

Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts

1:00pm Friday, April 6, 2012

AACD Office, Little Rock, AR

Agenda attached

- 1) Meeting called to order by Troy Odom, Jr., President at 12:50pm.
- 2) Minutes were presented. Andrew Wargo III made a motion to approve, seconded by Eddie Scherm. Motion passed.
- 3) Treasurer's Account
  - a. Regular Checking
  - b. Review of Accounts

Andrew Wargo III made the motion to approve seconded by Martha Manley. Motion passed.

- c. Andrew Wargo III made the motion to provide \$500 for the regional NACD representative travel, seconded by Martha Manley. Motion passed.
  - d. Liability Insurance – provided to the board for review. Steve Whitehead asked that we check into a higher level of coverage for medical coverage per person.
- 4) Old Business
  - a. Bi-Lingual Technician – program is working well and industry folks are pleased with the results
  - b. MRBI Projects
    - i. SE Projects continue to be working well in Chicot County
    - ii. 20 MRBI New Projects have been submitted to DC for approval
  - c. Conservation Delivery Committee Update
    - i. Martha Manley and Bill Bailey reported on their participation
    - ii. The new legislation should be available to the committee within the next few weeks
    - iii. District Director Training was mentioned as one of the elements that is lacking.
  - d. Rain Gauge
    - i. Andrew Wargo III made a motion to provide \$500 to a volunteer district (one per area) to provide assistance with the project, seconded by Eddie Scherm. Motion passed.
  - e. Monroe Samuel Natural Resources Clinic – scheduled for April 25, 2012 at the Little River Demonstration Forest.
  - f. Herbicide Resistant Management Conference – 83 TSP were certified during three training sessions.

## 5) New Business

- a. Field Office of the Future-Michael Sullivan, NRCS State Conservationist
  - i. Handout attached
  - ii. Core Group – responsible for pulling the details together
  - iii. Review Group – responsible for making recommendations to provide to Mike Sullivan.
  - iv. Andrew Wargo III commented that some of the other states are not willing to address this effort due to miscommunications
- b. NRCS State Technical Committee – Mike Sullivan
  - i. New Initiative addressing 303d streams
  - ii. Recommendations were Bayou Bartholomew, McKinney Bayou and Carroll County watersheds
  - iii. Approved watersheds will receive an additional 5% of EQIP funds
- c. Locally Led Groups
  - i. Will soon be scheduling meetings for 2012
- d. Reorganization of NRCS staff will be coming fairly soon
- e. Wetland and Highly erodible designations have been a NRCS function for District Conservationist. This will be split into two groups with the Area Resource Conservationist taking over this function.
- f. District Conservationists have been consumed with contract execution so some new efforts will be streamlined to provide assistance to free up district conservationists.
- g. NRCS Budget – remains tight but all positions have been funded. Looking at current agreements
- h. ANRC – May 15, 2012 – Native Pollinators Meeting at Booneville, AR
  - i. NASCA has a grant to do the same type of workshops
  - ii. AR/OK will be holding one in June, 2012 at Fort Smith, AR
- i. ANRC Land Resources Specialists have been asked to work with area presidents to improve relations between ANRC & districts
- j. District Director Training – 15 one day training opportunities will be offered statewide
  - i. Directors will be the primary target, but district employees are allowed to come.
  - ii. Districts, ANRC and NRCS will be asked for training ideas.
- k. Water Resources Tour – scheduled for July 10 -12, 2012 in Jonesboro, AR
- l. NACD Summer Legislative Mtg – July 14-17, 2012 in Washington, D.C. Board members were asked to decide who will be attending
- m. Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition Annual Meeting – August 21-22, 2012 at the Wyndham Hotel in North Little Rock, AR
- n. Discovery Farms Tour – Sept. 18 – 20, 2012 will be held in Stuttgart along with an ANRC commission meeting

- o. SC NACD Meeting – August 5 – 7, 2012 at the Arlington Hotel, Hot Springs, AR
- 6) Other Business
  - a. National Partnership Conference Call – April 18, 2012 for the conservation partners to talk about the Field Office of the Future
  - b. Feral Hog Workshops – two held within the state but more are needed
    - i. Mike Sullivan will be heading a task force to see what is the role of NRCS regarding feral hogs
    - ii. Disease and negative impact on water quality and riprap structures are two of the driving force

Andrew Wargo III made the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Moreland.