

Tulsa County Conservation District Locally Led Meeting

September 3, 2015 at 4:00-5:00pm

Tulsa Field Office
6660 S Sheridan Rd Suite 120
Tulsa, OK 74145

The Tulsa County Conservation District and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) would like to invite landowners and producers to the Locally Led Meeting being held on Thursday, September 3, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. at the Tulsa Field Office located at 6660 S. Sheridan Rd Suite 120 Tulsa, OK 74145. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss 2014 Farm Bill Programs and to identify resource concerns in Tulsa County such as irrigation water management, inadequate livestock water and extending the growing season for vegetable gardens. The information gathered from the meeting will be used to help prioritize the resource concerns most important in Tulsa County. If you have any questions please feel free contact Tulsa Field office at 918-280-1596.

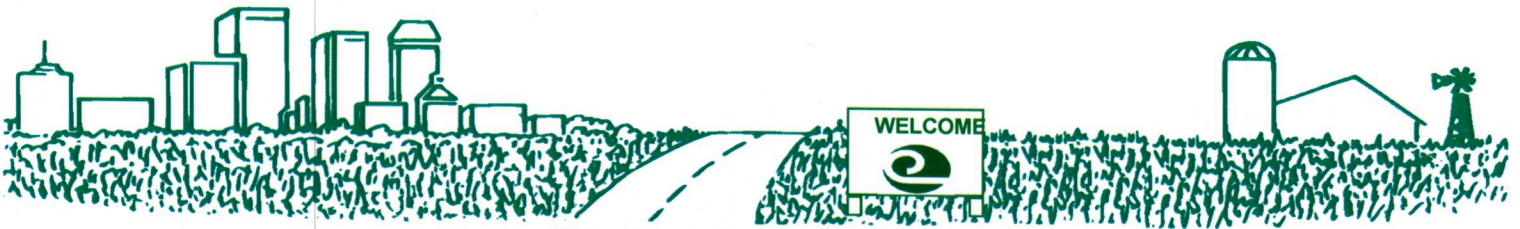


Tulsa County Conservation District
918-280-1596



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation
Service
918-280-1596

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Tulsa County Conservation District
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STATEMENT OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES

I certify that the minutes of the **Special Meeting** of the Tulsa County Conservation District Board of Directors held on **September 3, 2015** were approved as written by a vote in the **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Directors held on **October 8, 2015**.

Chair, Board of Directors

10/8/15

Date

Attest:

**Minutes
Tulsa County Conservation District
Special Meeting (Tulsa County Locally Led Meeting)**

Date: September 3, 2015

Time: 4:00 PM

Members Present: Zach Kilburn, Chairman
Jana Black, Member
Melissa Gray, Member

Members Absent: Roy Foster, Treasurer
Craig Thurmond, Vice Chairman

Others Present: Cleon Bradford, Acting District Conservationist

1. Meeting Called to Order:

Member, Zach Kilburn called the meeting to order at 4:06 PM He noted this was a regular meeting and is held in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, Title 25 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 301 and following, as amended. Notice of this meeting is on file with the county clerk's office. The agenda for this meeting was posted on September 1, 2015 in the front window at 6660 S. Sheridan Rd. Suite 120, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133.

2. Roll Call

3. Purpose of Locally Led Meetings

Cleon discussed the purpose of locally led conservation meetings. He stated that generally attendance from the public is encouraged in order to address resource concerns in Tulsa County. That public feedback allows a ranking for conservation applications in which applications with more of those resource concerns would rank higher in the pool of applicants. Melissa asked how many people usually attend the locally led conservation meetings and Cleon responded that attendance is usually a little higher (there were no members of the public present) and that could be due to the lack of outreach that was performed for the meeting. After a brief discussion it was decided that the board members present would begin to research the best ways to get the message to the appropriate communities about the locally led conservation meetings. Cleon stated there will be a conference call to set up the on farm demonstration site at which time a date could be set for the locally led conservation district meeting. An additional meeting could be held possibly in the middle of October in order to boost applications before the November 20th application deadline for the EQUIP program.

4. 2014 Farm Bill Programs

A. Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQUIP)

Cleaon explained the purpose of the EQUIP Program is to provide financial assistance to address resource concerns in Tulsa County. The locally led conservation meetings are an essential part of addressing resource concerns and that feedback from the public (through the surveys that ask participants to rank a list of resource concerns from highest priority to lowest priority) is valuable data to help rank applications. Cleaon stated that enrollment isn't as high in Tulsa County as he would like to see it. He suggested we keep the ranking categories broad for Tulsa County to not exclude any potential applications. Cleaon also suggested we rank seasonal high tunnel structures higher than it has traditionally be ranked in order to potentially provide funding to small scale vegetable producers in more urbanized areas. This could potentially increase application enrollment and address a resource concern that had not previously been addressed.

B. Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Cleaon explained that the conservation stewardship program is simply a program for rewarding producers for doing good conservation on their properties. The program offers \$15-\$30/acre for up to 5 years. He stated that he has a number of CSP programs in place and people tend to love the program.

C. Client Gateway

Cleaon informed the members that Oklahoma is a test state for Client Gateway which is an on-line conservation assistance portal. Through Client gateway you can review plans, request technical assistance, apply for Farm Bill programs and look at your conservation files. Cleaon stated it might take some time for people to catch onto the program, but he just wanted to inform the board of what it is and why we have it.

D. NRCS Survey

Cleaon provided an example of the Tulsa County Resource Concerns Survey. The board briefly discussed the survey and asked Cleaon about the different types of agricultural producers in Tulsa County as well as some of the concerns that have traditionally been addressed in Tulsa County. Cleaon brought to the attention of those present that NRCS is going through some personnel restructuring and there is a possibility that Tulsa County could be receiving a new DC. He said he enjoys working in Tulsa County, but just due to the restructuring there could be a change.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM

Next regularly scheduled meeting is September 10, 2015 at the Tulsa County Conservation District Office: 6660 South Sheridan Rd, Suite 120 Tulsa, OK 74133.