

March 27, 2024

MINUTES

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

March 27, 2024

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Jennifer Hanifan

Chris Hughes

Michelle Kasey

Mikey Woodie

David Tucker

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of the minutes- Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2nd.
Minutes accepted.

Approval of the agenda- Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Todd Combs 2nd.
Agenda accepted.

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.

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District Report - Mikey Woodie

New Applications: none

Contracts needing approval: none

Contract Updates:

ACSP:

95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene - No update, can't get in touch with cooperator.

95-2024-002 Dale Cornette Supplement – RFP needs to be signed by Cornette.

95-2023-001 Scott Jensen – New plan with engineer and cooperator, construction to begin in Summer.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Construction on tanks and fence to begin in Summer while waiting on well to be drilled.

95-2023-006 Bart & Robina Walker – Tank installation scheduled for summer.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Updated preliminary design by engineer being reviewed with Cooperator.

95-2024-004 Rusty Henson Supplement – Waiting on payment from state.

95-2024-005 Shipley Family LLC – Technical assistance request submitted to Division.

95-2024-006 Valleyview Land Company – Finalizing contract.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman Biologist working on design for wetland restoration.

AgWrap Updates:

95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente – Contract complete.

95-2024-801 Jay Bost – Well started last Thursday. They are at 700' with no water. Mr. Bost is stopping at 1000' if no water.

CCAP Updates:

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Park – Division approved contract. Park scheduling pre-construction meeting.

Denny Norris stated that the Green Valley CCAP project should be on this agenda.

Mikey Woody stated that we are waiting on the design for this project.

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StRAP Updates:

Stone Mountain Branch – Construction complete. RFP sent to State.

General Updates - Mikey Woodie

A farmer wants to rent the no-til drill to use in TN. After some discussion, it was agreed that the farmer is a former teacher in Watauga County and can be relied on to return the equipment. Permission was given to rent to Rick Miller.

Denny Norris suggested that Mikey Woodie and Michelle Kasey do a report to the County Commissioners every year on what we have done and continue to do. He would like the amount of money spent in the County to be highlighted along with the programs. He stated that this would help them become familiar with Soil & Water. David Tucker stated that he could also give us his numbers on what was done in our County.

NRCS Report – David Tucker

Watauga County will host the Carolina Meat Summit at ASU July 30-31st, 2024.

There will be lots of speakers including Temple Grandon.

NRCS is doing a large river restoration partnering with Research Institute.

NRCS will be getting a list of final applicants for the Watauga County position this week. They hope to fill the vacate position soon.

There is 3.5 million dollars in EQUIP money being distributed around the state.

RC&D Report & Soil & Water Commission Report – Chris Hughes

RC&D – no report. Meeting in April.

Commission – Commission meeting in Raleigh today. Chris Hughes stated that he is now off the Commissions. They had their first retreat yesterday.

Division Report – no report

Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

Our High School team, the High Country Hellbenders, won 6th place in the District Envirothon in Wilkes County last week. They will compete in the State Envirothon April 26th & 27th, 2024 at Cedarrock Park, Burlington, NC.

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Michelle Kasey asked Board to pay the \$250 registration fee for the Envirothon Team's State Registration. Chris Hughes made a motion to pay the Registration fee, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. All approved.

Denny Norris said that Michelle Kasey should talk to the County Manager about getting additional funds for the team for lodging and transportation.

Michelle Kasey asked the Board for permission to travel to the State Envirothon. Chris Hughes made a motion to give permission for Kasey to travel, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. All approved; permission to travel given.

Michelle Kasey told the Board that the State sent out an email stating that the Soils Tent and Enviroscape would have to be paid in full, then reimbursed by the State. She stated that she would go to the County Manager and ask if this is permissible and how to handle.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04am.

Next meeting will be April 24, 2024

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey



Signed

4-24-24

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair