



Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D  
Executive Board Meeting  
February 24, 2011  
Minutes

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

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

Motion was made by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis to approve the December 9, 2010 minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ongoing Program Updates

- Wheels-to-Work – A written report was reviewed.
  - ❖ Tina will continue to follow up on delinquent clients.
  - ❖ If the tow bill for the 2001 Escort, which is in Lawrenceville with a blown motor, has not yet been paid, it will be paid and the car disposed of.
  - ❖ A Council member has a car for sale and was inquiring about selling it to the WTW program. It was decided that, in order to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest, no financial transactions should be conducted which involve Council members.
- Revolving Loan –
  - ❖ The existing loan was discussed. There has been no activity since the last payment was received on 11/18/10. Jeanette will be asked to follow up.
  - ❖ A local restaurant has received an application. This has not yet been completed and returned.
  - ❖ Jane Ferguson had been invited to the January Executive Board meeting to discuss possible funding opportunities to expand this program through Rural Development. The January meeting was canceled due to the weather. Ms. Ferguson will be invited to the May Executive Board meeting.

General Updates/New Business

- The date/location of the 2011 meetings was discussed.
  - ❖ Lumpkin County will host the first quarterly meeting of 2011 on Thursday, March 24. The Executive Board meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. with the full Council meeting starting at 10:00. The program will focus on new Council member orientation. Chris will invite a coordinator for another RC&D Council to facilitate this training. Adelrid will be contacted to determine their availability to also be on the program discussing the endangered status of Hemlock trees.
  - ❖ It was decided by the full Council at the December 9, 2010 that, following the Lumpkin County meeting, the location of quarterly meetings would rotate in alphabetical order by county beginning with Banks County. Except for the December meeting, which will vary because of the holidays, quarterly meetings will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month. This means that Banks County hosts the June 24 meeting; Dawson County hosts the September 22 meeting and Forsyth County hosts the December meeting on a date to be determined.
- The new Federal mileage rate effective 1/1/11 is 0.51.
- On a motion made by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angela, a new mileage policy was adopted and will be included in the employee handbook. Motion carried unanimously.
- On a motion made by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angela, the revised Inclement Weather Policy was adopted and will be included in the employee handbook. Motion carried unanimously.
- An update on the status of the 2011 annual dues was provided. The only outstanding dues payment at this time is White County.

- Larry presented a draft budget for review.
- Notice of the Council's admission to the enhanced (Tier II) level of the Circle of Diamonds was distributed.
- The invoice received From the Secretary of State for the Annual Registration for The Earth Resources Foundation was reviewed. A motion was made by Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis to pay the invoice. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Angela to pay make a \$250 donation to Hall County Extension to sponsor the Annual Hall County Ag Day on March 11. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Angela, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis to sponsor lunch for the East Region Envirothon Competition up to \$350 following submission of receipts for the meal. Motion carried unanimously.
- The engagement letter from Bates Carter for performing of the 2010 audit was distributed for review.
- The 2010 OSHA Form 300 was reviewed and signed.
- A draft version of the 2011 Council Member Handbook was distributed for review. Suggestions for revision will be submitted if necessary. The resulting handbook will be placed in a 3-ring binder and distributed at the March Council meeting.

#### Special Projects Report – written report provided by Josh

- Broiler House Energy Audits – Josh has completed 21 energy audits through Rural Development's REAP program.
- North Georgia Tree Planting Initiative (ARRA Project) –
  - ❖ The majority of projects are nearing completion.
  - ❖ Payment is pending for two invoices that have been submitted to GFC.
  - ❖ A new invoice will be submitted next week.
- Mud Creek 319(h) – Phase 2
  - ❖ The signed GAEPD contract arrived on February 10.
  - ❖ The primary focus is Ag BMPs with Forestry BMPs and septic tank issues being secondary.
- Georgia CIG – An invoice was submitted on 2/8/11 for which payment is pending. UGA continues to monitor energy usage on the poultry houses that have installed the recommended improvements. Educational field days will be held in Spring 2011.

#### Coordinator's Report – written report provided by Chris

- Several of the topics in the written report were covered earlier in the agenda.
- ARRA Tree Planting:
  - ❖ Received an additional \$16,729.96 and an addendum is coming from GFC
    - New trees will go to enhance the Oglethorpe County and Covington projects and create new projects in Banks, Dawson and Habersham counties. These projects must be installed by 3/31/11.
  - ❖ We attended the Blairsville Arbor day tree planting with about 50 kids, parents and local officials.
- USFWS Grant:
  - ❖ Reimbursement was received in mid-December for the Shaw Park Demonstration Project.
    - An official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is being planned for the spring.
  - ❖ Chris is meeting with Lumpkin County Commissioners and staff on Friday to game plan for the bridge installation project to be located on Rider Rd in SW Lumpkin County.
  - ❖ A decision is still pending regarding the proposal that was submitted to enhance current efforts in the Upper Coosa. If approved, this grant will provide approximately \$66,000 in FY11 federal funds.
- Farmer's Markets EBT Program:
  - ❖ Upper Ocmulgee River is still finalizing yearly sales totals and will share upon availability.
  - ❖ New money has been allocated, with one new project to be installed in Stephens County.
    - Talked with three potential sites - still awaiting final word from one of them to gauge interest. Of the two that have responded, one declined and one is not eligible.
    - The site that is not eligible is interested in pursuing EBT card services through the state aside from grant.
- Georgia Agritourism:
  - ❖ The Council is one of about 30 Founding Members.
  - ❖ The group is still discussing plans for 2011 – Hosting a Field Day training on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

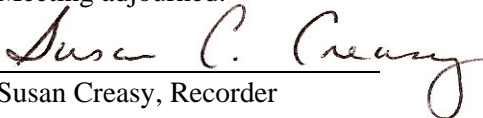
- The Legacy Tree Project:
  - ❖ We have been instructed by the auditor that the services being donated by Adelrid are not tax deductible. Adelrid plans to continue projects despite that revelation.
- Equine Management Course:
  - ❖ The course is ongoing for Tuesday nights from 6:30-9:00 p.m. Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – Mar 8, 2011.
  - ❖ 34 have attended thus far with two more weeks to go.
- Council Newsletter:
  - ❖ Two articles to be included in the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition have been received from partners. It WILL be ready for distribution at the next Full Council Meeting.
- NRCS Update:
  - ❖ Targeted Outreach invoices for Agritourism and API Farmbill Outreach Programs have been successfully reimbursed and we are on pace for expensing it.
    - Newsletter, Equine Management Course, Georgia Small Farmers Conference were all approved deliverables
      - A motion was made by Dennis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis to use \$1,500 of these funds for scholarships for the Small Farmers Conference. Motion carried unanimously.
  - ❖ The new NRCS “Circle of Diamonds Recognition” Agreement is available to review and sign today.
    - We are proposing to install or enhance 5 children’s recreational facilities.
  - ❖ Chris has been appointed the new Hispanic Emphasis Program Manager.
    - He will be attending trainings later this year in San Antonio and Atlanta.
- Miscellaneous:
  - ❖ Mud Creek 319 Phase II contracts are in and we will begin working on implementing it as soon as the tree plantings are complete.
  - ❖ Jeff Herrin (Habersham County) was selected as the District Winner for the Georgia Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Award.
    - Judges visited the farm on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and will announce the state winner on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Ag Day at the Capitol in Atlanta.

Upcoming Dates:

March 3, 2011 - East Region Envirothon Competition - Clarke County  
 March 4, 2011 - West Region Envirothon Competition - Clayton County  
 March 11, 2011 - Hall County Ag Day  
 March 24, 2011 - Full Council Meeting Hosted by Lumpkin County

The next Executive Board meeting will be Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in Lumpkin County, followed by the full Council meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

  
 Susan Creasy, Recorder