

## Minutes

### Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

October 28, 2015 Meeting # 4

#### Present

Denny Norris- Chair

Brian Chatham

Angela Gragg

Janie Poe

Al Childers –

David Tucker –NRCS

Rob Baldwin – Area Coordinator

Olivia Watson- Haigler- guest Watauga Ag teacher

\*\* Rob Hunt was in the hospital unable to attend

Denny Norris opened the meeting

Minutes were accepted as presented

Angela Gragg recused herself from voting on anything pertaining to Paul Gragg

Brian Chatham – District Report- We have 3 applications 2 of which have been ranked

- Greg Van Allen- Interested in a well. He scored 71 in ranking. 10 cows  
**Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the application. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor**
- Ronnie Joe Brown- Not Ranked - above community center. (near Isaacs Branch Rd) WNCSI Potential application.  
**Al Childers made a motion to approve the application. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.**
- Bob Shipley Jr. – He scored 94 in ranking. Interested in fencing, well, water tanks, pipeline, stream crossing. Included in the first 1/3 of project. Estimated cost \$26,065 highest ranking  
**Al Childers made a motion to approve the application. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor. Angela stated during the discussion that this application involves the Shipley's and their operation not Paul Gragg's operation.**

Update on Billy Kennedy contract # 95-2015-008- headed 2 springs into one tank. They have started on animal trail and walkway.

Amy Fiedler contract # 95-2015-05-14- Pump was finally installed last week.

Holly Whitesides contract # 95-2015-003-14- Brian requested a RFP for \$7,775.00 this will complete her contract for Micro irrigation.

**Angela Gragg made a motion to pay the RFP for contract # 95-2015-003-14 in the amount of \$7,775.00. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.**

Chuck (Charles) Norris application # 95-2016-001 Access road and feed pad. Estimated cost \$24,298. Brian Chatham is to meet and discuss with Chuck before getting contract completed and brought to the board for a vote.

CCAP-Watauga School contract # 95-2015-501-10 waiting on bio-retention material. Laura England is getting a weather proof educational sign ready for this project site.

Farm Family – discussed possibly Holly Whitesides then found out she was nominated for 3 other awards; therefore they decided to wait until another year.

Al Zimmerman- 2011 & 2015 Beef producer

Practices include- Stock trail, fencing, wells, water tanks, stream crossing.

**Angela Gragg made a motion for Al Zimmerman to be Farm Family of the year. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.**

Brian asks the Board to approve travel to Burlington for a grazing workshop.

**Al Childers made a motion for Brian to travel and attend the grazing workshop. Angela Gragg seconded; all was in favor.**

Rainfall Simulator- Michelle Lovejoy has applied for a grant to purchase each area one. Hope to know before spring meeting.

David Tucker- NRCS- Rolling out. November 20 is the cutoff for 2016 funding. Any applicants should have already applied to be in the batch period. Plan only to have one batch. Clients will receive a letter to update

January 15 end of batch period

Olivia Watson Haigler attended our meeting this month. She is the new agriculture teacher at Watauga High school. Ms. Haigler is a NC State grad from Avery County and expressed how she wanted to work with Soil & Water and be a part of our programs. We assured her we would help her anyway we could just to let us know. Janie will get her a list of deadlines for RCW, Envirothon etc. She let the Board know it might take a little while for her to get situated but she would be in touch with us.

Janie Poe-

National Association dues are due. We never did them last year.

**Angela Gragg made a motion to pay \$500 for dues this year. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.**

Janie reminded the Board to register for the annual meeting she sent them the link just copy and paste and you will find all the information,

Discussed Burke County letter regarding Bird Flu

Janie handed out the disclaimer the County Attorney drafted for the Board to take home and look over for discussion at the next meeting.

Janie reminded the Board about Farm City November 12 at 6pm tickets are on sale at extension.

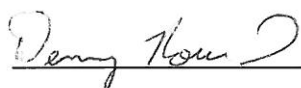
Next meeting will be November 25, 2016

Meeting adjourned

Action items:

- Angela Gragg – performance standards
- Janie Poe- send deadlines to Ag teacher

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

 signed 11-25-15 date

Denny Norris, Chair