



Anderson County SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes of Meeting

The board meeting for the Anderson Conservation District was held on **Friday, August 14, 2026**, at 8:30 a.m. at the USDA Service Center, 1521 Pearman Dairy Road, Anderson, SC.

Commissioners Present

Tom Garrison
Art Garrison
Jay Copelan

Absent

Alex Kostik
Van James

Others Present

Pamela Richey, ASWCD
Ann Marie Pauley, ASWCD
Brian Stoddard, NRCS
Stevie Bell, Scholarship Recipient
Ellory Keown, Scholarship Recipient
McKinley Arthur-Banning, Scholarship Recipient
Lisa Arthur-Banning, mother

Commissioner Tom Garrison called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m.

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 2026. Commissioner Copelan made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Art Garrison, all approved.

SC Commissioner's School for Ag scholarship recipients attended the meeting to share about their experience. Ellory Keown followed the Livestock pathway, McKinley Arthur-Banning followed the Department of Natural Resources pathway, and Stevie Bell followed the Plant Science pathway. All felt this experience was a huge benefit in their education from meeting new people, visiting area farms, and getting hands-on/in-person exposure to agriculture you just can't get in a classroom.

Financial Report

The Board reviewed the August 2026 financial report.

Current Business

District employee reports were provided in binders.

West Piedmont Area Meeting Follow-up - Commissioner Tom Garrison and Commissioner Copelan shared takeaways from the meeting. A Feral Swine Trapping program was shared. The District will look for more information on the program.

Local Work Group Results - Commissioner Copelan made a motion to accept the results from the LWG meeting on 7/1/2026, seconded by Commissioner Art Garrison, all approved.

2026 SCACD Mid-Year Meeting - Will be held in Columbia on 9/14/2026. Commissioner Copelan and Commissioner Kostik plan to attend.

SCCDEA Mid-Year Meeting - Being held 9/23-24/2026 in Myrtle Beach. Pamela Richey and possibly the new E&O Coordinator will attend.

Kinder Morgan Grant – A water trunk update was given as well as a Green Steps School and CoCoRaHS update. A sample B3 bag was shared. Manuals to be included with the bags have been sent to the printer. The next grant is due August 31st.

Seed Library Update – There is a survey shared out for feedback by patrons. There were 2 seed packing parties in June and July, traveling seed totes began July 6th, and Sam was able to get a large seed donation from Walmart on Hwy 28 Bypass. We will send those who donate and thank you letters for a tax-deduction and a decal.

Programs Update - Ann Marie held 8 education programs. She attended a Green Steps School Preconference event with EEASC. She met with 3 schools to continue to mentor their progress.

Upcoming Programs - Quarterly Trash Pickup was rained out, hope to get one in before the end of September. An Adaptation Artistry program will be held on 9/14/26 at Powdersville Library. There is a Pond Mgmt Workshop on 9/18/2026 at JC Park in Belton, Steven O'Shields will head it up and the new E&O Coordinator will attend. Career Days on 11/20 at both La France ES (presentation) & Pendleton ES (fair-style), need a commissioner to attend the Pendleton ES event if possible.

No-till Drill - The drill was rented 1 time with 19 acres during the month of June.

NRCS Report

Brian Stoddard provided a written NRCS report.

Public Comment: There were no comments.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. was made by Commissioner Art Garrison, seconded by Commissioner Copelan, none opposed.

The **next meeting will be September 11, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.** at the USDA Service Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Richey, District Manager