BLACK DIAMOND RC&D
October 16, 2008
Celebrate
Coeburn, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carolyn Baker	Lonesome Pine SWCD
Roger Blackstone	Clinch Valley SWCD
Jean Burks	At-Large Member (Buchanan)
Lisa Harris	Daniel Boone SWCD
Karen Hartsock	Scott County SWCD
Edna Justus	Big Sandy SWCD
Eugene McClellan	Scott County
Jeff Neal	At-Large Member (Lee)
Bill Smith	At-Large Member (Wise)
J. B. Swiger	At-Large Member (Scott)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Phyllis Deel	Dickenson County
Toby Edwards	Cumberland Plateau PDC
Joe Fawbush	City of Norton
Bobby Hall	Buchanan County
Jerry Ingle	Lee County
Frank Kibler	LENOWISCO PDC
J. H. Rivers, Jr.	Wise County
VACANT	Russell County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Greg Cross, Wise County
Blaine Delaney, USDA-NRCS
Bill Keith, USDA-NRCS
Nancy Smith
Robin Smith, USDA-NRCS

Karen Hartsock called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

CONSENT AGENGA

MINUTES, & TREASURER'S REPORTS

Everyone received a copy of the treasurer's reports and minutes prior to the meeting.

Bill moved that the consent agenda be approved. Eugene seconded. Motion Passed.

AREA PLAN

Blaine stated that copies of the Area Plan (5-year plan) were mailed out to council members and alternates. He briefly reviewed the format of the Area Plan. He informed the Council that they could find the "Linkages" from their strategic plan that support the national goals for the Natural Resources Conservation Service on page 24 of this document. This is one of the new features of this plan.

VIRGINIA LITTER CONTROL ASSOCIATION
Greg Cross, Litter Prevention & Recycling Coordinator, Wise County, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Wise County Litter Control Department's recent successes, such as running an effective Assign-A-Highway Program and utilizing the Civil Damages Ordinance that Wise County developed. Greg also expressed appreciation to the RC&D for assisting Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful (KSVB) in a multi-year initiative to establish the 1st litter control association for Virginia. As the KSVB Chair, Greg is leading this statewide effort. He stated that the first meeting of the Virginia Litter Control Association will take place in 2009.

VIRGINIA'S "RC&D MAKES THE CONNECTION" CD
Blaine played the "RC&D Makes the Connection" CD from the 2008 Southeast Association of RC&D Councils meeting. He informed everyone that it was Bill Smith who provided the music and helped with the narration.

OLD/ NEW BUSINESS

2008/2009 COUNCIL BUDGET – Three Month Review
Edna reviewed expenditures for the 1st three months of this fiscal year with the Council.

Carolyn made a motion to accept the budget update as presented. Jeff seconded. Motion Passed.

AUDIT
Robin informed the Council that the audit was not completed yet. It would be mailed out to the Council before the next Council meeting.

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK – PROGRESS UPDATE
Blaine reviewed the progress being made on RC&D projects.

"EXTRA" NRCS DUTIES FOR COORDINATOR
Blaine informed the Council that at this time he was still unaware of how much of his time would be redirected to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) duties. He told the Council that later this month Ray Dorsett scheduled a teleconference to discuss his expectations of RC&D Coordinators in the coming year. Blaine added that this was the first time in the history of the Virginia RC&D Program history, which dates back to the 1960s, that RC&D Coordinators, like himself, will be required to spend a certain percentage of their time helping the NRCS District Conservationists deliver the Farm Bill Programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). This is because the RC&D Program line item under the overall USDA-NRCS budget DOES NOT FULLY SUPPORT all RC&D expenses. He added that until the National RC&D Association is able to obtain adequate funding for the RC&D Program, he expects the Virginia NRCS State Conservationist to redirect a portion of the RC&D Coordinators' time each year to traditional NRCS workload.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN GREENWAYS ALLIANCE (SAGA) CONFERENCE
Blaine informed the Council that the conference will be on October 24th. SAGA let Blaine know that they will provide two complementary registrations for Black Diamond RC&D's assistance to them. He reminded the Council that Eugene represents Scott County on the SAGA board.

Bill Smith has already pre-registered for the conference.

Edna made a motion that Eugene would be allowed to use one of the free registrations to the SAGA conference and that if anyone else desired to attend that they would contact Robin or Blaine to get the other free registration. Carolyn seconded. Motion Passed.

CIVIL RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL

Karen informed the Council that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the RC&D was in their folders. NRCS asks each Council to review this agreement annually to remember their obligations to treat everyone with respect and equal access to our services.

2008 SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS CONFERENCE

Edna reminded the group that Virginia hosted the conference this year. It was held in Wytheville, Virginia on September10-13, 2008. She stated it was an excellent conference with great training opportunities.

Blaine told the Council that Black Diamond RC&D Council's four Delegates worked hard and did an extremely great job.

2009 LEADERSHIP FORUM

Bill Smith informed the Council that the National Association of RC&D Councils will be holding the Leadership Forum on February 9-10, 2009. He explained to the Council that he thought it was critical we send someone to the Leadership Forum.

Carolyn moved that one person be sent to the Leadership Forum. Jeff seconded. Motion Passed.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Blaine reviewed the Coordinator's Report with the Council.

VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF RC&D COUNCILS' FALL MEETING

Jeff explained that the meeting for the first time is being held on a Saturday, November 15th. Eastern Shore RC&D requested that a Saturday be used due to the fact that no one from the Eastern Shore RC&D had attended a state meeting in over a year; Saturdays would be better to get some of their delegates to attend in the future.

Blaine explained to the Council that the Council member would not be able to ride in the RC&D van for this trip, since he will be in Richmond that weekend staying with his family, and because he also has two NRCS meetings in Richmond on Monday, November 17th.

Eugene made a motion to send one or two delegates to the VARCDC Fall meeting. J. B. seconded. Motion Passed.

COORDINATOR'S EVALUATION

Karen informed the Council that a copy of Blaine's Coordinator's Evaluation was in their folders.

Eugene made a motion to adjourn. J. B. seconded. Motion Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Karen Hartsock
Chair

2-19-09
Date

Jerry L. Doyle
Secretary

2-19-09
Date