

# Interview with Carvel Cheves,

## Board of Supervisors – Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation

By Joey Moore - August 2012

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In August of 2012 I interviewed Carvel Cheves with the Board of Supervisors for Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation. Below is a transcript of the highlights of our interview.

### **What is your job description?**

"I am on the Board of supervisors for the Franklin County Soil and Water Committee. We help oversee the installation and maintenance of basic conservation actions in urban, rural and country areas. We sponsor events for youth such as poster contest and a high school trip to Soil and Water Conservation Workshop."

### **What is your favorite part about being a county employee?**

"That's a difficult question to answer because service to the public always its pros and cons. I guess the most satisfying part of our job is seeing farms that were once heavily eroded and had issues with the soil and water... seeing them brought into compliance again and being profitable and productive again whereas it once was, well waste land"

### **How long have you been a county employee?**

"I have been an elected official for 6 years now; I am on my 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 year term."

### **What are the biggest issues that face our county?**

"I can only deal with that from the perspective of the office that I hold. And as is the case throughout our country, urbanization of our farm land is a difficult problem to face. And the current economy situation has exasperated that situation. We have seen our farm land values fall, but it has also reduced urban spots; so there are pros and cons to that issue too. I would say that the urbanization of farms is the most present issue we face, making sure our developers are as conscious and alert in conservation issues as possible."

### **What do you think youth can do to help with that issue?**

"As I said before, we are in schools every year with our conservation poster contest and youth soil and water conservation workshop. So our youth can take these values and principles that they learned by participating in these programs. Take them home and into their counties. Tell their grandparents, tell their neighbors, let everybody know that we all live in a water shed, we are responsible for what we put in that ground from a fertilization stand point. From our erosion, to our soil and water conservation, it is necessary for us to make everyone aware of these issues and need to be taking part in efforts to help."

### **If there was one thing you could share with the County Commissioners what would that be?**

"I don't have an answer for that right now I'm sorry. That question requires some really, really, deep thought. I would like to make sure that soil and water conservation is at the forefront when they consider any issues that involve the county, make sure they remember, we don't have any more soil, and we don't have any more water. What we have is what we've got."