The project was inspected and certified for payment by NC Div of SWC on March 23 and the payment of \$61,250 sent to Guilford on March 31. The remainder of Guilford's allocation will not be used at this time.

Millie updated the board that the Stoney Creek Stream Restoration Project was complete, with the livestakes being installed on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. All WRDG funds have been requested including the remaining 10% contingency. The CCAP RFP was submitted on March 10.

Guilford County's Voluntary Ag District totals are VAD, 386 parcels and 17,244.66 acres and EVAD 43 parcels and 1,765.68 acres; total of both VAD and EVAD is 429 parcels and 19,010.34 acres.

# **District Education/Operations**

Nicole gave the update on the Area 3 Envirothon held on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Elon University. As Co-Chair, she was flung in head first to take over as the leader since Lisa Pope had a death in her family. She did a great job and everyone was complimentary that the whole event went very well! Good job Nicole!

Guilford has a team (Early College at Guilford), that finished 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the High School Competition and will be moving on to the State Competition. She reminded the board that we budgeted the funds to pay our winning teams Registration to attend the State Event.

We also have a RCW applicant. She was also on the Early College at Guilford's Envirothon Team. The cost of the RCW has gone up from \$450 to \$575 but will now include meals.

Nicole presented the monthly Foundation report. She noted that she had deposited \$134 more for the Tree Sale and \$100 for Bird boxes.

#### **District Operations**

Jamey gave an update on the Munis Report for the regular district expenses. Everything is as expected. Jamey mentioned that the Division has implemented the new JAA requirements, as the new statutes were enacted in the last year or so. The Division's JAA approvals were sent to each employee for their records.

The Master Agreement has been processed and approved. Millie has requested the TA Matching funds and the Regular Matching Funds have been received.

#### **New Business**

George Teague mentioned that the district had received a donation request from the NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation. He was thinking there would be some unused funds in our budget. Grace moved to make a \$500 donation to the NCFSWC if funds can be found in the regular county budget. Anna seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

George also mentioned that there was a bill in the state senate to allow District SWCD boards to become partisan. He urged the board members to contact any senators they know to prevent this form passing.

# **Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Josh moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 10:55 am. Ray seconded, and the motion was approved.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023 at 9:00 am in the Guilford County Ag Center Barn Kitchen

Secretary/Treasurer

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