



Chestatee-Chattahoochee RC&D
Executive Board Meeting
December 9, 2010
Minutes

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

Jeanette called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Dennis, 2nd by Edsel to approve the November 15, 2010 minutes as distributed. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Dennis 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.
- Revolving Loan – The existing loan was discussed. Attempts to gain information about possible funding opportunities to expand this program through Rural Development have gone unanswered to date.

General Updates/New Business

- A motion was made by Edsel, 2nd by Larry to adopt the 2010 Annual Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- The date/location of the 2011 meetings have yet to be determined. Counties that have not recently hosted a meeting were discussed. Lumpkin County will be asked to host the first quarterly meeting of 2011. Following that meeting, it was decided rotate to meeting location in alphabetical order by county.
- An update on the status of the 2011 dues was provided. Invoices will be re-sent to those sponsoring organizations that have not paid by mid-January.
- The budget committee will meet in January 2011 to draft a current budget.
- A motion was made by Dennis, 2nd by Larry to submit the Circle of Diamonds Enhanced Level application as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Dennis to approve the amended contract for Chris Hughes, Certified Arborist working on the ARRA grant. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Dennis to approve the contract with Hall County for the ARRA grant. Motion carried unanimously.
- A motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Edsel to have the Council become a founding member of the Georgia Agritourism Association. Motion carried unanimously.

Special Projects Report – written report provided by Josh

- Broiler House Energy Audits – Josh continues to perform energy audits through Rural Development's REAP program.
- WAE – About sixteen hours/week are being spent working WAE.
- North Georgia Tree Planting Initiative (ARRA Project) –
 - ❖ Bids were received for the tree installation/maintenance contracts. Two contracts have been secured to date.
 - ❖ There is a problem with the Hart County contractor fulfilling his obligations under the grant. Several trees have died and need to be replaced. He is not responding to e-mails or phone calls. A motion was made by Larry, 2nd by Edsel to send a certified letter to the contractor. If all else fails, it is the Council's responsibility to ensure the project is completed according to the ARRA grant requirements. Motion carried unanimously.
- Mud Creek 319(h) – Phase 2
 - ❖ The GAEPD contract is still pending

- ❖ Josh has begun contacting steering committee members
- Soque River 319(h) –
 - ❖ Water sampling throughout the watershed has resumed
- Georgia CIG – Payment has been received for the October 7 invoice. UGA continues to monitor energy usage on the poultry houses that have installed the recommended improvements. Educational field days will be held in 2011.

Coordinator's Report – written report provided by Chris

- Several of the topics in the written report were covered earlier in the agenda
- USF&WS
 - ❖ Payment is still pending for the invoice submitted for the Shaw Park Demonstration Project in Cobb County
 - ❖ Lumpkin County has expressed an interest in a bridge installation project in the Etowah River Watershed. A site visit and project cost estimates are pending.
 - ❖ A proposal was submitted to enhance the efforts in the Upper Coosa with FY11 funds.
- Farmers' Market EBT –
 - ❖ Yearly totals are pending for the farmers' markets in Union and Rabun counties
- Georgia Agritourism –
 - ❖ Dr. Kent Wolfe will be providing information at the full Council meeting
 - ❖ A meeting will be held on 12/13 with the planners of the 2010 meeting to review the 2010 meeting and begin planning for 2011
- Legacy Tree Project –
 - ❖ Chris spoke about this project at the GMRC meeting
 - ❖ Weather permitting - treatments will proceed this winter, but should pick up by the spring
- Master Equine Management Course –
 - ❖ The first steering committee meeting was held November 29 at 2:00 p.m. at the Habersham EMC building
 - ❖ The six-week course is set for Tuesday nights February 1 – March 8, 2011 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. at the Aquatic Center in Clarkesville
 - ❖ The fee is \$125
- Newsletter
 - ❖ Currently soliciting articles from partners
 - ❖ First edition should go out in the beginning of 2011
- NRCS Update:
 - ❖ Payment was received for the FY-2009 APIG invoice in the amount of \$19,700
 - ❖ The first invoice is being developed for the Targeted Outreach grant to include Agritourism efforts as well as API Farmbill Outreach program
 - The Council hosted a Farmbill training workshop November 30 at the Franklin County Ag Center that drew about 40 attendees
 - ❖ Chris will be attending a meeting in Watkinsville on January 16 about a Biomass Crop Assistance Program

The Executive Board met in a closed session to discuss personnel matters.

- ❖ It was decided to reimburse both Susan and Josh \$35 per month for cell phone expenses upon receipt of the bill from their respective carrier
- ❖ Christmas bonuses were awarded

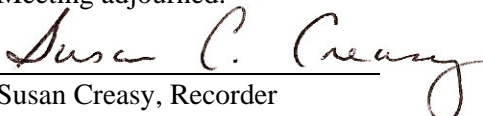
Upcoming Dates:

GACDS Annual Meeting – January 21 - 23, 2011 at the Hyatt in Savannah

Georgia RC&D Meeting – January 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in conjunction with GACDS in Savannah

The next Executive Board meeting will be January 13th at 8:00 a.m. at the Council's office

Meeting adjourned.


 Susan Creasy, Recorder