

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
May 5, 2021

The Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC) meeting was held at 2:00 pm on May 5, 2021 as a virtual meeting.

Members present: Dr. Carol Knight, Vice-Chairman, designated by the Governor; Charles Holmes, Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC); Patty Lambrecht, appointed citizen; Sue Gaines, appointed citizen; Rick Pate, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries; Johnny Lee, Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD); Brian Hardin, ALFA (Proxy); and William Puckett, Executive Director.

There was a lawful quorum.

Also, in attendance: Bob Plaster, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries; Brandon McCray, 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; Tonda Miller, Chambers SWCD; Lorena Wilson, Greene SWCD; Margaret Brown, Fayette SWCD; Allison Anderson, Covington SWCD; Cindy Beam, Cleburne SWCD; Charity Mitcham, St. Clair SWCD; Carol Bowman, Lamar County; Christopher Davis, NRCS; Caleb Conner 6 callers

The meeting was conducted via WebEx and meeting materials were mailed and emailed to Committee members prior to the meeting.

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 and then asked that each participant in the call to type in their name and affiliation in the chat box or email their information.

Approve Minutes- Motion made by Charles Holmes to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2021 meeting; seconded by Patty Lambrecht; motion carried with no objections.

Review 2021 Financial Statement and Fiscal Year 2022 Budget- Dr. Puckett reviewed the Fiscal Year 2021 financial statement. No action needed. It was also discussed that there would be an increase of \$150,000 for FY22. It was suggested that the FY22 budget be used to support feral swine trapping in selected counties.

Update 2020/2021 Financial Assistance Programs for Districts – Rhonda Bryars gave an update on Conservation Incentive Program. Ms. Bryars stated that FY20 payments had been

processed in the amount of \$322,587.67 and an estimated \$60,000 would be reverted due to applicants' practices not needing as much obligated or cancellations. Ms. Bryars also updated the board on the FY21 program. Rhonda stated that 111 applications were entered which obligated \$467,979.60 of which \$59,262.35 had been paid to applicants. Ms. Bryars thanked NRCS staff for their help in assisting with the technical needs of the District's programs.

Alabama Feral Swine Control Program – Ashley Henderson

- a. Update was given on Baldwin, Houston, and Sumter Feral Swine Control Projects**
 - Outreach-Social Media/Radio/Blog/Google Ads.
 - Website Update for Feral Swine.
 - Conservation Incentive Program continuous sign-up currently underway with monthly batching.
 - Received additional NRCS funding for outreach and trap purchase.
- b. Update on new Geneva Feral Swine Control Project.**
- c. Approval to use FY 20 rollover to provide Incentive Payments for Feral Swine Trapping in selected counties.** Brian Hardin stated that capturing success stories on the feral swine program would create positive momentum. Rick Pate agreed since point of emphasis for the program was feral swine. Motion made by Sue Gaines to approve of using FY20 funds to support this program in FY22; seconded by Brian Hardin; motion carried with no objections.

Update on Various Demonstration Projects – Ashley Henderson

- a. Auburn University's Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)**
 - a. Approve Commission to provide Administrative Support for CIG**
 - b. Approve Cover Crop Element and Crop Management Element**

Motion was made by Charles Holmes to approve administrative support for CIG and for the approval of Cover Crop Elements; seconded by Johnny Lee; motion carried with no objections.
- b. Lake Wedowee Soil Phosphorus Project**
- c. Riparian Buffer Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**
- d. Status of Regenerative Ag and Longleaf Stewardship RCPP Applications**

Update on Alabama Irrigation Initiative (ALII) – Ashley Henderson

- a. Middle Tennessee Basin Update**
- b. Choctawhatchee-Pea Update**
- c. Middle Alabama Update**

Board members were reminded to file "Statement of Economic Interests" with Alabama Ethics Commission that was due April 30, 2021 for previous Calendar year.

Other Business- No further business.

Next Meeting Date – September 22, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Dr. Carol Knight
Vice Chair

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Rhonda Bryars
Recording Secretary

DRAFT