

October 23, 2024

## MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District  
971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

October 23, 2024

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair  
Todd Combs, Co-Chair  
Bill Moretz  
Jennie Hanifan

Michelle Kasey  
Elise McLaughlin  
David Tucker  
Samantha Dame  
Brandon Turlington

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

**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.***

**Statement of Professionalism:**

***Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to uphold the laws of the United States and North Carolina and their constitutions. Business is to be conducted in a professional manner, free of bias, of interactions that violate policies or individual liberties and that address business issues only. Interactions are to be held with integrity, courtesy, honesty and in compliance with the highest ethical standards.***

**Approval of the minutes** - Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Minutes accepted.

**Approval of the agenda** – Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Agenda accepted.

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**District Report - Mikey Woodie (Given by Michelle Kasey)**

**New Applications: None**

**Contracts needing approval: None**

**Contract Updates:**

**ACSP:**

**95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Ag Road Repair/HUA/Feed pad/Livestock Exclusion. Should complete in Fall.**

**95-2021-004 Chris Kuhn – Ag Road Repair. Waiting on start date with contractor.**

**95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Spring development, tanks, exclusion fencing. No update.**

**95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Livestock exclusion system with well. Has experienced severe damage from Helene and may need extension next year.**

**95-2023-006 Bart and Robina Walker – Livestock exclusion system. Letter sent requesting cancellation in writing.**

**95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Feed pad, HUAP, Diversion. Construction will be delayed due to damage from Helene.**

**95-2024-005 Shipley Family, LLC – Livestock feeding area, HUAP, diversion, all season agricultural access, exclusion fencing, filter strip. Waiting on payment.**

**95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Ag road repair. Delayed due to Helene.**

**95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. Waiting on DEQ/USACE permit.**

**95-2025-001 Will Zulczyk – Ag road repair and stabilization. Finalizing design with landowner.**

**95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides (repair) -Ag road repaid and stabilization. Waiting on Cooperator.**

**95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Stock Trail. Waiting on engineer.**

**95-2025-004 Diane Cornette Deal - Ag road repair and stabilization. Finalizing design.**

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**AgWrap:**

**95-2025-802 Daniel Brown** – Waiting on engineer.

**CCAP:**

**95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy** – Riparian buffer/stream restoration. No update.

**95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Park** – Park Director to take bid to his board.

**95-2024-501 New River Conservancy at Green Valley Park** – No update.

**StRAP Updates:**

**2022 Funds:** Vegetative Debris only. Mikey Woodie asked the board to be able to work with Emergency Management Director, Will Holt (Friday, November 1, 2024) to coordinate to find areas where the debris is the worst and Soil & Water could get these projects completed quicker than the County. She asked Deron Geouque, Watauga County Manager and was granted, permission to conduct debris removal projects under \$15,000 without the need to put them out for bidding. Mikey Woodie requested to use Hicks Construction Enterprises as the contractor of these projects if they are available and can do them quickly. They did the best work on our previous projects and were easy to work with.

Jennie Hanifan made a motion to allow Ms. Woodie to work with Emergency Services to find small projects that will make the biggest impact and to use her discretion to hire a contractor to complete these projects. Todd Combs 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

**2024 Funds:** Watauga County Commissioners approved the contract.

**General Updates - Mikey Woodie**

**NRCS Report – David Tucker**

Tucker stated that there will be extended signups for ESP. There will need to be repairs on existing contracts.

There were 700 landslides in NC due to Hurricane Helene.

There will be trainings coming in Wilkes and Lenoir. Details to follow.

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The Elk Creek project was destroyed in hurricane. Caterpillar donated machines and labor to help with the landslides. ECP doesn't cover land slides. It only covers debris in fields.

**RC&D Report – Chris Hughes No report.**

**Division Report – Elise McLaughlin**

Fall meeting is November 12.

There is a hot line for Farm Aid due to the hurricane.

There is a new requirement for the Master Agreement. There will be a training video by Christina Fischer. Master Agreement is due March 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Admin Report: Michelle Kasey**

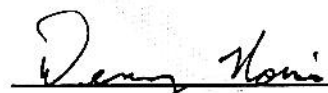
Kasey helped with Envirothon in Alleghany County.

Contests might not happen this year due to hurricane and students being out of school for 33 days.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.**

**Next meeting will be November 20, 2024. No meeting in December.**

**Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey**



Signed

11-26-24

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair