

May 26, 2021

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

May 26, 2021 Meeting #5

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz

Jimmy South

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

Todd Combs

Rick McSwain

Jessica Janc

Denny Norris called meeting to order

Approval of the minutes- Chris Hughes made motion, Bill Moretz seconded

Approval of the agenda- Bill Moretz made motion, Jimmy South seconded

Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder:

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any board member have any conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearances of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.

District Report- Graham Fox

Contract 95-2020-801: David Tucker – Sent letter to request extension deadline from June 24. AgWrap well Project should be complete by September. Denny suggested the Board grant him a six month extension. Bill Moretz made a motion to grant the six month extension, Chris seconded the motion. The extension was granted.

Contract 95-2020-005: Rodney Pressnell Daphne working on design.

May 26, 2021

Contract 95-2020-004 – Elaine Pritchard – Cancelling contract due to monetary concerns. Graham Fox to follow up then officially cancel.

Chris Hughes asked what happens to funds if a contract is cancelled. Rick McSwain answered that the funds go back to the state. He also stated that this can affect the budget allotment.

Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens – Daphne working on design.

Contract 95-2020-001 – Todd Combs – Road almost complete. Will re-check in a few days. Per Todd Combs, site will be ready for inspection in a few days. RFP will be ready for signature after inspection.

Contract 95-2021-801 – Dale Cornett – Well complete, forms signed. RFP Needs Board approval. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes seconded. Board approved request for payment.

Jeff Brown – Heavy use areas – submitted to Daphne for inspection.

Beaver Dam Creek impaired and impacted. Project complete. \$10,000 requested for fencing buffers. Should hear back the first of July.

Strategic Plan - Ready for approval. 1 change from last year – no applications will be accepted from producers with active contracts.

Chris Hughes made a motion to accept the Strategic Plan, Todd Combs seconded. Graham stated that there are \$10,000 of Impaired and Impacted funds remaining. These must be used in a watershed. Chris Hughes asked for the deadline.

Graham Fox stated that the deadline is the end of June. Jimmy South said he will try to find somebody in the Bethel area that can use the funds. If we don't use them – the state might drop it off our budget/funds.

Graham Fox – **Spot checks** are due by 6/30/21 and asked for Board volunteers to do spot checks. There must be a 10 day notice given.

Chris Hughes replied that he is happy to do it.

NRCS Report- David Tucker – no report

RC&D Report- Chris Hughes - no report

Rick McSwain – Commission meeting was last week. JAA can be given by Commission. 20 BMP's were approved for JAA at the last meeting and 10 BMP's were approved at last week's meeting.

May 26, 2021

The app has new guiding principles for hiring supervisors. It also has rules for the training program. There are going to public hearing. 6 hours cred plus Supervisors training.

Denny Norris asked if these are for appointed supervisors only? Rick McSwain replied that no, it's for all supervisors.

Chris Hughes mentioned that there was a recommendation for a change in appointment for the Fall Meeting to encourage 2 member of each board be a farmer.

Denny Norris stated that the election board should give a list of rules before the candidate runs and they should meet qualifications to run.

CET meeting in Wilmington, August – in person.

Conservation Farm Family – if you have the name of a Farm Family, please submit names to Rick McSwain or Kathy Bunton, (Alexander SWCD), Chair of Area 2.

Deadline for Farm Family submission is June 1.

Jessica Janc – Stated that the Wards Mill Dam project is now complete. Work began last Thursday and was completed by Saturday. She is working on a video and will send it out soon. Project went as planned. Denny Norris asked if there were any complaints from Tennessee. None were received. Jessica stated that there were several community members that used to fish at this location and were a little upset. She also stated that the mill has been preserved. There was some support work done to shore it up.

Michelle Kasey - No report

Christin Hughes asked Michelle if she had set the date for the 5th Grade Field Day and secured the Valle Crucis park. Michelle replied that the dates are September 9 & 10, 2021 with rain dates for September 16 & 17, 2021. Some speakers have already been contacted to present at field day. Jessica volunteered to help with Field day and teach watershed education if we need her. Chris Hughes asked about the “frog guy”. Jessica stated that this gentleman has passed, but maybe his wife would consider teaching for us.

May 26, 2021

Chris Hughes asked if there was a meeting in July. Graham stated that there is no meeting but set as TBD in case a meeting is needed at that time.

Rick McSwain asked if anyone wanted to nominate a farmer and suggested David Tucker and his family farm. Bill Moretz made a motion to nominate David Tucker's farm family, Chris seconded. Graham to call David Tucker to see if he would be agreeable to the nomination.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:57am.

Next meeting will be June 23rd, 2021

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris Signed 6-23-21 Dated
Denny Norris, Chair