Newberry Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026, Start Time: 7:00 p.m. Meeting Adjourned: 8:42p.m. USDA Service Center 719 Kendall Rd. Newberry SC

Present: Doug Heydt: Chairman, Ben Setzler; Vice Chairman Toni Warren; Chaplain, Mark Kiser, Secretary, Crista Lukoski, District Manager, Braden Iusti; NRCS District Conservationist, Cameron Sabin; SCDNR Area representation

Apologies of Absence: Danielle Himsey; Treasurer, Daniel Nicholson; Associate Commissioner,

Next meeting: August 11, 2026 Tuesday, 7;00pm 719 Kendall Rd. Newberry SC 29018

Announcements:

Doug welcomed guests and called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

II. Invocation: Toni gave the invocation John "Whisper"

III. Minutes were approved.

IV. Treasurers Report: included bank balances as 5/30/2026 Business Checking 142,877.32 KNCB $30,333.34 ISE Annuity $110,264.74, ISE Annuity 2 $44,105.62 Total $327,581.02

V. Additional Agenda Items: *none*

VI. Chairman's Report: Doug thanked everyone for coming together to create a public statement on district position on Data Centers

VII. Staff Report: *See Attached*

Braden spoke about the realignment of NRCS offices. Newberry, Laurens and Union county will have one DC, offices that have Soil Tech and Soil Con will remain.

Braden reported that July 3rd is deadline for CSP and EQIP applications for 2026.

Braden said RPP selection has begun. We should hear about that next week.

Changes to AG Waste contract must have a CNMP (Conservation Nutrient Management Plan) to be accepted.

Soil testing for the RPP contracts which are 5-year plans must be completed by certified technicians in the 1st and 5th year for comparison. There may be more companies available to do testing which may minimize cost to landowners.

Kelli Melton has official accepted the Permanent State Conservation which was announced last month.

Cameron reported Awards nomination are being accepted through the end of June for the 2026 year. 10 awards are open.

Cameron reminded me that Election forms (Ethics and Economic Statement) must be completed when filing to run in November.

Cameron presented copies of South Carolina Wildlife Magazine where Newberry Camp Conservation was featured.

Ben reported CD Tap funding has been approved for $2 million in the Senate, House has approved for $1 and now the bill stands in committee to discuss.

Crista reported Camp Conservation begins June 15,2026. 58 campers are signed up. Weather permitting all activities will be at Hidden Lake at Gullywasher Park. The Helena Center is a backup for rain.

4 school "Liberty Garden" raised beds were implemented in May as recognition for the 250th anniversary of the United States. Schools participated in the planting; students stated pledge of allegiance and sang the national anthem. Mayor of Silverstreet, School Board and Veterans attended the unveiling. Those were done through Grant funds from Keep America Beautiful.

Plans for the 3 entrances to Town of Whitmire are being planned. Grant funds from Duke Energy paid for the beautification project.

VII. Old Business: none

VIII. New Business:

A discussion about scholarships for students from Newberry County attending Commissioner School of Agriculture. Crista to reach out to the administration to see if any.

X. Executive Session: n/a

Meeting adjourned: at 8:42 p.m.

- Motion to approve April Minutes: Toni Warren, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:42pm–Ben Setzler; Mover, Toni Warren, Second: unanimous– Motion Carried

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Crista Lukoski – District coordinator	Approval of Minutes	Approval of Minutes