



MINUTES
Shenandoah RC&D Council
Augusta County Government Center
Smith's Transfer Room - East
Verona, Virginia
Monday, November 10, 2008
10:00 a.m.

Council Members Present:	Carl Luebben, FB Jill Keihn., NSVRC David Frackelton, SVSWCD Roy Stephenson, HSWCD (Alternate)	Jim Lawrence, LFSWCD Joan Comanor, LFSWCD Esteban Nieto, At-Large	Rick Shiflet, HSWCD John Eckman, VCC Maria Papadakis, At-Large
Members Absent:	Jim Nichols, HSWCD Linda Campbell, SVSWCD	Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC	Jeff Rinker, SVPure H20
Associate Members Present:			
Staff Present:	Kathy Holm, NRCS/SRC&D Lorraine Cormier, NRCS/SRC&D	Becky Barlow, Marketer – Organic Resources	
Others Present:	DuBose Egleston Chris Price, NSVRC	Tom Stanley	

The meeting was **called to order** by Chair, Jim Lawrence. **A quorum was declared** with **ten (10)** voting members in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The **minutes** of the September 8, 2008 meeting were distributed. A motion was made by Joan Comanor and seconded by Carl Luebben. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer's report was distributed and read to Council by Roy Stephenson, Treasurer. Jim Lawrence stated that the treasurer's report will be filed in the RC&D office for audit.

SunTrust Operating/Administrative Account:

September 2008

Opening Balance:	\$22,552.73
Checks Cleared:	\$(2,564.18)
Deposits Cleared:\$	283.09
Balance in Checkbook:	\$20,271.64 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$0.00
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00
New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$20,271.64

SunTrust Projects Account:

September 2008

Opening Balance:	\$139,275.53
Checks Cleared:	\$(72,997.12)
Deposits Cleared:	\$4,032.23
Balance in Checkbook:	\$70,310.64 (matches statement)
Checks Not Cleared:	\$(78.95)
Deposits Not Cleared:	\$0.00
New Checks:	\$0.00

New Deposits:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$70,231.69

DuPont Community Credit Union - Projects Account*September 2008*

Opening Balance:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$70,000.00
Dividends	\$34.90
Balance in Checkbook:	\$70,034.90 (matches statement)

DuPont Community Credit Union - Administrative Account*September 2008*

Opening Balance:	\$0.00
Deposits Cleared:	\$25.00
Balance in Checkbook:	\$25.00 (matches statement)

SunTrust Investments*13-month CD (3.68%)*

Opening Balance:	\$5,000.00
Earned Interest:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$5,000.00

25-month CD (3.92%)

Opening Balance:	\$5,000.00
Earned Interest:	\$0.00
Ending Balance:	\$5,000.00

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

\$70,000 was transferred from the SunTrust project account into an interest-bearing checking account at DuPont Community Credit Union at the rate of 2.87%. \$189 has been accumulated in interest since the account was opened. This money was transferred because total deposits exceeded the limited insured by the FDIC. Both accounts at SunTrust were moved into interest-bearing checking accounts at .40%. The October statements will reflect any dividends on these accounts.

The IRS Form 990 was filed with the IRS in September.

GUEST PRESENTATION**Jill Keihn and Chris Price****Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission**

Chris Price gave a broad overview of the NSVRC. He stated that they are organized into functional programs. They consist of: Natural Resources, Community Development, Transportation, Economics, and Local Technical Assistance. The Natural Resources program was just created. Jill Keihn is the supervisor of this program. She works on regional water supply planning, solid waste management planning, and Shen-Air. NSVRC has a regional tire shredder and also a regional glass grinder. Another interest of NSVRC is agricultural preservation, including supporting the concept of direct purchases of easements on properties. They are also very interested in further utilizing transfer of development rights. He stated that this is not being taken advantage of very much in Virginia. There was a legislative study that further examined transfer of development rights.

The Community Development program is managed by Martha Shickel. There are many subprograms under this. The Home program encourages first-time homebuyers, rehab of existing properties, and new residences. They receive \$.5 million/year. They may be able to help with foreclosures in the future. Downtown revitalization is included in this program. They help with grant writing and management services. The Human Services Program includes homelessness assistance/mitigation and disability services

board. Micro Enterprise Loans help get loans for those who would not qualify for traditional loan funding. They make small loans—start-up assistance.

Transportation is the largest program. NSVRC is focusing on ridesharing and carpooling services. They provide up front capital assistance. They have been very successful with this. They are becoming much more involved in regional transport. They would like to provide linkages between existing transport providers and identifying places where services are likely to be needed in the future. They have just started a project to find a way to link the Front Royal and Winchester system at least a couple of times per day to provide services up and down Route 11. They would like to extend it even as far south as Augusta County.

Economics is a new division. They have operated the GIS mapping systems for years. These services will be taken to the next generation. They will work with the local comprehensive plans to keep jurisdictions from going bankrupt. They also do basic data analysis services.

Local technical assistance is the chief reason PDCs were created in the first place. They do comprehensive plan development for smaller towns. The staff is also used for grant writing and administration.

Jim Lawrence asked about plans for focusing on natural resources including USGS data. Chris stated that all of the data will be compiled into one location in the future. Maria Papadakis asked if there is any collaboration with the CSPDC? He stated that they are operating and managing the Regional Water Resources Policy Committee and an Air Quality Committee, which includes the CSPDC. Joan Comanor asked if Chris was seeing enthusiasm for cooperation from the local jurisdictions. He said there is enthusiasm for regional cooperation for the reason of saving jurisdictions money by not duplicating services. He says that the jurisdictions are very pleased with what has been accomplished. Joan asked if towns are participating. He said that they are. When they have meetings representatives from all towns attend. Jim stated that the NSVRC has done a great job picking up on the Science Forum, an annual workshop this year's topic was water supply and running with it. He stated that it was very well attended this year. Jim also mentioned the affordable housing forum and that it was pretty well attended. Jim asked if they were going to follow up on that. Chris stated that they are going to follow up. He stated that some internal studies will be done on economic impacts of our quality of life indicators. Some studies are already done they just need to be put in a format that is useful for the local governments. People are already attracted to this area. John asked if he thinks that localities are getting serious about transfer of development rights. He thinks that the local governments won't get serious until the State gets serious. Jim Lawrence stated that it may be up to the Council to get TDRs on the table locally. He stated that Chris should be invited to speak to local governments. There has been talk of including TDRs in the comprehensive plans. Chris said that he would be glad to speak to any local government.

COUNCIL OPERATIONS

New Projects

RWA Main Stem of the Shenandoah River. Carl Luebben presented this project. Kathy Holm will assist with the public concerns aspects of the report. She plans to invest about 40 hours of her time. Other Council members were invited to assist with this project. This project will be completed by June 30, 2009. Jill said that she would be willing to help. Maria suggested collecting the cost share data for BMPs. Maria will talk to Nesha about this. A motion was made by Carl Luebben to accept this project; and was seconded by Dave Frackelton. It was unanimously approved.

Addressing Orchard Grass Problems in the Mid Atlantic. Carl Luebben presented this project as information only. Bobby Clark, VCE, sent in this proposal. He stated that support should be limited. There are some issues with this project, and he recommended that it be tabled until the January 2009 RC&D meeting.

Enhancing Large Animal Mortality Disposal in the Shenandoah Valley. Carl presented this project. It was sent in by Bobby Clark, VCE. This is a project for an on-farm disposal and composting of large animals. Some landfills will not be accepting large animals after January 1, 2009. VCE is requesting \$11,829 from the RC&D. There was much discussion about who would benefit and who should be involved in supporting the project, such as the dairy and livestock producer organizations, etc. As a result, Joan suggested funding this project at \$5,000 and that VCE should work to get the balance from other partners like the equine industry and the Virginia State Dairyman's Association. A motion was made by Carl Luebben to accept this project; and was seconded by Rick Shiflet. It was unanimously approved. Council approved funding the education/outreach portion only for \$5000. This money would be given only

after the other parts of the project have been completed and other funders come on board. The funding will come from Agua Fund 07-08.

Open Projects

Energy Savings On-Farm: Outreach and Education - request for additional funds. Maria Papadakis requested additional funds for this project, which has already been approved. She distributed a budget. The additional funds would be used to support a workshop in January. This will encompass information that is generally applicable to all farms; then to have break-out sessions for dairy, poultry and greenhouse sectors. The RC&D already approved \$2,000. There are other funders also. She is requesting \$3,950 more from RC&D. The NARC&DC is willing to fund on-farm audit training for Virginia Councils, which will be a match for the workshop and could potentially bring ongoing funds to the Council. A motion was made by Maria Papadakis to request additional funds for this project; and was seconded by Joan Comanor. It was unanimously approved. The funding will come from Agua Fund 07-08.

Completed/Updated Projects

Farming Fridays. Tom Stanley presented this project. He stated that this project is complete. He distributed a report. He will invoice the RC&D for \$1,500. A motion was made by Joan Comanor to declare this project complete; and was seconded by Rick Shiflet. It was unanimously approved.

Organic Dairy Farming. Tom Stanley updated Council on this project. He stated that this project is still ongoing and would like more time to complete it. He distributed a project update. The graduate student who was working on this project took a job and departed from the program. Presentations about grazing systems can be heard and seen at:

www.ares.vaes.bt.edu/arec.eft?webname=blackstone

He stated that there will be another update in June 2009. The project will be complete by January 2010. Seven dairies will be affected by this project. He made available an article on dairy farming by Michael Murphy from New Zealand.

Updated/Additional Business

Agua Fund and Other Grant Expenditures. Kathy Holm presented these expenditures in the form of charts. There is approximately \$5,400 that is not committed in Agua Fund 07-08 after the projects that were approved today are subtracted. Kathy stated that there is funding for more projects that support sustainable agriculture in the watershed if anyone has any ideas. The Agua Fund 08-09 has been approved conceptually by the Board of Directors but not been received. The RC&D requested receiving \$25,000 for projects and \$5,000 for administrative funds as a first payment and then \$25,000 for projects later in the year 2009. Maria stated that having a meeting with RC&D, PDCs, DEQ, and other nonprofits on managing non-point source water quality implementing and dealing with water quality goals and objectives would be a good project and use of these funds, including a status check on where we are—materials and lunch provided. She will propose this at the next meeting. Council agreed that this was a good idea. Jim Lawrence stated that DCR should be included because of new rules and regulations.

WSF-II. (Ask Becky to double check this section, thanks) Becky Barlow-Buse' presented this project. She stated that this project is going well. She distributed the NFWF Year 2/Phase 2 Report. Since the report she has calculated the following: Annual litter production in the North River Watershed is approximately 77,000 tons. This is from DEQ litter transfer records information. Total transfer from poultry operations in the North River Watershed was 42,800 tons. This is from September 2007 to August 2008. The remaining is 34,500 tons. The amounts off of the poultry operations and remaining in the watershed are close to 25,000 tons or 58% of the litter that is being transferred. She is trying to get a handle on how that litter is being used. She is working with DCR to come up with numbers on that. There was an event at Oren Heatwole's farm in which Bob Goodlatte attended and highlighted the pyrolysis project. The RC&D was promoted at that event as well.

VARC&DC Awards Committee Appointment. Kathy stated that Tom Benzing resigned last year and a volunteer is needed on the VARC&DC Awards Committee. She stated the responsibilities and why this committee is so important. Maria Papadakis volunteered to be on the Committee.

VARC&DC Public Relations Committee. Last year, Roy Stephenson resigned from this committee. Kathy explained the responsibilities of the committee and asked for a volunteer. No one volunteered at this time. The VARC&DC needs someone from Shenandoah RC&D to be on the committee by April 2009. If a Council member would like to be on this committee, please contact Kathy.

VARC&DC Annual Awards Nominations. The awards nominations are written in December 2008; due in mid January 2009. Please give feedback to Kathy, Jim Lawrence, John Eckman, and Joan Comanor as

soon as possible. Think about these for awards for Shenandoah RC&D: *Council of the Year* and *Project of the Year*. Joan suggested *Council of the Year*.

SWCD Employee of the Year Nominations. It was suggested that Council consider Mike Phillips and/or Bobby Drumheller because they have worked very hard on the Livestock Exclusion project. Please provide feedback to Kathy for nominations for next year.

COUNCIL INFORMATION

VARC&DC Fall Board Meeting. This meeting will be held November 15, 2008. Kathy distributed information on that the proposed energy audit training NARC&DC plans to fund in Virginia.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Coordinator's Report was distributed.

Announcements

Kathy and John went to Pennsylvania to go to the _____ Chesapeake Bay Funding Network/NFWF meeting and presented on the fencing project. Mike Phillips went also. Jim expressed his appreciation for their attendance.

Joan Comanor gave a personal donation to Shenandoah RC&D. Jim Lawrence expressed the Council's appreciation for her generous donation. Our board members are encouraged to support the RC&D.

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

The next Shenandoah RC&D Council meeting will be at 10 a.m., Monday, January 12, 2009 at the Rockingham County Government Center in the Board of Supervisors Room, Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine M. Cormier
Administrative Assistant

Approved: Chair

Date

UPCOMING EVENTS

National Association of RC&D Councils Conference
June 2009
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Low Cost No Cost Ways to Save Energy On Farm Workshop
Thursday, January 8
James Madison Univeristy
Harrisonburg, Virginia
For more information:
papadakismc@jmu.edu