

2/24/16

Minutes

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

February 24, 2016 Meeting # 8

Present

Denny Norris- Chair

Janie Poe

Angela Gragg

David Tucker- NRCS

Al Childers

Rob Baldwin- Area Coordinator

Joey Clawson

Becky Wallace- NRCS

Rob Hunt

Christine Vance- NRCS

Mark Forbes- Avery SWCD

Andrew Cox – Ashe SWCD

Denny Norris opened the meeting.

Denny ask if anyone needed to recuse. No response

Minutes were accepted as presented.

District Report- Janie Poe stated there would be no supplemental allocations this year due to lack of funds statewide

Watauga (team 3) will have an NRCS Field Office Review this fall

Janie showed the Board an example of a check list that the Division provided; she thought it might help to have it in each file.

The Board agreed it would be helpful and David is going to share a check list he has with Soil & Water

New Application (for last batching period)

- **Jeff Brown- received 1/6/16. Brian forgot to bring it to the Board for approval.**

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the application for Jeff Brown. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

2/24/16

Application will need to be ranked and placed in order with results of last ranking since application was received before 2nd batching period ended.

Janie will call Jeff Brown and let him know his application was approved.

New application (for August Batching period) – Allen Christenbury

Al Childers made a motion to approve Allen Christenbury application. Joey Clawson seconded; all were in favor.

Site visit will need to be made with producer.

New application-Jimmy South- Impaired & Impacted Beaver Dam Watershed

Al Childers made a motion to approve application for Jimmy South. Joey Clawson seconded; all were in favor.

Janie will check with Wendy Patoprsty to see if there will be other applicants before we batch.

At this point, Mr. South is the only applicant for Beaver Dam Impaired & Impacted

Jean Fiedler contract# 95-2016-005- Supplement was approved by the Division.

Janie asks the Board to vote on the RFP for Jean Fiedler contract # 95-2016-005.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the RFP for contract # 95-2016-005 in the amount of \$731. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Cultural Resources Forms need to be caught up. Letters to participants to halt until approved by Jim Errante

CCAP- Watauga HS contract # 95-2015-501 RFP- Janie went by and picked it up. Board needs to look over. Denny Norris needs to sign and we can send to the Division.

Janie reviewed all active contracts with the Board to let them know current standings, what is done and what needs to be done.

Against the Grain (Andy Bryant) - application approved, but will need a follow up visit.

Holly Whiteside- contract # 95-2015-003Micro- irrigation will have to be completed before supplement can be approved. Janie is waiting to hear from the Division on the approval of the design she sent in from Gra-Mac.

Jeff Brown was left out of ranking (but met application deadline) will need to rank and see where it scores. We will also need a cost estimate.

2/24/16

Charles Norris- Angela Gragg, Fred Alexander and Al Childers met with him after the last Board meeting. Discussed the location for feed pad, access road. We need to be sure and keep in contact with Charles. CR form needs to be done. Schedule with him in our staff meeting this afternoon

The Board had a discussion about install deadline. Ashe and Avery both gave examples of what their County policy was. The Board decided to go ahead and vote on it so it would be in place in our strategy report for the next physical year.

Al Childers made a motion to adopt a 1 year deadline for strategy plan 2017. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Billy Kennedy contract # 95-2015-008- Mr. Kennedy has some questions.

- How long does he have on tree removal- June 2017
- Does he need to go over receipts with us- There are certain things we need receipts on. We will go over his contract and see if we have the ones we need. We will let him know.
- He has to install the fence before he can be paid. Christine and Becky provided NRCS fence standards to Mr. Kennedy.
- Needs as-built for spring development

Angela Gragg- Conservation Technician job posting. Angela asks the Board to look over job posting and suggested some changes for the Board to think about also wanted them to think about an interview committee. We can use the agencies we have our MOU with. Board discussed interview committee and chose Angela Gragg, Denny Norris, Deron Geouque or Monica Harrison in HR, Fred Alexander –NRCS, Andrew Cox – Ashe Technician and will check to see if someone from the Division can be available. Didn't think there needed to be more than 6 on committee.

Angela made a motion to post the job with changes to the education, and hold a special meeting to score applicants if we need to. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

David Tucker - NRCS Report- They have 4 pre-approved applicants. All money will probably be allocated so there may not be a second batching period. Approximately \$600,000 to be obligated in Watauga County if all sign contracts.

The goal is to have pre-approved signed up by May (contracts signed)

NRCS has made a change to Access roads. Can no longer build access roads except when accessing a practice like agri-chemical handling facility, water storage structure, etc.

Otherwise can only do components such as broad – based dips etc.

Discussion about new NRCS Agri-chemical Handling Facility design and Chemical Storage

NCACSP practice is probably better.

2/24/16

Rob Baldwin says SWCC is looking at the practice to determine whether to keep old designs that have been used for this practice rather than going to new NRCS standard design.

Rob Baldwin said Rob Hunt attended Supervisor Training at SOG. Rob thought training was really a good training.

SE NACD Meeting in Cherokee July 31st – August 2nd you can register on line

CET August 22-25 in Asheville

2017 – CCAP Regional Pools

- Remember Hardin Creek may be a potential project.
- May 7th Legislative Breakfast

Angela Gragg made a motion for Janie Poe and the new hire to attend the breakfast along with her. Joey Clawson seconded; all were in favor

Janie Poe-

- Phones hopefully fixed. Will know by next billing cycle
- Contest night for Watauga County is Thursday February 25th at 6pm weather permitting
- Cost Share Training in Wilkes was very good
- Area 2 Spring Meeting March 10th at King. Need Supervisors money and count.
- Area 2 contest night at Caldwell March 17th @ 6pm
- Vote to send Janie Poe to Spring Meeting.

Angela Gragg made a motion to send Janie Poe to the Area 2 Spring Meeting in King. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

- Vote on Area 2 Dues.

Al Childers made a motion to pay Area 2 dues (\$175) and Envirothon dues (\$75). Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor

- Vote on Association Dues \$483

Angela Gragg made a motion to pay Association Dues \$483. Joey Clawson seconded; all were in favor

- Filing for this year's SWCD Election will begin Monday June 13, 2016 @ 12pm and ends Friday July 1st, 2016 @ 12 pm. Angela Gragg is the elected position that is up for re-election this year and Denny Norris hold the appointed position that renews this year.

Next meeting March 23, 2016

Denny thanked everyone for coming and with no further business

2/24/16

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

Denny Norris signed 3-30-16 date
Denny Norris, Chair