



MINUTES
Shenandoah RC&D Council
Augusta County Government Center
Smith's Transfer Conference Room
May 10, 2010
10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present:	Jim Nichols, HSWCD Rick Shiflet, HSWCD Joan Comanor, LFSWCD David Frackelton, SVSWCD	Dee Hockman, FB Elizabeth McCarty, CSPDC Roy Stephenson, HSWCD	Jim Lawrence, LFSWCD Megan O'Gorek John Eckman, VCC
Members Absent:	Jill Keihn,, NSVRC Maria Papadakis, At-Large	Jeff Rinker, SVPure H20	Esteban Nieto, At-Large
Associate Members Absent:	Kelly Watkinson, Potomac Con. Chris Anderson, Page Co. Eric Paulson, Va. State Dairyman's Assoc.	Hobey Bauhan, Va. Poultry Joe Lehnen, DOF	
Staff Present:	Kathy Holm, NRCS/SRC&D Lorraine Cormier, NRCS/SRC&D		
Others Present:	Carl Luebben Tom Stanley, VCE	Brian Jones, VCE	

The meeting was **called to order** by Chair, John Eckman . **A quorum was declared** with nine (9) voting members in attendance.

Introduction of New Council Member

Dee Hockman, Farm Bureau Representative

Dee is a Shenandoah County native. She is a retired school teacher. She is now a full-time farmer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The **minutes** of the March 8, 2010 were distributed. A motion was made by Joan Comanor to approve and seconded by Jim Nichols. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was distributed to Council. Roy Stephenson stated that the accounts were reviewed and balanced. He stated that the treasurer's report will be filed in the RC&D office and await review by the accountant.

SunTrust Operating/Administrative Account:

December 2009

Opening Balance:	\$23,772.37
Checks Cleared:	\$(82.58)
Deposits Cleared:	\$323.68
Balance in Checkbook:	\$24,013.47 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$(116.40)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$250.00
New Checks:	\$(390.00)
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$23,757.07

January 2010

Opening Balance:	\$24,013.47
Checks Cleared:	\$(688.20)
Deposits Cleared:	\$250.81
Balance in Checkbook:	\$23,576.08 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$(53.20)

Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0
New Checks:	\$(598.33)
New Deposits:	\$700.00
Ending Balance:	\$23,624.55

SunTrust Projects Account:*December 2009*

Opening Balance:	\$38,252.39
Checks Cleared:	\$(11,864.66)
Deposits Cleared:	\$4,037.24
Balance in Checkbook:	\$30,424.97 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$(1,437.64)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$(1,120.21)
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$27,867.12

January 2010

Opening Balance:	\$30,424.97
Checks Cleared:	\$(7,603.31)
Deposits Cleared:	\$2,502.08
Balance in Checkbook:	\$25,322.63 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$(78.95)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$
New Checks:	\$(2,000.00)
New Deposits:	\$800.00
Ending Balance:	\$24,043.68

DCCU - Projects Account*December 2009*

Opening Balance:	\$71,761.33
Checks Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$0.00
Dividends	\$121.90
Balance in Checkbook:	\$71,883.23 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$71,883.23

January 2010

Opening Balance:	\$71,883.23
Checks Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$0.00
Dividends	\$122.10
Balance in Checkbook:	\$72,005.33 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$72,005.33

DCCU - Administrative Account*December 2009*

Opening Balance:	\$25.24
Checks Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$0.04
Dividends	\$0.00
Balance in Checkbook:	\$25.28 (matches statement)

Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$25.28

January 2010

Opening Balance:	\$25.28
Checks Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$0.00
Dividends	\$0.00
Balance in Checkbook:	\$25.28 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$25.28

SunTrust Investments***December 2009****25-month CD (3.92%) - 6417*

Opening Balance:	\$5,252.07
Earned Interest:	\$16.95
Ending Balance:	\$5,269.02

32-month CD (2.37%) - 6394

Opening Balance:	\$5,224.65
Earned Interest:	\$10.19
Ending Balance:	\$5,234.84

January 2010*25-month CD (3.92%) - 6417*

Opening Balance:	\$5,269.02
Earned Interest:	\$17.57
Ending Balance:	\$5,286.59

32-month CD (2.37%)

Opening Balance:	\$5,234.84
Earned Interest:	\$10.54
Ending Balance:	\$5,245.38

The insurance company was changed from BB&T to Beehive Insurance Company. Beehive offered a significantly lower premium for the same coverage to RC&D's.

The bank statements for all accounts for the months of December and January were reconciled with the checkbook. Details of the above financial activities are on the reconciliations. If there are specific questions concerning this activity, you may view statements, reconciliations, and original receipts which are kept in the RC&D office.

GUEST SPEAKER**Brian Jones, VCE****Roller/Crimper as a Low Input Tool for Manager Cover Crops in the Shenandoah Valley Project**

The project was funded by Shenandoah RC&D for two cover crop rollers. This is for controlling cover crops. This device has been tested and implemented over the past four years. There has been success with controlling cover crops with the mechanical device. Legume cover crop control is a little more challenging. They do have to use a small dose of herbicide in addition to the roller/crimper. There are a lot of benefits of using the roller/crimper. One is the quick building of soil quality and soil microbiology and conserves soil moisture and removes soil erosion. Implementation has been a challenge. It has really taken off with vegetable growers. Most pumpkin, gourds, and squash are now grown on rye that has been rolled

down. This is a direct impact that the roller/crimper has provided. It also fills a niche for organic and low-input producers. They received a grant funded by Northeastern Integrated Pest Management with research by UMD/Penn State/Va Tech/Rodale to look at the roller/crimper for weed suppression and control. That data is being published. He circulated the report of outcomes. A report by Brian is almost complete and will be mailed to Shenandoah RC&D very soon. Carl Luebben requested a copy of these reports.

Kathy asked if people are still interested in using the roller/crimper. She wondered if there is only interest in Rockingham County or has it spread out. Brian stated that there was more interest when it was new. Franklin County and Southwest Virginia showed a lot of interest especially on dairy farms. They took it to West Virginia, and all over Rockingham and Augusta. One problem is with too much moisture and the resulting slugs for some crops. Slugs are being studied by a consortium of experts from all over the east coast. This year there probably will not be a slug problem because of the dryer weather. Another problem is later planting of some crops. However, it is still in high demand for vegetable growers. It was stated that the local farmers markets may be an effect place to educate people about the roller/crimper. He stated that it is now available for people to use. It is housed at Mike Phillips' farm in Rockingham County.

Advanced Soil Fertility Management Beyond NP&K

Shenandoah RC&D funded this project to modify corn planters. This has been done. A regional effort for education growers about Advanced Soil Fertility Management has begun. The information was presented at a growers meeting and well received. More interest was generated at that meeting. The funds that are remaining will be spent on a meeting in the coming year.

Shenandoah Valley Sustainable Cropping Systems Research Study

This is the final year for this project. A summary will be completed soon.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS

New Projects

Educating Shenandoah County Rural Landowners about Conservation Easements

John Eckman presented this proposal to Council. The Managed Growth Committee discussed and approved for Council to consider. This is for a mailing out of the Conservation Easement Authority Newsletter to Shenandoah County landowners with acreage. This is in line with Council's 5-year plan and the project goals. Bobby Clark, VCE, is requesting \$2,000 for this project. There is great support from the community for land management and managed growth. Conservation Easements are in Shenandoah County's comprehensive plan. A motion was made by Jim Nichols to accept this project. It was seconded by Jim Lawrence; and unanimously approved. The money will be used from the Agua Fund.

Growing Power III

Kathy Holm presented this for the Community Development Committee. The Committee discussed and unanimously recommended for Council to consider funding at the full level of \$8,000. Kathy stated that this organization really does a lot with a small amount of money. They have built so much momentum that they have purchased a new site, which will allow them to do more because of the zoning. A motion was made by Jim Lawrence to accept this project. It was seconded by Rick Shiflet; and unanimously approved. The money will be used from the Agua Fund.

Project updates/status changes

On-Farm Biodiesel Project

A report from Ian Heatwole was distributed via email. Kathy Holm stated that Shenandoah RC&D needs to decide whether to extend the committed money (\$10,000) to Ian Heatwole or not. Jim Nichols stated that Ian will spend this money for the power source. He also stated that Ian has shown good faith effort in his intention to spend this money. He also has spent his own money on attorney fees. Brian Jones stated that it is Ian's goal to be done by December 2010. Rick Shiflet stated that Council should make the public aware of the roadblocks thrown up to block this project in such a large agricultural county. A motion was made by Joan Comanor to extend this project through December 2010. It was seconded by Jim Nichols; and unanimously approved. A letter of extension will be written to Ian. An explanation of why the funds are not spent will be given to Agua Fund also.

Organic Dairy Systems Project

Tom Stanley reported on this project. Tom distributed a written report. Data collection began about two years ago. There have been many changes in the organic dairy farming industry. He stated that this project is very close to completion. Two other farms need to be included in data. There has been double digit

growth in the market for organic milk for eight consecutive years. There is resistance from traditional dairymen because they feel that organic milk is marketed at their expense. This is not necessarily true. So far all the buyers have honored their contracts.

Tom stated in his report that certified organic dairy farms can be profitable but not necessarily more so than a conventional dairy of similar size. Organic dairies require more land per unit of milk produced and market incentives are pointing to more milk production during the winter months. Opportunity exists for the organic dairyman that that can utilize new or improved perennial forages that can be grazed in the late fall and winter thus keeping costs low while provided the milk when the market demand is greatest. He feels that the project will be done at the end of July 2010.

Green Infrastructure

Jim Lawrence reported on this project. The project began with the VARC&DC, so other RC&D's could use the funding. The first workshop was in 2005. Old Dominion RC&D pursued a land protection only workshop and did not avail themselves of the funding; however, Tidewater RC&D did. Shenandoah RC&D's first workshop was in 2006 in Charlottesville. There is still a little money left in the grant fund for green infrastructure workshops. The money may be able to be used for a TDR workshop in the future.

NRCS Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative Funds (CCPI)

Kathy reported on this. She stated that the Executive Committee conceptually approved the RC&D submitting the proposal. This grant is due on May 24. A copy of the CCPI proposal was circulated. This is a way to get more cost-share dollars in the hands of the farmers in our service area. There were discussions between NRCS staff and RC&D about partnering and putting in a proposal to fund agronomy practices that are already in the system. Because they weren't ranked high enough, they weren't funded with the limited cost-share dollars already available. This proposal will unlock cost-share dollars to farmers who have already applied for that money. A motion was made by Rick Shiflet to approve submitting this proposal. It was seconded by Jim Nichols; and unanimously approved.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

Review of Annual Work Plan and Area Plan

Kathy reported on these. These will be discussed more at the Executive Committee teleconference. There are some areas that need work. The Flex Fence I project is complete in that the money is all obligated for this. There are a few farms where the projects are not complete because of the snowy winter and the wet spring. Chesapeake Bay Funders Network paid to have Flex Fence booklets designed and printed. These booklets describe the first three projects CBFN funded collectively. Shenandoah RC&D's project was one and there were two in Pennsylvania. A Flex Fence booklet was circulated among the Council. They will be used on the OMB Tour at the end of the week. If anyone wants a booklet, you can request one from the RC&D office.

Some activities in the Area Plan and Annual Plan are not completed. These will be discussed more at the Executive Committee teleconference. Some of these are related to community development. Other items were an event or an activity in all counties in the service region, stormwater management—outreach and education; LID, and affordable housing. Shenandoah RC&D is getting close to the end of its five-year plan. So, these need to be addressed.

Joan stated the Community Development Committee needs to be more involved. It was pointed out that there are term limits on the at-large members and that will be discussed at the teleconference. John stated that the at-large members are very important to the Council and even if the current members step down, Council will still be able to work with them on projects.

Sponsor Dues

Invoices for FY2011 Shenandoah RC&D dues will go out in May; the dues should be paid by July 30. Last year \$2,500 was collected from a majority of the Sponsors in FY2010. It was also noted also that some Council members gave personal donations in FY2010.

Agua Fund and Other Grant Spending (Charts)

Agua Fund 07/08 and Agua Fund 08/09– There are some project balances to be spent out. Reports on these will be sent out to Agua Fund in June. A grant was approved from Community Foundation for \$2,700 for coliform monitoring for Poague Run.

Fundraising

John Eckman reminded everyone that Council still needs to raise about \$10,000 - \$12,000 each year to fund its own operations. It was noted that some Council members gave personal donations in FY2010. There are still openings on the Fundraising Committee. Jim Nichols volunteered to serve on the Committee. John stated that Clark, Warren, and Fredrick need to be involved also. John also stated that 100% board participation is one of the things that potential funders look at.

VARC&DC Annual Spring Meeting

Joan Comanor reported on this. She stated that Jim Boland and she went to this meeting. It was held in Smithfield, Virginia, April 28-30. It was an excellent meeting. Several State Delegates spoke. There was some musical entertainment. A live auction was held to help with fundraising for the VARC&DC. A significant amount of money was raised. There was an excellent tour of the area. Even though this is an applicant area, they have a few good projects and were excellent hosts. Someone from Smithfield Corporation spoke to the group. A few years back, in NC a lagoon burst and caused much pollution; Smithfield played a large part in the cleanup efforts. They are now considered one of the top corporations and have received a number of awards for their environmental sustainability and how they treat their employees. They are also the largest meat processing corporation in the world. They have operations in 10-12 other countries.

This year, Shenandoah RC&D won the "Council of the Year" award for 2009. She stated that Council has done quite well over the years.

NRCS has adopted a process called performance improvement. Shenandoah RC&D and all councils in Virginia are in good shape. One of the new measurements is for Councils to be able to demonstrate that they are generating benefits equivalent to or greater than the federal contribution. FY10 Federal Contribution was around \$127,000. She stated that Council needs to keep this in mind.

OMB Tour

The National Association of RC&D Councils has focused in on some individuals from the OMB that have been zeroing out the RC&D program for the past few years. Shenandoah RC&D will be giving those specific people a project tour this Thursday, May 13. She distributed the itinerary. John stated that feedback received from the Agua Fund tour was really positive. There are partners lined up to say good things about the RC&D. They are going to eat a catered lunch. They will be serving some local foods. This will highlight our local foods projects.

Levels of Accounting

This was brought out at the State meeting. A 990 Form is required for all non-profits. Shenandoah RC&D has been doing a Form 990 EZ. An information sheet was distributed. The Executive Committee will look at doing a full 990 form this year as opposed to a 990 EZ form.

SEARC&DC Meeting

This will be in Biloxi, MS September 20-25, 2010. Shenandoah RC&D has not budgeted for any Council members to attend this year. A success story on the goat project was submitted. Council is waiting to hear if it was selected to participate.

RC&D Week

It will be the third week of September. Council should be promoting itself during this week. Some hold banquets, do press releases, and articles. Last year, Shenandoah RC&D did an editorial article that was signed by many Council members and put in local papers. In conjunction with the Annual Report maybe Council could issue news release including accomplishments and leveraged dollars. Kathy may be out much of this time for the SEARC&DC Meeting and the All Employees Meeting in Williamsburg.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Coordinator's Report was distributed.

Announcements

Boer Bok Field Day
Thursday, May 20, 2010
9:00 a.m until 1:00 p.m
Frontier Culture Museum

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

The next Shenandoah RC&D Council meeting will be at 10 a.m., Monday, July 12, 2010 at the Rockingham County Government Center – Conference Room D in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine M. Cormier
Administrative Assistant

Approved: Chair

Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shenandoah RC&D Council Meeting

Monday, July 12, 2010
Rockingham County Government Center
Conference Room D
Harrisonburg, Virginia

SEARC&DC Meeting

September 20-25, 2010
Biloxi, Mississippi