



ANNUAL REPORT

2018

Pam Porter - NRCS-CD, Dresden, TN | District Secretary | February 14, 2019

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The members of the Board of Supervisors of Weakley County Soil Conservation are Gerald Parham, Scotty Ogg, Keith Kemp, Tony Winstead and John 'Jay' Yeargin.

DISTRICT SECRETARY AND SUPERVISOR ACTIVITIES

The board meets on the third Thursday of each month except December. The meetings start at 8:30 a.m. in the Dresden Agricultural Service Center. The board had 12 meetings in 2018. These meetings are open to the public.

The conservation districts of Tennessee also have Area Wide Meetings. West Tennessee Areas 7, 8 & 9 meet in Jackson at the Agricultural Complex. They are all day meetings with lunch. Accomplishments and Programs are the theme of these meetings.

The district paid NACD, TACD, and TCDEA membership dues.

The district secretary assists with many aspects of the programs available to farmers and landowners. She coordinates the Conservation Reserve Program paper work between Farm Services Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the district and the landowners. She helps with the EQIP folder work and takes applications for the State Funded Best Management Practices. She is the receptionist, clerk, bookkeeper, Toolkit mapper and program assistant. She also assists participants order hard to find seed for the CRP SAFE program, CRP filter strips and field boarders. She also connects them with districts that rent the special planter that plant the Native Warm Season Grasses required. She also coordinates the rental of the district's No-till drill.

The district secretary attends workshops and meetings offered for training. The annual convention of the Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts is also attended by supervisors and the secretary. These meetings keep the secretary and supervisors up-to-date on program benefits and conservation activities and

other areas of concern to the farmer.



After 41 years Mrs. Rona Needham retired on 10-31-18

Rona has been essential to the District and all the many boards throughout her years. She continues to be a part of the organization as a volunteer to help her replacement understand the great works the Board is doing. We are all very grateful for her service and hope she can enjoy retirement as much as we have enjoyed working with her.



Pamela Walker Porter, formally from Greenfield, recently accepted a position with the Weakley County Soil Conservation District as an office administrator. Pamela recently relocated from Knoxville having worked there with TN Department of Transportation as a Senior Transportation Project Specialist. Pamela completed her B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in August 1993 from the University of Tennessee. After college Pamela began a career with the TDOT that spanned 22 years ending as an assistant supervisor in Materials Testing Department. Pamela will be heavily involved with the District's conservation partnership with USDA here in Weakley County. She is passionate about working with our producers and farmers and the District feels fortunate to have someone of her caliber and experience to fill the position. The District Board welcomes Pam to our staff at the USDA Service Center.



The district continues to rent the John Deere No-till Native Warm Season Grasses Drill.



PROGRAMS (2018)

Conservation Plans for Cropland written for the year totaled 1,428 acres. This acreage included Conservation Compliance Planning, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and The Best Management Practices (BMP) through the State Funding.

- The cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality was 7,166 Acres.
 - The cropland with conservation applied to improve **Water Quality** was 7,414 acres.
 - Practices applied to improve environmental quality was 8,213 acres.
 - 11 New EQIP contracts were obligated in FY 2018 for \$105,649. Practices included cover crop, critical area planting, grade stabilization structure, lined waterway or outlet, underground outlet, and water and sediment control basin.
-
- TDA BMP applications for 2018 included four applications for soil health and ten applications serviced for structural work.

The Conservation Reserve Program for Native Warm Season Grasses, Field Borders, and Planting for Pollinators had 14 tracts signed up this year.

The pollinator plantings are scheduled to bloom in the spring, summer and fall. The next pictures below are Cover Crop for soil health sprouting through prior year's stubble. The district cost shared this through the State Agriculture Resources Fund and is considered a



Best Management Practice. Funds are available through the Weakley County Soil Conservation District.



The State Agriculture Resources Conservation Fund (ARCF) provides cost-share assistance to Tennessee landowners to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce agricultural water pollution. A wide range of BMPs are available for cost-share. Weakley County Soil Conservation District accepts applications on a first come first served basis. Applications are accepted year round. Landowners may be eligible to receive up to 75% of the cost of a BMP installation. We had 14 participants in FY18 paid cost share on \$46,119.99 . Critical Area Treatment, Cropland Conversion, Soil Health Planting, and Grade Structures are some of the practices cost-shared.

PL-566 WATERSHEDS

The Cypress Creek Watershed Board has not had any structures needing repair this year.

Mud Creek Watershed Board has not had any structures needing repair this year.

All watershed dams have been inspected by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation personnel and certified safe by the State Inspectors of Safe Dams. The dams are also inspected by technicians from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The activities and accomplishments of the district are made possible with the continued fine cooperation and assistance of the many individuals, groups, organizations and agencies that support our conservation program. We extend special appreciation to the Weakley County Commission and the State of Tennessee for the financial assistance provided to the district. We value this support.

We also appreciate the Natural Resources Conservation Service for providing the office and employees in Weakley County and give technical assistance to our district.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Parham, Chairman
Weakley County Soil Conservation District

Mission Statement:

It is the mission of the District to improve the quality of life for all people of Weakley County through a comprehensive program of natural resources management that utilizes all available resources including technical and financial sources to maintain and improve the soil, water and other natural resources. The district will strive to provide quality technical assistance to both land users and owners to complete its mission.

Performance Objectives:

The conservation of the district's natural resources is essential for the well-being of the environment where people live, work, and provide for their families. The prosperity of Weakley County relies on agriculture.

It is the goal of the district that a strong natural resources conservation program is sustained that meets or exceeds the needs of the district while maintaining and improving the natural base.

"It is the policy of the Weakley County Soil Conservation District that program delivery and benefits will be provided without regard to race, sex, age, handicap, color, religion or national origin."