

**ROCKDALE SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT STATE BOARD  
APRIL 23, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES**

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:02:32] Hey Dave, how you doing today?

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:02:54] Here we go. I'm fine. How are you?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:02:57] I'm good. Shay is going to be under the weather, but she is still going to be here.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:03:04] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:03:04] She got her shot yesterday. I'm going to need you to read that uh....minutes for us today.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:03:12] Okay, I'll pull them up.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:03:17] I appreciate it.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:08:51] Kenny, I was noticing on the minutes. It says that I read the minutes to the meeting before and I believe Shay did that.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:09:05] Um....are you talking about last month?

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:09:07] Yeah, March.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:09:10] You read it last month.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:09:15] Did I?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:09:15] Yeah. Shay had internet problems.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:09:23] That shows you my memory.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:09:27] We're all there.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:10:03] Good morning, George Kelecheck.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:10:06] Hey George! How you doing?

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:10:08] Good? I'm just on speakerphone this morning. I'm having a little trouble with this Zoom account for some reason. So, I registered before now, it doesn't want to recognize my password. So I'll join you on phone and I'll be on my computer getting this other thing figured out.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:10:25] Okay.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:10:30] How's everybody doing this morning?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:10:38] Everybody's good.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:10:41] Fantastic. Looks like we got a big rain event tomorrow. Stormwater all over the county.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:10:58] Yep.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:11:01] I think I might have to take a little video tomorrow, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:11:05] I appreciate that.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:11:06] Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:14:55] Okay. Shay is having a little problem with her phone, but we're going to.....We're going to get ready to start. First,.....before we start, I was listening to my app as far as the minutes and it struck me that I have to be more....we have to be more formal. So, I can distinguish, what everyone is saying. So, I will be addressing the board as district supervisor Dave, district supervisor George, or NRC....NRCS Mr. Ryan because I have to with the app.....with the minutes when I read out, I need to understand exactly what everybody is saying. So, we're getting ready to start and Dave can you read the minutes.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:16:16] Certainly.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:16:19] Today, good morning everyone. This is Pam Brown.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:16:35] How are you doing Vice Chair Pam Brown ?

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:16:35] I am doing well and I'm sorry for being late. I had trouble logging in because it's been so long. But, I'm glad to be here ya'll.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:16:36] I'm glad to have you.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [01:16:41] All right, the minutes from the monthly meeting of March, 2021 call to order by Chairman Johnson, called the meeting to order at 8:30 and that a quorum was present. Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone. Supervisor David Shipp read the minutes and a motion was made by Kenny A Johnson seconded by district supervisors Shipp and Kelecheck. The minutes were approved as read. NRCS report, Ryan Burgess reported that they fixed the ranking issue in their conservation planning software. So, they have reranked all of their applications and got them all submitted. The deadline to have that done was the close of business on March 26, 2021. They're hoping to start seeing contracts selected for pre-approvals the first of April. They are still doing field visits to certify conservation practices on EQIP contracts and meeting with producers to talk with about technical assistance. In Rockdale, they went out and checked certified 8 project wing sites, which stands for wildlife incentives for non-game and game species. The Urban Conservation Tool Box Grant. Burgess

reported that there is one high tunnel remaining and he would like to get one site in Rockdale County. The City of Conyers LIA report was read by Mr. Joe McKinnon who stated that the total projects the City has going on only increased by one from last month. They issued land disturbance for the Salem Gate Market development. McKinnon said everybody's been waiting on that. TD Farrell is going to be the construction. They're going to disturb about 22 acres and look to get that moving forward. The only other major project they have in the planning is the Barnes. In Brookstone-they're doing the decel lane. They were working hot and heavy on getting that at the entrance which will bring some major stabilization. The water line is going in as of last week and that was one of the reasons why they weren't seeing a lot of grading going on. So, the grading companies back out there on site. So, it's hopefully going to start moving a lot quicker than what it has to get that infrastructure. The first phase of Brookstone is near completion. Supervisor Kelecheck reported that he has the GSI mapping information for Rockdale County and plans to go over with Chairman Johnson. That will be very helpful to locate streams and other items. Supervisor Shipp reported that he went ahead and put the high tunnel on the Facebook page for the district. Supervisor Hansford reported that she is working on trying to get some materials and marketing together for the future to do some festivals. We're not planning anything currently now due to the issues that are going on but hopefully later on in the summer when things improve we will be able to get some of those things together. Chairman Johnson reported the need to get approval from the Board to use the \$2,300 allotment from the state for scholarships to Rockdale Public Schools-Ms. Cindy Ball. This year, students are going to apply to receive a scholarship. Chairman Johnson motioned to have the \$2,300 to go toward scholarships. Supervisors Shipp and Kelecheck second the motion. The motion was carried and approved. Chairman Johnson equally reported funding Judge Aten's youth program to help with environmental law "we need advocates, we need kids to be wanting to be advocates for the environment, to be lawyers, judges. We need that. We need to put that seed into them". The Board is still waiting on the City to send the \$4,000, but he wanted to make the Board aware to support the youth. The Board agreed to review the program next month. Murphy of the Extension office reported that they are rolling out a homeowner series to address homeowner interest. They've addressed house plant care, garden design and they had another talk on blueberry care and selection. The Griffin campus and fellow agents come out to speak on some of these topics. Murphy stated that he is pleased with attendance and grateful that they've been getting folks interested. In the county, right

now some major concerns have largely been issues that are manifesting during this green upstage that likely were caused late last year or into fall. They're seeing a lot of delayed manifestations that are either environmental or pathological issues. They've seen quite a few turf issues and that probably happened late last year, but in Zoysia, St. Augustine and Bermuda, they're seeing some remnants of some fungal issues as well as some environmental stress. Murphy further stated that they've processed more soil tests than they've ever had in his entire time at the extension, for which he attributes to a combination of folks being pent-up, demand from this past winter, maybe it's a lot of new folks getting into gardening and or people getting into the DIY aspect. There were no erosion and sediment control plans reported. There was no community report given. Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is set to take place on April 23rd, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Submitted by: Chairman Kenny A. Johnson

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:23:39] Hold up Supervisor Dave.....Supervisor George I need you to put your phone on mute.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:23:44] Okay, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:23:55] Okay, I motion that minutes be approved.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:24:01] I second the motion for minutes to be approved as well.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:24:10] Okay. Motion approved for the minutes.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:24:19] All right uh....LIAs City of Conyers. Uh....George we still hear static in the background.

**Supervisor George Kelecheck:** [01:24:36] Okay. Sir getting there.

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:24:39] Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is Scott Gaither with the City of Conyers. I have Joe McKinnon here, he's going to provide the LIA report for this morning. Thank you!

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:24:45] Good morning, everybody.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:24:59] Hold up....hold up....hold up....uh....Joe. I got to get George to clear up his phone.

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:25:03] Certainly.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:25:03] Is too much. Supervisors, George have you put it on mute. Okay go ahead uh....City of Conyers.

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:25:32] Yes sir. Joe McKinnon in the month of April we've issued land disturbance permit for QT on highway 138 relatively small site. It's actually going in where the Sonny's Barbecue is. So, we'll be watching that. We've got nine other sites that are in different stages of development. Probably, the one that most of everybody sees is the Salem Gate Project. It's moving forward. Brookstone 2 or the second phase, if you've gone by there they've got the sidewalk in.....most of the probably 90% of the curving and gutter is in on the site. So, we expect them to be putting some paving down relatively quick. So, that's.... Everything else is moving....moving forward.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:26:18] Uhm....that Quick Trip. Uhm....is that over there by that car dealership, where it dead's into what is this.....What is back there? Is that a lake right there?

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:26:39] Yes, sir. That is the exact location.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:26:54] Yeah, I'm just concerned about uhm...that Benzene underneath the ground and that water sitting there. I just need more knowledge about what's going to happen. So, I'll be talking to you guys more about this Quick Trip. Is that.....That's not going to be a trucking place or anything where heavy trucks are coming through?

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:27:27] I've....uh...No sir. It's not.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:27:30] Okay, and then we're going to have that....uh.....Don't ya'll still have a proposal for townhouses right down the street, over there by Publix ?

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:27:45] Yes, sir nothing has been submitted to our office for review, but uhm...that's the last we heard when they submitted their application for rezoning was to develop it with townhouses.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:27:57] Okay. Yeah.

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:28:00] And obviously any disturbance over there would be over the 5-acre threshold and would get reviewed by the commission and district.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:28:10] Okay? All right. I'm still concerned about Centennial subdivision with that grading. I just heard from a homeowner who said he is very worried that one of his trees might fall and hurt one of his kids. So, I'm going to be sending a letter to the mayor. Let him know that they need to do that grading.

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:28:44] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:28:45] Uhm....is there anything else? Oh... Milstead it's a subdivision that's over there. Is that part of..... Is that the city or is that the county?

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:28:55] Which division, sir?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:28:57] I do not know the name of the subdivision, but I know it's right there off of Milstead Road in the Milstead community. What's the name of that subdivision ?

**Mr. Joe McKinnon:** [01:29:12] We got a subdivision, it's Creekside at Olde Town. It backs up to what used to be the Remington House. It has several phases in it.....in the first phase was built, I guess three or four years ago. Several have.....the first phase was finished out with maybe 20.... 25 homes.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:29:37] Yeah....that's just close to Yellow River. I'm just trying to see what's the runoff and what's going on over there.

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:29:43] Yes, sir. Right now, this stage is the total site has been stabilized. Infrastructure was in several years ago before the economy crashed in 06 and 07. So, there's a builder that has picked up several lots in this building.....several lots in there. They've actually submitted.....they went above and beyond the requirement. They submitted plans to Soil and Water Conservation Commission for review for the grading of the lots. Total disturbance was like two acres for the lots their grading. Mr. McKinnon is out there frequently making a couple trips a week to monitor the site, the grading, the contract, and the builder. We've had a on-site meeting with them and they are maintaining their BMPs. Now, you know the houses are building in there are consistent with the houses that are in the first phase. We try to express upon the builder that the first phase was one of these subdivisions that kind of occurred naturally with the 55 and older residents. And, we try to push upon them to market their homes towards that because it works out quite nicely. The residents are quiet, they're well maintained and they needed to remain in that condition and to build their houses to further attract to 55 and older community. Unfortunately, I'm not sure they're doing that in these phases, but the houses, they are building are compatible with those in phase one. Hopefully, they'll understand after they build a couple and see that majority of those who want to live there are going to be the 55 and older crowd because of the size, the location, the quietness.....uhm is.....that's a beautiful community. So, hopefully we'll get the few watts of their building in now get those finished and.....but other than that, as far as the erosion control yes, sir.....the erosion control is being maintained. We did require before they started construction.....we required them to clean out the detention ponds because they've been grown up with.....with trees and vegetation over the last 10 years. So, uhm....all the....all the drainage everything is in and go into the ponds as required and as it should be, before it's discharged into any any off-site waters.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:32:16] Okay. Yeah, I was concerned about that. Uhm....part of that neighborhood is gated correct?

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:32:23] Yes sir. On both sides for test is the back side where there's no houses built at this time but the front side coming in behind the former Remington House. It is a.....It is a gated community. And, the residents had requested that gate a couple years ago and they were able to install that and they maintain that.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:32:47] Yeah, I know, I'm gonna be hearing from Milstead Community soon, because I know how particular they are about their community over there. And, I can't blame them. They want to keep that community more in the older stage. And, they want to make sure that they don't have flooding and going on over there. So, I thank you for your report that helped a lot, but I am gonna have some..... I have some questions for you in the future though.

**Mr. Scott Gaither:** [01:33:28] Certainly, thank you. No problem. Give us a call. We'll be able to help.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:33:30] All right. thank you! All right LIA Rockdale County. Rockdale County. Ya'll still here ?

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:33:52] Good morning, I'm here. I believe also my environmental technical service manager Orlando should be on this call also. If he's not, he's not saying anything. Okay. You may have had to jump off. Yes, I'm the new Stormwater director Terrence Simpkins have just joined in just in my third week. So, just getting a handle on everything, you know, if you have any specific questions, you can ask them. And, if I need to gather information for you, I can and get it to you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:34:33] Well, we appreciate that. Welcome aboard! Welcome to Rockdale County! And yeah, we do and we will have a lot of questions.

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:34:42] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:34:44] Right now, we just waiting on your reports. I think I've seen Adam on here, I don't know if he's still on here and let's just see how you doing.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:34:55] This is Allen Watts. Yes sir, I'm still on the call.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:34:58] How are you doing Adam ? Do you have any projects going on?

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:35:03] Uh.....so...just could you could you explain like I guess like what all type of information you're going to require as far as our reports. So, we can adequately, you know, provide a proper report for you, if you don't mind.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:35:20] I understand, but right now.....what we...we are in an audit. And, so I'm working with the Commission. And so; they're gonna be more detailed and their supposed to do this around.....by June....uh...to be more detailed to get you guys to know exactly all the paperwork that we want in place. So, as of now the paperwork that you're sending in.....Now, we are looking it over. And, basically what I need to know is what project y'all got going ? How is it effecting my state waters, and streams. And, we need to know what.....any kind of erosion that's going on. So, that's basically what we need. We need to know what's going on in the community plus your building.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:36:12] Okay. All right. Good. Yeah. We could definitely do that. Also direct to Simpkins and also Mr. Robinson. You know, we're thinking about getting the community more involved with Stormwater and you know, getting the youth more involved as well. So, I guess that'll be a sidebar conversation we can with you in the future.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:36:32] Ah yeah I'm always willing to work with you. You know, I brought in \$156,000 just for the underprivileged youth to get involved in Environmental STEM. So,....that....When you're talking about youth, you got my attention.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:36:46] Yes, sir....Yes, sir.....

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:36:46] So, I'm gonna have workshops in my grants...that....I'm gonna have....So, I can pull you guys in to speak to them.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:36:52] Okay, great great. As soon as I have more information on the different activities for this year and in the future, do you mind if we collectively send you an email for updates?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:37:03] Sure.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:37:05] Okay, definitely.....would definitely do that. Keep in touch with you. And for the next meeting.....next month we'll have something actually laid out for you, you know...very descriptive. Descriptive type of report for you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:37:20] I would appreciate that....uh.... I'm going to make sure that you have the rest of my board on their so they can be the informed too.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:37:28] Okay?

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:37:28] I have Shay Hansford, excuse me. I have supervisors Shay Smith on here and she's an engineer. Also,

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:37:36] Okay, nice.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:37:41] She's just a little bit under the weather right now that's why she's not speaking because she just got her shot yesterday.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:37:47] Yeah, I do apologize. Definitely, I'll drop you my direct contact information in the chat.

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:37:56] Okay, thank you. Well, I had to call in, is our way for you all to send it to our e-mail.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:38:03] Yes, I see your number showing up. Can I just text it to the number that showing up ?

**Mr. Adam Watts:** [01:38:08] Yes.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:38:08] 288.....Okay. No problem.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:38:14] All right, I appreciate the help from Orlando to because I have several homeowners association, that was calling about different problems that there were having floods in the yard. So, uh.....

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:38:31] Tell you what Mr. Chairman, Okay, if you want to.....if you could shoot me an email in regards to those and we'll definitely do a detailed investigation and get back with you. Even if you have the citizens contact information, you know, I'm glad to reach out to them and person also. I've been trying to kind of get out and shake some hands and so they can put a face with the with the name out here in Rockdale. So you know, you can send me that information. I'll be more than willing to look into for you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:39:03] Oh, I will send you that information, you know, I hear a lot from them. So yeah, I appreciate you want to get involved and get out there. It's about the people and that's who I am. I'm about one hundred (100%) about people. I'm not going to ignore them.

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:39:19] Okay?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:39:21] If there is a problem on their property that they are not cleaning the debris properly, they know, I'm going to tell them, but if there is a problem on the City or County part, I'm fighting for them so....

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:39:34] Understood.....Understood.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:39:40] So, I'm willing to work with you and I'm liking what I'm hearing.

**Mr. Terrence Simpkins:** [01:39:46] 10/4.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:39:48] All right, uhm....Appreciate y'all report. We'll be more detailed. Like I said, I got to get with the Commission they're on here. So, last time I talked to Mitch Attaway he said it was going to be in June when it starts, when we start.....when we start to get into audits on the projects and what we need to report properly. So, I appreciate everything director and Mr. Allen.....appreciate everything y'all for y'all this morning report NRCS Mr. Ryan USDA.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:40:40] Good morning everybody. This is Ryan Burgess I am the district conservationist over at NRCS in Lawrenceville. So, what's going on right now and NRCS update on the 2021 Environmental Quality Incentives Program. We have got some contracts that have started to be pre-approved by our state office. So funds being kind of moved to those. And, right now we're working on putting Conservation plans, the maps, the schedule of operation, conservation, practice standards, all that type of stuff in a folder to take out to the participant to deliver to them and get them to sign off on it and make it an official NRCS EQIP conservation contract. Still making field, visits out in Rockdale County, to certify, the conservation practices on some of the existing contracts that we have. And, then also, just going out meeting with the producers to provide them some technical assistance and uh.....me and Mr. Kenny went out....I believe it was last Thursday if I'm not mistaken.....

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:41:51] Yeah, last Thursday.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:41:51] We went to see Mr. Timberland and try to figure out what he can do. Yep. So, another kind of thing that's kind of just throw it out. There may be some of the student he's or maybe even somebody that knows....knows a person that has some power lines or backs up to a power line on their property Project WINGS, the Wildlife Incentives for Non-Game and Game Species. The sign up for that program opens, May 15th and it closes on July 15th. And, what that program is.....it's just an agreement with the power company. And, so whoever it is..... Atlanta gas light, Georgia Power GTC.....whoever.....it's a....it's an agreement between them and the landowner, and the landowner can go out there and mow the power lines, and do some fallow disking plant, some food, plot type stuff for wildlife species a one acre minimum is on that up to 10 acres per utility company and they pay \$75 per acre per year and their three-year contracts. So, if anybody wants to know more information about that, if you

please get them to contact me over at the Lawrenceville NRCS office, I would be happy to go meet him out in the field or talk to him over the phone too.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:43:15] All right, you got that in the report?

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:43:15] I could go down in.....

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:43:18] You got that in the report to sent to me?

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:43:20] Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:43:20] Okay. We're going to try to post that out.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:43:23] Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:43:24] Um...can you explain that a little bit more is like a contract?

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:43:31] Yes, there is, it's a three-year agreement. So, basically what it is, it's a .....when the power companies come down through and mow the power lines there with the big machines and all that like to keep all the briars and brambles and trees growing up from under the power lines or hitting the power lines. It's basically an exchange for the land owner to be able to maintain their own piece. It's really for like people that are trying to get wildlife habitat, deer hunters stuff like that. Get Wildlife on the power line and they're just kind of the landowners, maintaining it or mowing it kind of foreign exchange for \$75 dollars an acre.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:44:10] Okay. All right. I want to make sure I get that out. Um...we're working on our community garden. I've been talking to James. Mr. James Murphy with the extension. So, and I got supervisors Shay to be working on that and George supervisors George, you'll be working on it also. So, we're going to have a group. We're going to be ready for you....and do you know what day in June....are you gonna try this?

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:44:49] Yeah. That's uh.....that's what I was about to say, on.....we've got two right now that have just been picked up and they're being delivered today. So, those usually take, we usually try to give them two months or so to kind of get everything completed and all that. So, I would just say, somewhere in middle.....middle to late June early July. It's not really a set date, it's just kind of in my head. I'm trying to say that's probably about time, we'd be ready for for this one to go out there.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:45:18] So, you're going to give us a heads up.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:45:20] Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:45:21] Okay, so I can have time....to have my crew to give.....

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:45:25] Oh yeah, yeah, yeah. That's just kind of a....just a tentative date sometime in middle of June to kind of....for y'all to have to say, hey, we need to get a site by this time. But, when you call me and say, hey, we've got a site and this is the one that's going on. I mean, it'll be all communicate with you. Like, hey, when do they want it to be there? When are they going to start building when they need help? All that kind of stuff.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:45:48] Well, I know what I'm looking at....I'm looking at Wheeler Park. So, uh.....

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:45:54] Talk to me. We'll get one over there.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:45:57] Oh yeah, you know, I've been talking to you for two years though. Hey, we need a community garden, I'm like.....

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:46:04] I'm looking at one for you.....

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:46:06] I'm looking at other people with tunnels and I'm like, what a minute. You forget about Rockdale.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:46:12] That's what I'm saying, I'm holding one for you. I'm holding it tight, but I gotta nail that thing down.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:46:17] Oh we're going to nail it down and then we're going to be asking for more.

**Mr. Ryan Burgess:** [01:46:24] There you go. Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:46:37] All right. uh...Mr. Robert Amos - Commission.

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:46:40] Good morning everyone. So, I will just be brief and let you know that of course all of y'all know that the session ended very positive session. This go around, we did not have to endure any budget cuts, the governor promised us no budget cuts. So, and we went through the session, no budget cuts to the agency, which means no budget cuts to the districts. The Natural Resources Conservation Workshop...y'all should have had the information. If you don't, I get those flyers to you, we've got to do it a little bit different. This year. The numbers of students is going to be limited to 80 and registration is open right now. And what we are doing is taking the first two students from each district that sign up that does not mean you are limited to only two students. I would encourage to get as many students as you can to sign up and complete the registration process. Like I say, what we're doing is we're taking the first two students from each district at the end of this month. If we do not have 80 students, we do not have to per district, we're going to open it up to the waiting list. The waiting list every every application that is submitted is time-stamped. So, it is imperative if you know of a student that wants to go to get them registered as quick as possible. That way, even if they're not one of the first two, they can be high enough on the waiting list that hopefully, they will be part of the first 80. It's going to be a heavy scholarship year which is another incentive to get kids to go. I know, for example, many of the scholarships that did not get handed out last year will be handed out double this year. For example, there would be two of the \$6,500 scholarships given out this year. So, and the reason we've had to limit it to 80 this year is because of COVID. The...This is a school decision as spacing goes. The workshop is going to be June 27 through July 2nd. Y'all have any questions about the workshop?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:49:08] Uh...no, we'll see y'all next year. I want to make sure my kids....uh...we still have a pandemic. And we'll see y'all next year, you know, and we'll have about 30 kids. We got the money we fine.

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:49:20] Okay, well uh, so the other things real quick, the commission working with GACD has updated the supervisor handbook. I think y'all should have seen an email. If you want to sign up for a hard copy, let us know, but we will be handing those out, to those who want them, pretty soon. And, we are in April. So, it's getting towards the end of the fiscal year. So, I just wanted to remind you of the end of the year documents, the annual plan of work needs to be updated. The audit needs to be completed after the end of the fiscal year and we also have, you know, course the annual report. So, Mr. Chairman, that's all I have at this point. Unless y'all have any questions for me.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:50:01] Uh, we don't have any E&S plans.

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:50:05] No sir. I was not given any plans to submit before this board.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:50:10] Okay, well, I am concerned about the allotment that we receive. I talked to Mr. Mitch Attaway and I probably will be talking to my lawmakers also. I think it's way to low what we receive. I understand about the math and everything, but it's just a lot of questions I have because Georgia is last. The majority of the Soil and Water Conservation District Boards across the nation, their budgets average five million dollars. So, I'm going to have a lot of questions with the lawmakers because I'm going to be seeing them a lot, because their going to need to be able to explain to me.....Why are we last? Because there is a lot of infrastructure,.....a watershed that we could be over and and fixing in all counties that just doesn't make any sense to me. We're last? Usually Mississippi is last! But we're last that they don't even make any sense. So, I have a lot of questions that I'm going to be asking these lawmakers. And, they need to give me some answers. They need to give to people some answers. This allotment we get it doesn't even makes sense. So, and then we should be able to charge fees. So, that's a lot of question that I'm going to have and then I have a lot of questions for your Commission Board too. So, going forward, just let

me know, Rockdale County have a lot of questions and we want to make sure that our citizens get everything that they're supposed to get. But thank you for your report.

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:52:12] Yes, sir.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:52:16] All right.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:52:17] I have a quick question. This is Shay Hansford. Did you say just supervisor handbook was already published and if not, what is the publication date to expect it out?

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:52:28] We.....I've got some quotes on a printed.....We've got the file and it's ready to go now the electronic file, but if you want a hard copy, I'd probably say, give me a couple, two, three weeks and the hard copies would be available.

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:52:47] Okay, thank you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:52:49] But we just need to email you a request.

**Mr. Robert Amos:** [01:52:52] Sponberger sent out an email.....sign up....If you wanted a hard copy, you can use that or you can contact me directly.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:53:02] Okay, appreciate that. Anyone else have any questions ? Okay, Vice Chair Pam Brown Rockdale County Schools.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:53:21] Okay, good morning everyone. I don't have a lot, but I do think it is important for you guys to know that we have set our graduation date and it is our plan to have the graduation in person for Salem High School that will be Wednesday, May 26th at 7:30. Rockdale County High School on the 27th at 7:30 and Heritage High School at 7:30 on the 28th. All students will receive tickets by I think approximately four people. So, we will....we are still in the COVID-19 mode. In our schools, we deal only are allowing certain people to come to events at the schools. Masks are still required in all of our buildings and we do still have a committee that's working on the re-entry program that we have for the next school year. Uh...the...uh...the CARES ACT money, we have basically used the majority of it for the

first go-around and we are working on a budget for the next go-round. We are planning summer programs for intervention and mostly for reading and math. So, that the students that have a huge gap, we can close that gap for our students. And so, that'll be a summer program established and it'll be published, probably within the next few weeks. We do have a new program for the next school year. We are offering virtual options for all of our elementary students, middle grade students and high school students. So, they will still have that option of virtual for the next school year. We are also hiring and doing placements, for instructors, for educators. Who will.....majority....do the majority work for on for online students. So, I teachers will not be teaching online and in person. We will have online instructors and we will have teachers that are working inside the school. We are in the process about fiscal year 2022 budget development, and it is our goal to keep the budget increase for the next school year, less than 2% right now with the preliminary numbers. We're at 1%. So, I budget is not plan to increase very much at all. We're looking to lower the....the millage rate a really big huge amount if you know I think that the the stakeholders will be very pleased with what we're trying to do and what I know that we will be able to do for the upcoming year. That is all I have do any one of you have any questions for me today?

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:56:50] Anyone have any questions?

**Supervisor Shay:** [01:56:53] No, it's just that they're doing a great job over there.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:56:57] Thank you so much. We appreciate that. It is hard work, but we are committed. And so thanks, thanks. Thanks to everyone. That supports the School District, our staff, our teachers and of course, our scholars and thank you, Kenny for all that you do because you helped make it possible for our kids to continue to excel in STEM.....in STEM. So, thank you all. You all have my contact information, if you ever need any information or if you ever need me to check on something for you, I am available and I always answer my calls and so thank you so much, this concludes. My report have a good weekend everyone.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:57:40] Thank you. One thing I wanted to say is that we are looking at the second week in May to handout our scholarship funds, we already have our scholarship funds application to the board. Forgive me, I haven't sent you a copy of it but I will be sending you a copy of the application funds for.....

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:58:05] Okay,

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:58:05] Students will apply for.....it's going to be \$5,000. So, we're going to be students that's graduating and majoring in environmental science.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:58:19] Okay, very good then. Let me know as soon as you know, if you can get it to me as soon as possible. So, we can get it out to the students to complete the application. And, I will connect with Cindy ball.....

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:58:33] It's already.....I already connected with her.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:58:33] .....to get the information out.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:58:49] Oh okay!

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:58:49] We're just going.....uh....I'm just going to get approved for more funds to make it exactly \$5,000....uh...

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:58:59] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [01:59:00] But uh.... I'm looking forward to helping these kids.....I always look forward to helping these kids.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [01:59:06] Oh absolutely. One thing though that, you know, I try to focus on is why we know that our STEM students do extremely well. We do have two other high schools, three other high schools that do well, as you know, to Salem.....Salem, Heritage and Rockdale County. I would also like for us to also consider those students as well. We don't want to leave them out or you know, because they do have the potential of performing well in STEM, you know, we may have students there that may be looking to major in environmental, you know, program at local colleges. So, I want to be sure that we also including them and giving them the opportunity to apply for these scholarships as well.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:00:04] They are.....I made sure they're.....

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:00:06] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:00:07] Because last year, I made sure everybody got in including off-campus, what they call it is that the off campus. Is that what they call it.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:00:13] Uh open campus

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:00:13] Open campus.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:00:15] Open campus,

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:00:15] Open campus. So, I made sure they got some funds too. Also what we're working on is a pathway program. So, I'm working with a lot of the Federal entities and they all on board. I got one set with Army Core Engineer, so it will be.....I'm trying to.....I'm a try to put it out there with Cindy Ball on your website, so the kids can start applying.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:00:47] Alright, yeah.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:00:50] But these pathway programs, that's most.....Most of them are doing the summer. So, I know one pathway program I'm looking for first year and second year college students with....that is majoring in construction engineer.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:01:15] Oh yeah.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:01:17] And construction mechanic. So, I got a lot of pathway program that we're working on. So, we're looking forward to the future.

**RCPS Board Vice Chair Pam Brown:** [02:01:29] Oh yeah, great work is going on in Rockdale and you know, I give a salute, you know, people like you. And all of the people on this board who always put the students and scholars, and Rockdale County Public Schools first. And so, I'm very humbled in and, and working with you guys to make sure that we are making Rockdale a great place to learn and grow so, thank you all so much. And again, I appreciate all that you do.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:02:02] All right? Thank you. Thank you for your report. Alrighty. We're going to have the supervisor report. I don't think the extension is here. Mr. Murphy. No, he is not here today. Um...we're going to have the supervisor report. Supervisor George, you haven't anything to say? Okay, supervised Dave.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:02:49] Yes, sir. Me and Shay got to get a little bit on the Bee City USA. I've got.....downloaded their application and we have to have a memorandum mean,.....a.....essentially, an ordinance. But between the.....from the City or the County, whichever one we do we probably just because of landmass.....probably the, it needs to be with the county. And so, I have a copy of a, of an example of a resolution. So, we need to get a particular and I figure somebody in the.....uh....We have to have a liaison between us and the government entity. So, we will, I will work on that with. I think I have a couple people in mind that I can do with that. So, should be be able to move forward with that this month.

[02:04:09] Forgive me. I have got so busy this week with my business but I have to.....I'm going to do that as soon as the meeting is over with.....I'm going to send you and Shay my contact. Dr. Lyn Clark and her group. They're going to work with you guys pretty much.....we're letting to students do the lead. So, I'm going to have her email, and her phone number, and introduce her to you guys. So, we can go forward because they had put the application in and I just need.....So, you're.....all you guys can be on the same communication and what's going on.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:04:57] Okay

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:04:57] But, I'm very excited about this. Yeah, we're going to be Bee City. We have the funds for the pollinator so we can put that around the county.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:05:15] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:05:16] It's in the grant.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:05:20] One other thing that I think we all discuss is our notices for our meetings, based on what we have seen from Ms. Eckrote that we need to post them and I don't know whether post them in on the Facebook page would suffice or whether we need to post them at the county extension office, which is what has been done in the past. And, so that we can make sure we comply with all the open meeting laws.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:06:07] I hear you Dave, but we're going to have a website up on....in May and we're going to post it on the website on Rockdale Soil and Water State Board website. That's what we're going to do. Uh....dealing with Ms.....the AG office, I think they're overstepping their boundaries a lot. But, first of all, they are....they haven't had training for us and so I already wrote that in the letter to her....if you're gonna to request something or try to come after us about something then you need to have the training in place and I haven't had no training and so if she's going to do trainings, she got to do training with all 40 districts and you can't just send a PowerPoint and say that's the training....that's incompetence. And, I'm not going for it so I don't already let her know. I'm not having. It's a lot to it and I'm probably going to be bringing the Feds in. It's a lot to it a lot of things that this going on that I am not going for. So, but I understand that point but we're going to have a website out. We're going to make sure that the whole public have notice of when the meetings are, and what time the meeting is, how to contact us. So, yeah, I'm all for that. But when you start throwing out things about open meeting and all that and writing us with craziness. I'm writing all the board and disrespecting me. I'm not going for it, you don't have your training in place, the Commission don't have that training in place, and I'm calling you out. I'm holding you accountable, and that's what the board is supposed to have. We're supposed to have proper training, and we don't have that, but thank you.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:08:15] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:08:16] Supervisor George are you still on here ?  
Okay. Supervisor Shay Smith

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:08:25] Hi, how are you guys doing? Um, can you hear me okay? Yes, yeah. So um, so far everything is going well as they did with the scholarships they have already got the application and it looks like some applications may start be rolling in and it looks like they put the deadline for May 14th.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:08:47] Yes.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:08:48] And I've worked, I'm still working with Kelecheck on the Bee Nation. So, we're definitely going to reach out to Lyn Clark on that. So that's where we are at this time.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:09:02] Okay....um.....I need to work with you guys on that...um.....community garden. Also, we probably going to pull a lot of organization in from the City and the County to help us with this community garden. It's going to be the first one in here because it's going to be year round with that tunnel. It's nobody in the county have a tunnel. We gonna be the only ones that have it. So, I'm going to work with you and George because I do want sponsors. So, I'm starting to call the sponsors. I'm getting good feedback from Lowe's and Kroger and a bunch more folks. They are very interested in getting involved with the community garden. So, appreciate it. Your report supervisor Shay Smith.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:10:03] Thank you!

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:10:04] Anything else? And get well soon.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:10:11] I will, I will.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:10:14] All right um....is it anybody else on the call would like to speak and say anything. Okay. Well. Let's see what else to talk about. Well, my report is basically, I went over to Hillside.....Hill Academy that's over by Honey Creek School. That's Miss Wilson, Mr. Ruth Wilson, the school is an all boys school and I was very impressed with them. So, I'm looking at the future helping them in the

environmental field. But other than that, we have our funds that Ms Cynthia Ball received and I need to get approved \$2,700 more or they received the \$2,300. So, I need to give \$2,700 more. So, they will have \$5,000 for the scholarship funds for the school. It is open up to all the schools, all the high schools and it would be on their website for everybody to apply for. So, a motion for \$2,700 to be approved for the scholarship funds for Rockdale Public School.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:12:26] I second the motion. I think someone on the phone has their hand raised.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:12:40] Yeah, I think that George...I think that's supervisor George. We got his hand. So, we are will.....uh....we will approve the motion for \$2,700 to add to the \$2,300. That'll be \$5,000 total for Rockdale Public Schools for our scholarship fund. All right. That's the end of the meeting. If anybody else have anything to say, please say,

**Mr. Jim Carlisle:** [02:13:20] Chairman Kenny Johnson. This is Jim Carlisle. I am a resident of the Centennial Village community. I want to thank you for your.....you and your staff and work in our community, and thank you for permitting me to put be a part of this meeting. I can understand what's going on in Rockdale and Conyers as well.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:13:48] I appreciate you coming to the meeting. And...uh...George, can you please mute your phone? Supervisor George can you please please mute the phone. Thank you. I appreciate you. Coming to the meeting. Mr. Carlisle and like I said, I'm always going to be..... I'm here elected to fight for the people. That's not know slogan. That's the way I believe. And, so, when I seen what was going on in your community I wrote them. I already told you guys do not sign off with the developers or the builders until they complete with this supposed to complete that grading got to happen. And that \$3,100, that that developer took from you guys to clean that detention pond that he had sitting there for 12 years, he's going to refund you all that money.

**Mr. Jim Carlisle:** [02:14:49] Thank you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:14:50] I know he friends with the mayor. I don't care. He's going to.....we done dealt with him before with dirt piles and stuff. So, he already know our board, but uh...I'm backing you guys.

**Mr. Jim Carlisle:** [02:15:02] Thank you very much. We appreciate your help. Thank you very much.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:15:07] You're welcome.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:15:10] Chairman Johnson.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:15:12] Yes, sir.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:15:13] It's Dwight Wicks. Um....very good meeting. I got interested in that community garden that you spoke of and would like to assist it as a citizen. Not sure what all it entails, but I would like to learn more about it. I think that's a great public project. So, please let me know how I can support you and getting that underway.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:15:39] Um...Supervisor Shay Smith.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:15:43] Yes, if you could please drop your contact information in the chat and I can reach out to you.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:15:52] Okay.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:15:55] Well, thank you, Mr. Wicks, we would love to have you to be a part of helping us with community garden. I have Mr. Ryan here, I'm going to have Mr. Murphy involved to he's with the extension. So, we'll make sure that your contact and everything is in place so we can get you involved. If you know anyone else, please tell them, we welcome them.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:16:31] Mr. Wicks, did you get it? I just want to make sure before we log off that we were able to get in contact.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:16:41] You just sent me an email.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:16:48] I just sent you a chat message with my email address.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:16:56] I'm checking.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:17:04] Well, it's Shaysoilwater@mail.com.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:17:07] Okay, could you send it again just to my regular email? It's wicksdd...that David....David @gmail.com

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:17:21] Okay, will do.

**Mr. Dwight Wicks:** [02:17:23] Thank you.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:17:26] Thank you. Supervisor Shay Smith. Okay, um....we're going to end this meeting. I'll next meeting, will be May 28th, but that's Memorial weekend. So, I want to make sure everybody will be able to make it

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:17:55] I can make it.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:17:58] Okay.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:17:58] I'll be there.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:18:00] Okay. Okay, thank you. So the meeting will be at 8:30. So if no one have anything else to say, well, we're going to end this meeting today. And, thank everybody for coming and have a good weekend.

**Supervisor David Shipp:** [02:18:24] Bye.

**Chairman Kenny A. Johnson:** [02:18:25] Thank you.

**Supervisor Shay:** [02:18:26] Thank you.

**Mr. Jim Carlisle:** [02:18:27] Thank you.