



Rockdale Soil and Water Conservation District

State Board

Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2021

Meeting via Zoom

Time and Place of the Meeting:

Rockdale Soil and Water Conservation District State Board regular monthly meeting was held on Friday, May 28, 2021 via Zoom.

Attendance:

Supervisors present:

Chairman Kenny A. Johnson

Supervisor David Shipp

Supervisor Shay

Other Attendees

The Community - Ms. Monica Craft

The Community - Mr. William Smith

The Community - Mrs. Nichelle Ford

The Community - Ms. Koralee Nesbit

The Community - Mr. David Bell

Rockdale County - Mr. Orlando Robinson

USDA/NRCS - Mr. Ryan Burgess

The City of Conyers - Mr. Joe McKinnon

The Georgia Soil and Water Commission -

Mr. Robert Amos

The Attorney General Office - Deputy

Attorney Margaret Kemmerly "Peggy"

Eckrote & Section Chief - Robin Leigh

Environment & Natural Resources

Call to Order

Chairman Kenny A. Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and established that a quorum was present. Chairman Johnson welcomed everyone.

Minutes

Supervisor Shay read the last meeting minutes. A motion was made by Chairman Kenny A. Johnson to approve the minutes and second by District Supervisor Shay. The minutes were approved as read.

USDA/NRCS Report

The NRCS report was read by Mr. Ryan Burgess who informed that they are putting together the 2020 EQUIP {Environmental Quality Incentives Program} contracts. So far, Rockdale County has received six EQUIP contracts for 2021 and these contracts for conservation assistance total a little over \$88,000.00 coming to these farmers to help them put conservation practices on their land. The contracts include two parts. Two vegetable garden operations to market gardeners. There are two horse farms, one hemp producer. And, then one cattle/forestry operator doing various conservation practices that make up a little over \$88,000.00. USDA is not obligating contracts. So, there could be more money coming down the line, but as of right now that's where it stands. Mr. Ryan continued to state that they're still making field visits to help with conservation, technical assistance with ag producers and then also going out to check out conservation practices on some of their older contracts. The Wildlife Incentives for Non Game and Game Species {WINGS}. The signup is from May 15th to July 15th. This is for landowners that have power lines running through their property that may be interested in establishing some type of wildlife habitat. There is money on a per acre basis to manage and maintain food, plots, and wildlife habitat. Mr. Ryan also informed the board that if anyone sees any farmers that have pasture or hay land and they want to convert their old pasture or hay land from Old Kentucky 31 fescue and to Endophyte free tall fescue, there is a cost share program out there through Rolling Hills RC&D. That's over towards Carrollton. They have cost share dollars to help landowners re-establish a new variety of tall fescue in their pasture land or hey land. Finally, Mr. Ryan reported that next Friday at nine o'clock, he, Mr. Kenny and James will be meeting at the Master Garden area in Rockdale to talk about a high tunnel, raised beds, and some micro-irrigation put over there.

LIA Reports

The City of Conyers LIA report was read by Mr. Joe McKinnon who stated that...to bring you up to speed where we are...our sites are pretty much the same...same number we're having between 10 to 12 sites at this point in different phases. Probably the one that everyone sees is the Salem Gate Project and we're really pleased with how they're managing that site. Talk to the GC yesterday was on site and we're just moving in the right.....but one of the interesting things about that particular project is got a....a real large underground detention pond. So, if you've never seen one of those go in, just let me know if you'd like to kind of.....I'm going to watch it as it goes in and it's just pretty interesting things. Series of pipes that actually go underground. So, that'll be pretty cool. One of the other ones is Vaughn Farms, they're mostly in the tree clearing business, right now. My silk fencing is going in as we speak. They had to kind of clear the perimeter path form, so talking with the GC yesterday that was going in. Actually, yesterday afternoon and all today they'll have that perimeter completely buttoned-up. Probably one of the other ones that are one of our big sites is Brookstone two. That's kind of the second phase of.....and it's.....I reported last.....last that the last month that the gutters and curbing had gone in. So, that's.....that's complete all that is in. And, actually, as of Wednesday, they started laying down the first layer of GAB. So that's really a great site to behold. Actually, to see that coming to further along than what has ever been. Passed that all our sites are stable and watching them like a hawk.

The Rockdale LIA report was provided by Mr. Orlando Robinson who stated that the biggest project going on right now is the Old Covington Highway project. You can see it from I 20. You can see all the land disturbance right there. Big warehouses are going there similar to the warehouses on Sigman Road. Big concrete wall type deal. It's going to be going up there similar to the one on Dogwood Drive. They're doing a pretty good job. These guys are fantastic. They even hydroseeded the slope that you see on 20. They hydroseeded to secure the erosion control there. So, they are moving right along. Robinson also said he was there Wednesday and the water trucks were coming in. He wants to ensure that dust control is controlled and no dust will be going over 20. So, doing a good job. Robinson continued to inform that the Tokyo Sushi project on Salem Road, The Hibachi restaurant is getting close to opening. They still must complete the parking lot issues and so they are getting close. Also, the J.H. House Elementary over by Zingara Road. It's way back on the northside. They're about to wrap it and it should be ready to open for the fall school session. Robinson said everything's going well and you can just call Stormwater, ask for Orlando Robinson if you see anything. Robinson stated that he and Kenny are working on some other issues with some of the homeowners that have some complaints and they are on top of those. Robinson always keeps Chairman Johnson updated on the progress for those particular complaints. Mr. Robinson ended his report by asking the audience if they had any questions.

Community Report

Mr. William Smith thanked Chairman Johnson for his efforts. Well appreciated.

Mrs. Nichelle Ford thanked Chairman Johnson for speaking up for Weatherstone issues they are experiencing.

Ms. Koralee Nesbit thanked Chairman Johnson for helping and the opportunity to express concerns about the detention pond, frogs, mosquitos, and other issues.

Mr. David Bell thanked Chairman Johnson for walking the lay of the land to see the problem in the community.

Supervisor Reports

Chairman Johnson made a motion for the approval of RSWCD State Board to have a mailing address through the UPS store. Supervisor Shay agreed to approve the mailing address and Supervisor David Shipp denied. The mailing address was approved with a majority vote.

Extension Report

Mr. James Murphy reported that there has been light programming for the month of May because he has been busy in the role of support for local farmers and homeowners as far as his role in answering questions and providing resources for home horticulture, home agriculture and AG production.

Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

Mr. Robert Amos reported that he will send future Erosion Sediment Control Plans to RSWCD State Board's new mailing address and put RSWCD State Board's new mailing address on Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission's website.

Adjourn Chairman Johnson adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m. The next meeting is set to take place on June 25th, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

Submitted by: Chairman Kenny A. Johnson