

October 22, 2025

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

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Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Nate Coppenbarger
Bill Moretz
Elise McLaughlin

Michelle Kasey
Brian Bonville

1. Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

2. Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Approval of the minutes

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the minutes. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd Motion. Minutes approved.

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6. Approval of the agenda

Nate Coppenbarger made a motion to approve agenda. Bill Moretz 2nd the motion. Agenda approved.

7. District Report: Brian Bonville

New Applications:

ACSP

95-2026-001 Matt Moretz – Spring Development, drinkers, cattle exclusion fencing

95-2026-002 Will Kulczyk – Ag Road

AgWRAP

95-2026-801 Matt Moretz – Spring tank repair

95-2026-802 Daniel Brown – Spring tank repair

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve all new applications. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd the motion. Applications were approved.

Contracts needing approval: None

Contract Updates:

A. ACSP:

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Bonville talked to the engineers. They decided to pay for the exclusion fencing and not the drinkers.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – List of well drillers given to cooperator.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – To begin in Spring.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Ag Road Repair. Monitoring construction.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Having issues finding a contractor.

Zimmerman hopes to begin in November.

95-2025-001 Will Kulczyk – Ag Road Repair. Site visit 10/7. Grading now.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides – Cooperator has approved engineer Design. Division approved contract. Engineers want to be on site.

Complex project.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Cultural resource review has been submitted. Waiting on engineer design. Engineer to visit site.

95-2025-004 Diane Deal – Monitoring construction. No update.

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95-2023-004 Greene – Waiting on closeout.

B. AgWrap updates:

95-2025-802 Daniel Brown – Spring development. Documents submitted and waiting on division approval. Pre-Build meeting this week.

C. CAP updates:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Riparian Buffer/Stream
State engineers have surveyed site. They will follow up with preliminary design.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy (at Green Valley Park).

Construction site visit 10/2. Monitoring construction. Their engineers did not give our engineers the plans for approval.

95-2025-501 Kellwoods 1 Townhomes POA – Streambank restoration. No update.

D. StRAP:

2022 Funds – Tentative approval to roll 2022 funds into 2024 funds. No update from state.

2024 Funds – Town of Boone has invited Soil & Water, the Temple, the Appalachia Cookie Company and New River Conservancy to a brief update at the Town Council.

E. EWP Updates:

53 Field Data Reports have been completed. Waiting to submit to the Federal Government.

8. Brian Bonville attended the BioChar workshop held by The Cooperative Extension on 10/15. Bonville suggested a study of 2-3 years of applying biochar to a hayfield to see results.
9. Brian Bonville stated that he remotely attended a SMART Debris Planning Meeting. Watauga County is not participating, but the State pays for this program. Bonville to talk to County officials during the Helene update meeting to explain this program.

10.NRCS Samantha Dame – No report. Government closed.

11. RC&D Report – No report. Michelle to email Jonathan Hartsell for report.

12. Division Report – Elise McLaughlin

Elise McLaughlin stated that there are trainings coming up one in Ashe and one in Wilkes. There is also a nutrient management class that is virtual on November 24th. The Division update meeting is in Yadkinville on February 4th and the Annual Meeting is in Cherokee in January. The Basic Training for supervisors is on January 3rd, the day before the Annual meeting. The new Supervisor, David Tucker will need to attend. McLaughlin then asked who planned to attend. Denny Norris stated that he planned on attending. McLaughlin stated that registration is now open. She will send links to Kasey to forward to the Supervisors.

McLaughlin then passed out Quick Guidance for Supervisors for Cost Share Contracts. It shares how to protect sensitive information and when to go into a closed session. She then passed out the NC Cost Share Programs Contract Process sheet. This sheet shows the workflow of the Cost Share process from start to finish. She stated that the Supervisors would get Continued Education credits for this presentation. McLaughlin stated that there were other Counties that had a problem where a contract went forward with no resource concern. If there is no environmental problem, we don't spend money on it. We are stewards of Public Money.

McLaughlin also stated that if we get a public records request, that we cannot ask why the individual wants the information under the Public Records Law.

Denny Norris asked when the Master Agreements will be mailed out. McLaughlin stated that they were in progress, that another county had also asked about them.

13. Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

Kasey reported the educational events attended in October to date:

- a. High School Envirothon team 10/13/25 spoke on public speaking.
- b. Spoke to a potential team at Cove Creek 10/15/25.
- c. Spoke to a classroom at Cove Creek on 10/21/25 about the poster contest.
- d. 10/2/25 helped with the Allegheny Envirothon.

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e. 10/3/25 helped with Ag Day at Mabel Elementary.

Kasey reported that she had made a power point presentation of pictures of the Farm Family – Shipley Family Farms. She also made a photo album to give to the family at the Farm City Banquet. The award has been ordered and the Family Picture for the award has been developed.

Kasey asked the Board for the number of Farm City Banquet tickets that the Board would purchase for the Farm Family of the Year.

After some discussion,

Bill Moretz made a motion to purchase up to 4 tickets for the Farm Family. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd the motion. Motion passed.

Kasey to call Shipley Family Farms to let them know that 4 tickets will be provided.

14. Brian Bonville:

Bonville asked the Board about going before the County Commissioners to update them, maybe hosting a breakfast. Denny Norris stated that Bonville would have to go to the Commissioners meeting because the rule is that if there is more than 2 Commissioners present at an event it could be considered an official meeting. He suggested that Bonville take the information before the County Commissioners in February. Mr. Norris told Bonville to write the report and that the Board Members for Soil & Water should come to the County meeting to show support.

Bonville told the Board that a lot of the new monthly trainings were happening on Mondays and asked if closing the office on Fridays is an option. Denny Norris stated that the office has to be open Monday through Friday from 8-5.

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Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Next meeting will be November 19, 2025.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris

Signed 11-19-25

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair

DRAFT