

MINUTES OF MEETING
ALABAMA AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
September 9, 2020

The Alabama Agricultural and Conservation Development Commission (AACDC) meeting was held at 2:30 pm on September 9, 2020 as a virtual meeting.

Members present: Dr. Carol Knight, Vice-Chairman, designated by the Governor; Charles Holmes, Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC); Sue Gaines, appointed citizen; Larry Reeves, Alabama Cattlemen's Association; Patty Lambrecht, appointed citizen; Ginny Shaver, ex-officio House; Bob Plaster, Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (Proxy); Clay Scofield, ex-officio, Senate; Danny Crawford, ex-officio, House; Micky Smith, Alabama Association of Conservation Districts (AACD); Jimmy Parnell, ALFA; and William Puckett, Executive Director.

There was a lawful quorum.

Also, in attendance: Jeff Thurmond, 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; Henrietta Taylor, Lawrence SWCD; Emmie Burke, Houston SWCD; Brian Hardin, ALFA; Amy Shelton, Morgan SWCD; Mark Smith, ACES; Stacey Williams, Walker SWCD; Ben Malone, NRCS; Leigha Cauthen, Agri Business Council; Charity Mitcham, St. Clair SWCD; Cindy Beam, Cleburne SWCD; Christopher Davis, NRCS; Julia Soohoo, SWCC; Dorris Skipper, Coffee SWCD; Greg Dansby, NRCS; Lindsey Truelove, Sumter SWCD; Cayla Jackson, AACD; William Green, ALFA

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

Invocation - Dr. Carol Knight

Roll Call of Board Members and Recognize Guests - Dr. Carol Knight administered a roll call of board members with each member verbally stating their presence. Dr. Knight then asked other participants on the call to type their names and affiliation in the chat box or email their information.

Approve Minutes - Motion made by Micky Smith to approve the minutes from January 8, 2020; seconded by Jimmy Parnell; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

Review 2020 Financial Statement - Dr. Puckett reviewed the Fiscal Year 2020 financial statement. No action needed.

Update 2020 Cost Share for Districts – Rhonda Bryars gave an update on the FY20 Financial Assistance Program. Ms. Bryars stated that all 67 districts obligated funds for a total of \$402,000. She also stated that 121 applications were approved statewide and \$142,092.88 had been paid to producers by districts for completed practices.

Approve Travel for Commission Staff - Motion made by Charles Holmes to approve Commission staff for travel to NACD meeting in New Orleans, LA, Feb 6-10, 2021; seconded by Patty Lambrecht; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

Approve Financial Assistance Program and Rate Cap - Dr. Puckett updated the Commission on financial assistance available for FY21. The Commission received an increase of \$200,000 for FY21. Dr. Puckett stated that the increase plus carryover funds were enough to administer a financial assistance program to all districts in FY21. Dr. Puckett asked the board to approve financial assistance up to \$7,000 per district. Motion made by Micky Smith to approve financial assistance for districts up to \$7000, with a rate cap of \$7,000; seconded by Danny Crawford; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

Alabama Feral Swine Control Program - Ashley Henderson updated the board members on items a) - f) below and asked for approval to proceed and ability for staff to make additional changes as needed if changes did not affect scope. Motion made by Charles Holmes to approve the individual concerns listed below and ability to make changes; seconded by Mickey Smith; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

- a) **Update was given on Feral Swine Control Program**
- b) **Approval to sign an agreement with SWCC on Feral Swine Control Program**
- c) **Approve Tech Note Two on Feral Swine Control Program**
- d) **Approve update to AFI 5 – Feral Swine Trap Practice Element and Job Sheets**
- e) **Approve sign up for Feral Swine Control Program**
 - i. Prescreen sign-up starting October 1, 2020
 - ii. Regular sign-up TBD by AACDC/SWCC staffs
- f) **Approval to apply for additional NRCS Grant on Feral Swine Control in Geneva, Coffee, and Dale Counties.**

Approve 2021 Budget – Dr. Puckett updated the board on the FY21 budget. Motion made by Danny Crawford to approve the FY21 budget; seconded by Charles Holmes; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

Update on Alabama Irrigation Initiative (ALII) - Ashley Henderson gave an update on the irrigation initiative and asked the board to approve a)-b) below. Motion made by Jimmy Parnell to approve the concerns listed below; seconded by Larry Reeves; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

- a) **Middle Tennessee Basin Update** - Ashely Henderson gave an update on activities and that payments were being made on new systems.
 - i. Approval of 2nd irrigation sign-up and 100% cost of producer's Irrigation Water Management Plan required by NRCS.
- b) **Choctawhatchee-Pea Basin Update** - Ashley Henderson gave an update on the plan and activities needing approval below. The plan is being reviewed by Arkansas and should be out for public review within a month. Hope to have plan ready for NRCS signature by 1st of the year.
 - i. Approval to proceed with irrigation sign up in Choc-Pea, date to TBD by SWCC Staff.
 - ii. Approval of Ranking Criteria concept for Choc-Pea Watershed.

Approve Ethics Commission notification for William E Puckett to have Legislature contact for 2021. Motion made by Mickey Smith to approve William E. Puckett for legislature contact; seconded by Charles Holmes; Dr. Knight conducted a roll call vote of the AACDC Board members. Motion carried with no objections.

Other Business - No further business.

Next Meeting Date – January 13, 2021, Time TBA

Dr. Carol Knight
Vice Chair

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Rhonda Bryars
Recording Secretary

DRAFT