



Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D  
Executive Board Meeting  
August 16, 2010  
Minutes

Members present were Edsel Nix, Vice-President and Larry Nix, Treasurer. Members absent: Jeanette Jamieson, President; Dennis Brown, Secretary and Lewis Canup, Member-at-Large. Others present – Chris Groskreutz and Susan Creasy.

Edsel called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Motion was made by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edsel to approve the June 22, 2010 minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edsel to approve the financial reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Ongoing Program Updates

- Wheels-to-Work – A written report was reviewed. Tina will be going to the Hart County Sheriff's office to pursue charges against a client we are unable to locate.
- Revolving Loan –
  - ❖ In a letter dated May 4, 2010 Tom's Creek Woodworks proposed to make weekly payments of \$100 to avoid the initiation of default proceedings. While three payments were received in May, only two were received in June, only one in July and none to date in August. A letter will be sent advising them that, because they have not made payments as proposed, they are once again in a default status.
  - ❖ In an effort to distribute the remaining funds in our Council area, it was decided to promote the Revolving Loan program at local district meetings, Georgia Mountain Regional Commission meetings and the upcoming full council meeting. Information will also be provided to local businesses when the opportunity presents itself.

General Updates/New Business

- Sponsors for 2010 meetings:
  - ❖ September 14 – Stephens County Board of Commissioners – Willard Kimsey Environmental Education Facility (Strawbale building) in Eastanollee
    - The Executive Board will meet at 9:30 a.m., followed by the full Council meeting at 10:30.
    - A motion was made by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edsel that, unless the County has a program in mind, Kent Wolfe will be asked to present a program on Agritourism at the September meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
    - Chris Hughes, the arborist contracted to assist with the Council's ARRA grant, will be invited to attend.
    - Several of our Council members and partners are actively participating in the food drive which will end September 14.
  - ❖ December 9 – Franklin County – Location TBD – Program TBD by Franklin County
- The company that provided cleaning services for the Council's office resigned effective July 31, 2010. According to NRCS, anyone providing cleaning services must be bonded and insured. The Council staff will pursue getting bids to present to the Executive Board so that a replacement service can be contracted.
- There was discussion about the need to modify the Council's by-laws. Currently terms for all officers expire annually. A motion was made by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edsel to draft a revision that would provide for two-year terms with three of the offices expiring each year on a rotating basis. Motion carried unanimously. A

draft of the revision will be reviewed by the Executive Board prior to presentation to the full Council on September 14.

- It was suggested that the financial committee meet to draft a budget for FY11.

Special Projects Report – written report provided by Josh

- Broiler House Energy Audits – The program is ongoing and additional funds are expected
- WAE – Josh is still spending about two days a week working in the Commerce field office assisting with backlogged contracts
- North Georgia Tree Planting Initiative (ARRA Project) –
  - ❖ Chris Hughes with Brookwood Tree Consulting has been hired as the arborist for this program
  - ❖ Larry will provide feedback on a contract for Mr. Hughes. The contract will be presented to Jeanette for signature once a final version has been prepared.
- Mud Creek 319(h) –
  - ❖ The draft work plan for Phase 2 has been received.
  - ❖ It is anticipated that the GAEPD contract will be signed in the fall with landowners being contracted in early 2011
- Soque River 319(h) –
  - ❖ Josh assisted with a week-long water camp held July 26-30
- Georgia CIG – Susan reported that a no-cost extension was requested and received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The grant has been extended through August 2011. At this time, UGA is still monitoring energy use data.

Coordinator's Report – written report provided by Chris

- Several of the topics in the written report were covered earlier in the agenda.
- GFC Urban Forestry ARRA Project (Tree Planting Initiative)
  - ❖ There are no outstanding invoices.
  - ❖ The Council recently passed a pre-audit performed by GFC to ensure record keeping is in compliance with grant requirements.
  - ❖ A draft contract with the arborist will be submitted shortly for review.
  - ❖ GFC will advance the funds budgeted for maintenance on the tree planting projects once they are installed properly.
- USF&W
  - ❖ The stream work at Shaw Park in Cobb County is complete and payment will be processed upon receipt of requested maintenance guarantee information.
- Farmer's Market EBT –
  - ❖ Union and Rabun counties are moving forward.
  - ❖ The June 24 field day was a huge success with about 100 people in attendance. A video clip from the field day can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rK-05wzLcH8>. All field day invoices have been paid.
  - ❖ Funding has been applied for to continue the program next year. Response is pending.
- Georgia Agritourism –
  - ❖ A statewide association is being formed to organize and promote the industry.
  - ❖ A statewide conference is being planned for November 3-5 at the Dillard House.
  - ❖ The next planning meeting is scheduled for August 17 in Bibb County.
- Mobile animal processing facility grant proposal is on hold pending a new funding source.
- American Forests – Global ReLeaf – Northeast GA
  - ❖ An application for about 667,000 trees was submitted.
  - ❖ Total project costs over three years would be \$652,000 (50/50 cost share).
- NRCS Update:
  - ❖ Annual Plan of Work has been submitted.
  - ❖ FY-2011 APIG requests are due by the end of the month.
  - ❖ We will be invoicing for the FY-2010 funds shortly.
  - ❖ FY-2011 NRCS Targeted Outreach RFP should be announced any day.
    - Calling for non-profit groups to provide NRCS program related outreach

- A motion was made by Larry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Edsel to pursue this funding opportunity. Motion carried unanimously.
- Habersham County Farm Day – The Council has been asked to help on 9/10/10 at the Habersham County fairgrounds.

Upcoming Dates:

Council meeting – September 14, 2010 – Stephens County

Southeastern RC&D Meeting – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> – Biloxi, MS

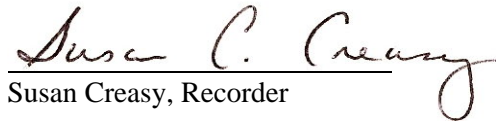
Georgia RC&D meeting/Statewide Council Member Training – November 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Statewide Agritourism Conference – November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> – Dillard House

Council meeting – December 9, 2010 – Franklin County

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at 9:300 a.m. September 14, 2010 at the Willard Kimsey Environmental Education Center in Stephens County.

Meeting adjourned.

  
Susan Creasy, Recorder