

Approved March 5, 2009

JAMES RIVER SWCD MONTHLY MEETING
Board of Directors Meeting
February 5, 2009

James River Soil and Water Conservation District held its monthly board meeting on February 5th, 2009, at the Chesterfield Extension Office. Chairman Don Bagshaw called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.

Attendees were:

Directors: Don Bagshaw, Margie Davis, Chris Elko, Charles Skalsky, Scott Reiter

Associates: Mike Likins

Staff: Linda McAllister, Dan Lee, Bonnie Stefaniak

Agency Partners: Carrie Hagin (DCR), Anthony Howell (NRCS)

Absent: W.D. Kreider, George Beadles, John Kinch

Guests: None

Public Comments: None

AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS – Anthony Howell reported on a new USDA program, the Chesapeake Bay Water Initiative. Information was discussed and specifics can be found on the USDA website. A CREP practice located in Prince George was discussed. Meeting and trainings that were attended were discussed. A written report was distributed.

DCR – Carrie Hagin A written report is included in the packets. Legislative updates were discussed and everyone needs to be aware of progress and changes. Budget needs top the list of concerns. It is unlikely that there will be any increases in operational funding.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Treasurer's report: Linda McAllister presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made to accept the report. Motion made: Chris Elko Second: Margie Davis Motion passed.

Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2009: Linda noted that Scott Reiter's name was omitted from the absent list on the draft copy. There being no other corrections a motion was made to accept the minutes with the noted correction. Motion: Scott Reiter Second: Chris Elko Motion passed

VASWCD Dues: Linda reported that the association was going to change their billing from a calendar year to a fiscal year. Money is budgeted for payment for a fiscal year. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the change in the next fiscal budget.

Agreement between JRSWCD & Virginia Outdoors Foundation: Dan Lee presented the revised document from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, per the Districts request. The requested change in paragraph 7 (Violations and Enforcement), indicating that JRSWCD would not be responsible to pay legal costs associated with the enforcement of co-held easements. A motion was made to accept the cooperative agreement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, modified January 9, 2009. Motion: Margie Davis Seconded: Charlie Skalsky Motion passed

Cost Share: Dan presented the following cost share requests:

- J. H. Binford Farms Inc. (FSA Farm #1584, Tract #3419, Fields 6 & 7, located in the Southern Rivers Watershed) for SL-1, Converting Cropland to Hay or Pasture Land. The total acres are 22.46 with a cost estimate of \$5,720.73. A motion was made to approve this practice, at an estimated cost of \$5,720.73. Motion made – Margie Davis Seconded Chris Elko Motion passed.
- Amendment to James Kanusek (approved October 2008). The original practice was approved at a cost share of \$864.96. Due to increased planting costs the actual cost was \$1854.15, resulting in a cost share amount of \$1390.61. A motion was made to approve the amended cost share for James Kanusek in the amount of \$1390.61. Motion made: Margie Davis Seconded: Charlie Skalsky Motion passed.

Farmer Focus Groups – Wednesday, February 18, 2009: 7:30 am Dan reported that post cards had been sent out and he is taking reservations. The speaker, Mike Henry, will be speaking on beef production and linking it to possible District programs.

Report on Area III Spring Meeting: A planning meeting was held on January 15th. The Area III meeting will be held on April 2, 2009 at Petersburg Country Club. Noting the current economy the District would like to hold expenses at a cost of \$15/person. Donations will be accepted to help offset a portion of the expenses. Instead of door prizes, we will organize a silent auction with the proceeds designated for the Area III District Award program.

Scholarship Information: Information was distributed at the January meeting. Dan's recommendation is to use the FFA Scholarship program. A motion was made to increase the scholarship budget to a total of \$2600, as required by the FFA program, to provide a \$1,000 scholarship to a student in Chesterfield and a student in Prince George. Motion made: Margie Davis Seconded: Chris Elko Motion passed.

Conservation Camp: Information will be distributed to high school guidance counselors, science teachers and Envirothon participants. The cost per camper is \$550 and we will send one from each of the 2 counties.

“Living in Your Watershed” Update: The booklets are being prepared for distribution for the current school year. We have enough booklets for a third year distribution in the two counties.

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DISTRICT REPORTS:

Committee Reports:

Agriculture: Report given during cost share approvals

Finance: No report

Personnel: Discussion of personnel needs, including training, of the district staff

Strategic Planning: It was noted that the plan needs to be updated by the end of 2009. The committee will determine the best time and best process. Information will be provided as it is developed.

Nominating Committee: Chairman Bagshaw made committee assignments

Staff: Reports were in the packet. Dan updated his training. Bonnie reviewed her projects for the month of January.

Directors:

Scott Reiter reviewed the success of the water testing program and thanked the District for their support of the program. He brought to the District's attention a workshop that he will be hosting in the spring and noted that he wanted to offer tissue sampling as a service of that program. The District had discussed interest in tissue sampling in the past. A motion was made to fund tissue sampling to the local agriculture community, paying for samples up to a maximum of \$500 for the program. Motion made: Margie Davis Seconded: Chris Elko Motion passed. Extension will be the annual hazardous household waste cleanup on April 25th, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: With there being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion made: Scott Reiter Seconded: Chris Elko Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda McAllister
District Administrator

Don Bagshaw, Chairman

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