



Miller County Government
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Present: Chairman Ladon Calhoun, Vice Chairman Jeff Cox, Commissioner Nixon, Commissioner Edwards, Commissioner Bowen Others Present: Faye Whittaker, Douglas Cofty, Andy Moore, , Austin Lambert, Whitney Butler

6:00 P.M. – Welcome & Call to Order. Prayer and pledge of allegiance

Housekeeping

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Calhoun stated so, on the agenda, we need to add some stuff. The Mayhaw shooting range, the Bellview Road closure, and a memorandum of understanding with the Cooperative Extension Office of Miller County. I need a motion to add those and approve the agenda. Commissioner Edwards made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Calhoun all right. Minutes. The minutes look in order. I need a motion to approve the minutes. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Edwards seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports

Chairman Calhoun stated Financial reports. Everything looks all right. I need a motion to approve. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to approve. Commissioner Bowen seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Appearances

Emergency Watershed Protection Program - Philip Slater

Chairman Calhoun stated Mr. Phillip, you want to go ahead and go? Mr. Slater stated Good afternoon everybody. I'm Philip Slater. I'm representing the company MCL Jasco and they're representing USDA and RCS. That's the United States Department of Agriculture. And they've tasked us with the opportunities to come and present a program to you that's available for our towns, cities, and our counties. And it's called the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. And that's a program that is handled by the United States Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service. And it is a cost share type program that help communities, towns, and organizations recover from natural disasters if that happen. After disasters is something like tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and what have you, mudslides. And after this this happens you can sign up with the USDA and they will help you recover on a cost share basis. Now cost share basis is something like a 75/25 they will handle 75% of the cost and the what we call sponsors which are our leaders our county leaders like our mayors you know with the counselors soil and water conservation district our county commissioners those are the people that can sign up as what we call sponsors. if a private landlord wants to sign up, they will have to sign up through a sponsor, an eligible sponsor. And my task was to come and talk to you about the program and actually sit down with our leaders and teach them how to sign up and let them know what's okay and what's not okay. But uh it's kind of hard to get everybody together at one time. So, I wasn't able to get all the mayors together and all the soil and water conservation district together. So, I decided to just try speak with each group at a time. And so, I'm here to kind of give you just a quick highlight of what's out there. And this program actually will handle something like debris cleanup. If you got some structures that is torn up like structures that is going to prevent soil erosion and that's a threat to life and our property. So we have to remember remember that it has to be a threat to life on our and our property. So again, if a county would be considered what we call the L, which is a limited resource area, and be a limited resource area, you have to qualify to do that. And that comes in with income, housing units, and so forth.

There's a way that NRCS has already determined some of the LS in your county. And that can be just cities, it can be the entire county, and it can be a community because there are programs for buyouts. If there's a flood in the community, they come in and buy the community out. But that is one that the landowner themselves can sign up for. They don't have to go through a sponsor. So, they can sign up for like buy, but it would have to be an entire community. Federal government would buy that entire community. hire a contracting company to come in, clean it up, and turn it back into what it used to be. It used to be a flood area, they turn it back into a flood area. It was, you know, open pasture land and turn it back into open pasture land. So, they would go back on some of the maps from way back and see what it was and then they go back and turn it into that. And each one of the owners of the land will be paid for their housing, their land. And uh and I think that's 100% and that will be determined by what the cost is for real estate. It would go by the real estate values of the land. And uh let's see. I was trying to touch on everything real quick so I don't take up a whole lot of your time. If you have any

questions for me on this program, Commissioner Bowen stated does this have to be tied to a specific event or is can it be for any reason at all? Mr. Slater stated that's a wonderful question. It has to be a frequency event, one that does happen. In other words, you have about 60 days to apply for damages, you know, to help clean up if you get damages from a hurricane or tornado. So they give you 60 days. Well, actually 60 days from the time that you can access the site, you know, if you can get to the site and see the damages, then your 60 days start. And that was a way that you sign up. You don't have to fill out a form or anything like that. There's a template letter that they have at RCS has in their computer database that if you are approved then they will send it to you and all you will do is just fill in the blank and it will say exactly what you need to say on that letter and that letter will act as your application and this letter will go to the state conservationist which is Terrence Rudolph for the state of Georgia. He's located in Atkins, Georgia. But he will send out what they call a damage survey reports team to come out and work with you. If you have some people that you need to send with them, you can send your people with them. And these are going to be a group of engineers, conservationists and biologists and that type thing that come out and look and they'll make sure that everything that they're looking at is a need and qualifies for the program. Now remember, this program does not have to be a national disaster. It can be one that is determined by the state conservation himself or the governor. uh the governor don't deter or maybe the I think mayors and the uh chairman of the uh commission can also be a part of that determination whether or not it's going to qualify and there like again there's a lot of things that you can and can't do with the program. There's dollars that you can't maintain project. There's projects that you can't redo over twice. If you have a project that you've done and storm comes through, tear it up, you can fix it twice. Storm come through and tear it up, uh it won't handle the third time. So you'd have to look for other type monies. And there other programs out there also. This is not the only one that will help you. So what this group will do, they'll come out and look and if it's something that can be handled say by farm service agency or FEMA, then they will let them handle it. Uh there was a time when FEMA was on the ground USDA could not touch it because they're both federal programs. Now they have an OC or ICO where they both can be on the ground at the same time working on some of the same projects but not paying the same amount of money for the same project.

So this program will handle more of the construction part. FEMA handles more of the cleanup. clean up that this program will do is like clean up out clean up the debris that's in the stream, the creek and that type thing that's going to cause problem later on. Okay. Again, I need to reiterate a point that I think I missed. I started on it but didn't finish it. 75% cost share 25% of in kind services 25% will be on the sponsor's responsibility and that can be done by cash in kind services donations uh state funds but it cannot be federal funds now if you qualify as a L that's 90% to 10% but your cost will only be 10 and that can be handled by in kind services donation state funds or whatever cash. But usually when I sit down with you, I'll have a PowerPoint presentation that we kind of be an educational type situation, but right now I'm just kind of trying to bring this program to you and let you know it's available. If you have any more questions, you can contact the uh NRCS state office in Athens, Georgia or your local one. you have a local state NRCS office here in your county. So, you can contact them or you can call me again if you got any more questions. I'll be glad to try to answer any questions you have. Thank you

for your time. I want to ask you have uh contact numbers. I don't see anything on here for contact information or anything. Do they have it? What I would do is I have a PowerPoint presentation and it's all on that administrator you all yes. Any more questions? Got it.

Old Business

None

New Business

Mayhaw Shooting Range Update

Chairman Calhoun stated next is Mayhaw Shooting Range. Mr. Cofty stated I received this email from DNR a proposed map of redoing the rifle range and pistol range to add about 10 lanes. But then they got two trap shooting fields, but they cannot fit skeet shooting in there. So, I just wanted to run that by you all and see which were you all comfortable with the trap shooting or did you all want to try to push for skeet? Chairman Calhoun stated can you ask them what it how much more room do they need for the skeet shoots? Do we know? Mr. Cofty stated if you look at the email, it basically just said that there was not enough footage. It said the first and the last stations wouldn't fall within the safe range of boundaries. I don't know if there's if there's a way. I mean, if we're going to do it to the to the official, I don't know if we can actually, you know, shrink it down some, right? Or I mean, I don't know if we do the two trap, I mean, why couldn't they put one skeet in one trap? Chairman Calhoun stated I don't know. You want to ask them? I mean, it don't hurt to ask. Mr. Cofty stated whatever you all decide. Chairman Calhoun stated what do y'all think? Commissioner Edwards stated so you saying it's either or? It's an either or. You're saying? Chairman Calhoun stated No, I think right now they're proposing two trap. So, we think that the trap is they shoot them and they're sitting there at a station and the trap goes and they shoot it. Okay. And the ski goes this way left or right. Makes sense. So, I'm guessing there'll be skeet towers or something on either side shooting them across. I guess I'm not very I'm not very familiar with it or you familiar with it. Mr. Godfrey stated It doesn't matter. I can't deal either one. Chairman Calhoun stated is that what they're talking about is they I guess the skeet would be on either side of the field possibly, they're saying there not enough room I guess for safety I'll touch base with more just put that question out there can we see about. Chairman Calhoun stated ask him what other parameters they might be need that we I mean we might could move that little road or I mean we might. Mr. Cofty stated I've talked to them already about moving that road. I know they were doing an Eco test out there to see about the salamanders and all. They didn't respond back with any of that, but that's where they drew there that may be the best part of that land because we you know we're talking about coming over this side of it looks like it's a little wet. Chairman Calhoun stated but if we move that road a little bit, I mean, we might get another I don't know. I'm just ask maybe something. Yeah. If everybody's okay with that. Give Doug a little leeway to ask. I'll do that. All right.

Bellview Bridge Construction

Chairman Calhoun stated Bellview Road closure. Mr. Cofty stated I received this company that's doing construction actual plan for road closures. If that's good with you all I'll post that on Facebook to let everybody know. Chairman Calhoun stated that'll be the first bridge. Mr. Cofty stated that will be the bridge at hand. Mr. Moore stated Yeah. Did they give a route that they was going to suggest for detours? Chairman Calhoun stated you can read it. Mr. Moore stated I've seen it, but I will look at it. You got Avenue and Willis Cook, you know, dirt roads across there. Commissioner Nixon stated how long will it be closed? Do we know? Chairman Calhoun stated February the 2nd detour on February 2nd. 150 calendar days. Mr. Moore stated probably open back up in June. Close in February. Open in June. Something like that. If the weather's good. Chairman Calhoun stated Jeff could probably read that all local traffic. Chairman Calhoun stated it really won't affect the gin I hope. Mr. Moore stated the gin will be closed I mean everybody be all cotton by February won't affect peanut season really start to plant. Chairman Calhoun stated any more questions on that good. Mr. Cofty stated so, I'll get that posted Facebook to let everybody know.

County Extension Agreement

Chairman Calhoun stated all right the MOU with the Extension Office. I need a motion to approve this. Mr. Cofty stated you need a motion for you to sign. Chairman Calhoun stated I need a motion for me to sign. Commissioner Edwards made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Millage Rate Meeting

Chairman Calhoun stated moving on to new business, the mill rate meeting. Mr. Cofty stated so, November 20th, you all adopted the rate, signed off on it and then I think a week later we were informed that those numbers were not accurate. So, we scheduled it for December the 17th at 6 p.m. It's going to run in the newspaper tomorrow excuse me. Wednesday. The 17th. You remember I texted you all out? I said it was the 17th. This was after we I think late. You couldn't make I couldn't make it the 18th. So, we moved it to the 17th. Chairman Calhoun stated what time is it? Mr. Cofty stated the 17th at 6 o'clock. Chairman Calhoun stated any questions on that? Commissioner Edwards stated and we are requesting the tax assessor to be there. Correct. Chairman Calhoun stated yes. Mr. Cofty stated yes. Chairman Calhoun stated tax assessor, tax commissioner, everybody. Mr. Cofty stated the School board wants to be there and I think the city's going to be there. Chairman Calhoun stated so everybody will be there. All right. No more questions.

FLOST Bank account

Chairman Calhoun stated we'll move on to the FLOST to bank account. Mr. Cofty stated so you just need to approve a bank account that we can open up so we can go ahead and start putting the January 26. Chairman Calhoun stated so we need a motion to open a bank account for the FLOST payments for 2026 at people south. Vice Chairman Cox made motion, Commissioner Nixon seconded. All in favor, motion carried. All right.

Department Reports

Mr. Cofty stated I think you got report, Sage to unable to attend. So she gave her and I know Sheriff's in here, 911's in here. And I think Andy, you got anything? Mr. Moore stated I'm good. Mr. Cofty stated the only other thing is the fueling station. We're running where we normally do. We hadn't had any breakdowns. But I'm still waiting on those guys to come together and say quote on adding those extra pumps. Chairman Calhoun stated any other questions? Whitney, you didn't want to talk. All right. If there's no other discussion, I need a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Cox made motion to adjourn, Commissioner Nixon seconded All in favor? Motion carried.

Meeting is adjourned.

SIGNATURES

Cristene Edwards, Commissioner – District 1

Jeff Cox, Vice Chairman – District 2

Keith Bowen, Commissioner – District 3

Niki Nixon, Commissioner – District 4

Ladon Calhoun, Chairman – District 5

Douglas Cofty, County Manager