

April 1, 2026

MINUTES

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

April 1, 2026

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Jennifer Hanifan
Bill Moretz
David Tucker

Michelle Kasey
Brian Bonville
Samantha Dame
Jonathan Hartsell
Brandon Turrington

1. Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:03 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; Jennifer Hanifan 2nd Motion. Minutes approved.
6. Approval of the agenda

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Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to approve agenda with changes. Bill Moretz 2nd the motion. Agenda approved.

7. District Report: Brian Bonville

New Applications:

David Scott – IISI Feed pad. Bonville went with the State Engineer and Soil Scientist on 3/31 to verify a location for the pad. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the new application; David Tucker 2nd the motion. Application was approved.

Contracts needing approval:

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

Andrew Cox, JAA approval suggested the supplement. Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to approve; Bill Moretz 2nd the motion. Contract approved.

95-2026-001 Matt & Ernest Moretz – Spring tank. David Tucker made a motion to approve; Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2026-002 Holland Whitesides – Ag Road Repair Supplement. Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to approve; Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2026-801 Daniel & William Brown Spring Tank Repair. Jennifer Hanifan made a motion to approve; Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2026-802 Daniel Brown – lease, Seth Ward – owner. New spring tank development. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, David Tucker 2nd. Contract approved.

Contract Updates:

A. ACSP:

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Well has been drilled. Looking for drinkers and fencing.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – No contact with Cooperator.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Has applied for supplement to do 105' of Ag Road.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Coordinating with JAA in Catawba County.

95-2025-001 Will Kulczyk – Applying cloth and gravel.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides – Waiting on construction to begin.

Weather constraints.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Waiting on preliminary project design from engineer. Has applied for supplement.

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95-2025-004 Diane Deal – Will contact her.

95-2023-004 Greene – Meet 4/1. Engineers need pics of fence. Need to draft and sign RFP

95-2026-001 Moretz – Cooperator needed to sign NC2 form. Form was signed

95-2026-002 Whitesides – Ready to start after weather.

95-2026-003 Kulczyk –Waiting on JAA field visit.

B. AgWrap updates:

95-2026-802 Daniel Brown - NC2 form signed. Engineer to draft design on spring tank repair.

C. CAP updates:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Sealed engineer design is completed. Will need extension.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy (at Green Valley Park). Contractor needs to get topo survey, documents to follow up with state engineers

95-2025-501 Kellwoods 1 Townhomes POA – Awaiting permitting and pre-build meeting

D. StRAP:

2022 Funds – Reallocated to 2024.

2024 Funds – Waiting on sealed plans from engineer and to schedule construction meeting with Temple Board.

2026 Funds – All sites have been submitted to State. Will know by May.

E. EWP Updates: Waiting on NRCS.

F. New Technician starting 4/6/26.

G. CCAP Funding –Will know by June.

H. No Till Drill – Shipley has no till drill and is going to try to fix it. It needs maintenance. Asked for funds in next year's budget worksheet

8. NRCS Samantha Dame – Deadline for EQUIP and CSP are 5/15/26. The USDA Block grants also have a deadline of 5/15/26.

9. NRCS Brandon Turlington – New NRCS program, Regenerative Pilot Program has a deadline of 5/15/26. This new program enables farmers to monitor their soil health by requiring soil testing before and after the project.

10.RC&D Report – Jonathan Hartsell – Jessica Janc has moved on to another position. The Valle Crucis project is almost complete. Work is being done to create an Educational Sign at the site. A small project has been completed at Scott Jenson's. There is a potential project at Riddle Creek, Christy Sullivan. There has also been an application made to EQUIP, NRCS. Project in Todd that will need an approval for partnership. Cooperator may want heavy use area and cattle exclusion. Cooperator to prioritize drinkers.

11. Division Report – Elise McLaughlin – no report.

12. Bonville stated that he may ask Daniel Boone Gardens permission to use some of their River Cane for a bank planting.

13. Denny Norris told the Board that an announcement was made at the Spring Meeting that the State was out of funds to reimburse the Board for meetings and that they may not get paid for this meeting or going forward unless funds can be found.

Mr. Norris also reminded the Board that it is almost time to file to run for the Board in the next election. Bill Moretz does not plan on running another term. Two positions are up for re-election.

14. Bonville stated that at the Division Update meeting they announced the plans to streamline JAA and they asked for Technicians' feedback. The Division plans to do Yearly Program reviews going forward.

Bonville also said that he has been asked to do an educational talk and project with 2 Rivers Community School. He has permission from the ground keeper at River Walk apartments to do live stakes on the creek bank behind the apartments on 4/15/26.

Bonville also gave Hardin Park Elementary's ground keeper written advise to amend erosion. There is also a culvert that is sink holing. May be a CCAP project \$400-500K.

Bonville mentioned that he is still doing visits to landowners about landslides.

15.Admin Report: Michelle Kasey Kasey told the Board that she and Bonville volunteered at the District Envirothon in Wilkes on March 24th & 25th. Kasey also attended the Clean Up Day for Envirothon on March 13, 2026. Watauga High School had two teams that placed in the Envirothon and will be advancing to the State Envirothon Competition. Kasey will be volunteering at

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the State Envirothon in Cedar Rock Park in Burlington, NC on April 24 & 25, 2026. Kasey and Bonville will be making seed bombs at the Buildfest at the Watauga County High School on April 18th.

RCW – Kasey stated that we have received four applications from students for RCW. Board discussed and decided to prioritize the Senior who applied and to send as many as the RCW Board would allow.

Bonville stated that BRWIA has a scholarship for Women In Ag and to share the news.

David Tucker made a motion to adjourn, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20am.

Next meeting will be April 22, 2026.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey


Denny Norris, Chair

Signed

4-21-26

Dated

