

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION**  
**DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**January 13, 2021**

The Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC) meeting was held at 2:00 pm on January 13, 2021 as a virtual meeting via WebEx. Meeting materials were mailed to Board members prior to the meeting.

Members present: Dr. Carol Knight, Co-Chair, designated by the Governor; Charles Holmes, Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC); Larry Reeves, Alabama Cattlemen's Association; Patty Lambrecht, appointed citizen; Ginny Shaver, ex-officio House; Rick Pate, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries; Bob Plaster, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Proxy); Micky Smith, Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) (Proxy); Brian Harden, ALFA (Proxy); and William Puckett, Executive Director.

There was a lawful quorum.

Also, in attendance: Ben Malone, NRCS; Lori Woodfin, AACDC; Steve Musser, NRCS; Ashley Henderson, SWCC; Rhonda Bryars, AACDC; Sabra Sutton, AACD; Courtney Curenton, AACD; Kathy Gotcher, SWCC; Shelly Hyde, AACDC; Cayla Jackson Mitchell, AACD; Angie Porter, Pickens SWCD; Tonda Miller, Chambers SWCD; Donna Lake, Tuscaloosa SWCD; Casey Fulford, AACD; Eve Brantley, ACES; Erin Beasley, AL Cattlemen's Association; Holly Killian, Jefferson SWCD; Jennifer Childers, Marshall SWCD; Kim Teel, Tallapoosa SWCD; Lorena Wilson, Greene SWCD; Jack Wadsworth, Autauga SWCD.

**Call to order** - Dr. Carol Knight called the meeting to order.

**Invocation** - Dr. Carol Knight

**Recognition of Board Members and Guests** - Dr. Carol Knight administered a roll call of board members. Dr. Knight then asked each participate on the call to enter their name and affiliation in the chat box or email their information to Debra Brooks or Rhonda Bryars.

**Election of Officers:**

1. **Vice Chair:** Motion made by Patti Lambrecht to elect Erin Beasley as Vice Chair; seconded by Micky Smith; motion carried with no objection.
2. **Secretary:** Motion made by Charles Holmes to elect Sue Gaines as Secretary; seconded by Micky Smith; motion carried with no objection.

**Approve Minutes** - Motion made by Micky Smith to approve the minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting; seconded by Patti Lambrecht; motion carried with no objections.

**Review 2021 Financial Statement** - Dr. Puckett reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021 financial statement. No action needed.

**Update FY20/FY21 Financial Assistance Programs for Districts** – Rhonda Bryars gave an update on Conservation Incentive Programs. FY20 payments have been processed in the amount of \$220,199.82. Some funds were reverted due to applicant practices costing less than obligated. FY20 program will be closed by the end of April 2021. To date for FY21, 39 applications have been received for funding approval in the amount of \$98,700.12. All counties were aware that these funds will need to be obligated by 02/01/21. NRCS staff have been essential in assisting with the technical needs of the District’s programs.

**Alabama Feral Swine Control Program** - Ashley Henderson provided the update.

1. **Update was given on Baldwin, Houston, and Sumter Feral Swine Control Projects.**
  - a. Outreach - Social Media/Radio/Blogs/Google Ads have all been used in the designated counties to inform the public about the programs. The social media companies utilized for the outreach were Al.com and Dogwood Media.
  - b. Committee website was updated for public interaction on Feral Swine program.
  - c. Conservation Incentive Program continuous sign-up currently underway with monthly batching.
  - d. Received additional funding from NRCS for outreach and trap purchases.
2. **Approval to sign agreement with NRCS on Geneva Feral Swine Control Program and for AACDC and SWCC staff to implement the program.**
  - a. Motion made by Larry Reeves to sign agreement and implement the Geneva Feral Swine Control Program; seconded by Charles Homes. Motion carried with no objections.

**Update on Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)** – Update given by Ms. Henderson.

- a. **Soil Health** – Project on track. First half of soil and plant sampling has been completed. Second half of sampling will be conducted in two years.
- b. **Riparian Buffer** – Kathy Gotcher has been working with local districts, NRCS, Cattlemen’s and others to promote the program. There is an approximate balance of \$1 million that is unobligated. FY21 agreement obligations will be completed during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
- c. **Applied for Regenerative Ag and Longleaf Stewardship** – Waiting on notification from NRCS if projects were funded.

**Update on Alabama Irrigation Initiative (ALH)** – Update given by Ms. Henderson.

- a. **Middle Tennessee Basin Update** – Approximately \$1 million has been paid to producers. Rain, freezing weather and lack of parts due to COVID has slowed implementation.
- b. **Choctawhatchee-Pea Update** – The draft plan will be ready for the 30-day public review by March. Committee staff has been working with NRCS and Marlon Cook (retired State groundwater hydrologist) refine ranking questions and determine additional information needed from producers.

- c. **Middle Alabama Update** – Committee staff has been working with Auburn and University of Alabama Huntsville to refine data collection and needs.

Board members were reminded to file “Statement of Economic Interests” with Alabama Ethics Commission by April 30, 2021 for previous Calendar year.

**Other Business-** No further business.

**Next Meeting Date** – May 5, 2021, Time TBA

**Meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.**

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**Dr. Carol Knight**  
**Co-Chair**

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**Board Member**

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**Rhonda Bryars**  
**Recording Secretary**