

Members present were: Jeanette Jamieson, President; Edsel Nix, Vice-President; Dennis Brown, Secretary; and Lewis Canup, Member-at-Large. Members absent: Larry Nix, Treasurer; and Angela Whidby, Member-at-Large. Others present – Chris Groskreutz, Josh Crozier, Leslie George and Susan Creasy.

Jeanette called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the federal budget and its potential impact on the RC&D program. The government is currently operating under a continuing resolution until April 8. Jeanette reminded everyone that loss of funding does not mean de-authorization of RC&D councils. She noted that the Southeastern RC&D meeting will still occur in Alabama in September.

It was discussed that the Council owns the building, has its own computers, owns the fax machine and most of the furniture. NRCS owns the copy machine, but there is another one available for Council use. NRCS owns the metal desks (most of which are in the basement) as well as several of the file cabinets.

In addition, NRCS owns the telephones and pays the phone bill except for one phone line. NRCS currently pays the Council \$1,100 rent monthly.

After reviewing the budget, a unanimous decision was reached to continue Council operations regardless of whether or not Federal funding is available.

Jeanette stated she is going to contact James Tillman, State Conservationist to determine whether, in the event that federal funding for RC&D is eliminated, it would be possible for councils to contract with NRCS for the services of a coordinator.

The March 31 Council meeting in Dahlonega was discussed. Because of the meeting this morning, the Executive Board will not meet at 9:00 a.m. on the 31<sup>st</sup>. The full Council meeting is still scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Council member training will consist of Board Member Development and Non-Profit Management training. Also on the agenda is the Legacy Tree Project with Jann George from Adelrid and Joe Chamberlin from Valent.

The next Executive Board meeting will be Monday, April 18 at 8:00 a.m. at the Council office.

Meeting adjourned. rear Susan Creasy, Recorder