

## **Newberry Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Meeting Minutes**

February 23 2026, Start Time: 6:58p.m. Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 p.m. 719 Kendall Rd. Newberry SC 29108

**Present:** Doug Heydt: Chairman, Ben Setzler; Vice Chairman Toni Warren; Treasurer, Mark Kiser, Secretary Danielle Himsey; Daniel Nicholson: Associate Commissioner, Crista Lukoski, District Coordinator Braden Iusti, NRCS District Conservationist, Jessie Egan SCDNR, Education & Outreach Mgr. Cameron Sabin, SCDNR Area Rep

**Apologies of Absence:**

**Next meeting:** March 10, 2026, Governors School for Agriculture, McCormick SC 1pm

### **Announcements:**

Doug welcomed guests and called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. Cameron Sabin is the new SCDNR area rep for East Piedmont; He started in January 2026.

**II. Invocation:** Toni gave the invocation "John, Word of Life"

**III. Minutes** were approved.

**IV. Treasurers Report:** included bank balances as 1/31/2026 Business Checking 145,412.02 KNCB \$30,572.98 ISE Annuity \$110,264.74, ISE Annuity 2 \$44,105.62 Total \$330,355.36

**V. Additional Agenda Items:** Governors School

**VI. Chairman's Report:** Doug mentioned Ethics filing is due March 30, 2026. Doug also expressed his disappointment with cancellation of our Legislative Dinner due to lack of response from invitations.

### **VII. Staff Report: See Attached**

Braden reported that they are still waiting on Cost List approval which may cause the possibility of deadline extension

Crista reported on the Pollinator workshop in with Mobile Lab Whitmire in February

Crista reported on the next class for Mobile Lab is March 18, Companion Planting at Piedmont Tech parking lot

Crista reported giving a presentation for the Garden Club at Newberry College

Crista reported March 14 Lake Greenwood Cleanup with Greenwood & Laurens county affiliates.

Crista reported that Camp Conservation has 47 participants signed up, there are 12 more spots open

Crista reported on the Keep America Beautiful Summit to take place in New Orleans February 25-28

Crista reported Statehouse Day is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will meet at office at 9am to ride together

Crista reported High Tunnel will be installed early March, we have hired a contractor.

Crista reported working on a grant from Joanna Foundation to sponsor the "Messiest Yard Mini Grant"

Crista reported Reading in the Classroom at Gallman school and handing out books to 27 students.

Crista updated on status of Burn Coop membership and use of the trailer.

Crista reported meeting with Fraternities & Sororities

Cameron gave a copy of DNR monthly updates to the board

Cameron reported that the SCDNR annual report is completed, and copies will be distributed at Statehouse day

Ben reiterated Conservation Day at Statehouse to talk with legislators about the CDTap on budget 9.

### **VII. Old Business**

A discussion about SC Governors School to tour campus and present Newberry District programs scheduled for March 11, 2026, with business meeting for students to participate.

### **VIII. New Business:**

Elections/Appointment

**X. Executive Session:** A discussion about personnel

**Meeting adjourned:** at 8:59 p.m.

- Motion to approve January Minutes: Danielle Himsey, Mover; Toni Warren, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to nominate Ben Setzler to open appointed position: Toni Warren, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to nominate Doug Heydt to open appointed position: Danielle Himsey, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous
- Motion to Nominate Doug Heydt to Chairman: Ben Setzler Mover, Mark Kiser, Second; Unanimous- Motion Carried

- Motion to nominate Ben Setzler to Vice Chair: Toni Warren, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to Nominate Mark Kiser to Secretary: Toni Warren; Mover, Danielle Himsey; Second: unanimous– Motion Carried
- Motion to Nominate Danielle Himsey to Treasurer: Ben Setzler, Mover, Toni Warren, Second- unanimous-Motion Carried
- Motion to nominate Toni Warren to Chaplain: Danielle Himsey, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous-Motion Carried
- Motion to enter Executive session: 8:07pm Ben Setzler, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to exit Executive session: 8:33pm Toni Warren, Mover; Mark Kiser, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to increase Crista payroll by \$3,000 annually with new Title of District Manager, Toni Warren, Mover; Danielle Himsey, Second: unanimous – Motion Carried
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:40pm–Toni Warren; Mover, Danielle Himsey; Second: unanimous– Motion Carried

*Crista Lukoski*

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Crista Lukoski – District coordinator

*Toni W. Warren*

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Approval of Minutes

*[Signature]*

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~~Approval of Minutes~~