

November 23, 2016

Minutes

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

November 23, 2016 Meeting # 4

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Janie Poe- Administrative/ Education Coordinator

Angela Gragg- Vice Chair

Isaac Hodges – Technician

Al Childers - Supervisor

Rob Baldwin- Area Coordinator

Christine Vance- NRCS

Todd Combs- Guest

Derek Goddard- Guest

Denny Norris opened the meeting

Denny Norris asks if anyone needs to recuse themselves from voting.

Denny Norris asks if there were any corrections to the October 26, 2016 minutes.

Minutes were approved with no correction mentioned.

Derek Goddard -Blue Ridge Environmental Consulting is wanting to ask the Watauga Soil & Water Board to sign a resolution or a Project Agreement.

Angela Gragg expressed concern about transparency. She was not questioning the integrity of Mr. Goddard's Company or that of David Tucker NRCS District Conservationist. She hopes in the future they (Goddard & Tucker) come to the Board when they start the process of working with landowner to make them aware of a contract. Instead of coming to the Board wanting to have a partnership, after the fact of it being a done deal.

AL Childers made a motion to table the resolution and hold the SWCD regular Board meeting December 14, 2016 at 8 am. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

District Report- Isaac Hodges

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CCAP- 95-2015-501- Watauga BOE (Hardin Park) received a letter from Brian Johnson stating he does not have a sufficient amount of area in order to follow the standards and guidelines of the CCAP program. Angela Gragg said he could not get down to the lowest amount of storage for the site. She suggested for Isaac Hodges to get in contact with Brian Johnson, Daphne Cartner and BOE to schedule a site visit. That way if there is any other possible way our programs might be able to assist it can be discussed on site.

ACSP Billy Kennedy 95-2015-008 Janie Poe received an email yesterday from Lisa Fine wanting to know if the RFP had been sent. Janie Poe emailed her back this morning and let her know it was mailed November 14, 2016. Janie Poe and Isaac Hodges will follow up after the meeting today and see if they have gotten it. If not they will take care of getting another one signed and sent to them as soon as possible.

ACSP Andy Bryant 95-2016-001 Isaac Hodges went out and gave them an estimate on the cost they had requested. Isaac measured approx. 1900 ft of fencing.

ACSP Paul Gragg 95-2015-001 Isaac Hodges went out and checked on this site. Track hoe is still on the property. With the drought conditions, Mr. Higgins has been busy with emergency situations and is a little behind. Mr. Higgins has stated he is not going to be taking on any new customers in the future. He will continue to service and assist customers he has been involved with in the past.

ACSP Al Zimmerman 95-2015-006 access road is 90% complete Isaac Hodges presented the Board with some pictures of the work completed so far. Isaac Hodges will keep the Board informed when project is complete.

ACSP Victor Fortune 95-2017-003 Isaac Hodges went out and he is interested in fencing out some wet areas drilling a well, adding waterers. He wants Isaac to check into solar. Isaac Hodges told him he would come back out and bring another co-worker with him and they could discuss a conservation plan with them. The Board discussed other counties doing solar and gave Isaac some names to check with.

New Applications:

- **Gerald Haas has submitted two applications one for ACSP and the other is for AgWRAP. Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the ACSP application for Gerald Haas (he will go into the last batching period Jan-15). Al Childers seconded; all were in favor. Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the AgWRAP application for Gerald Haas. AL Childers seconded; all were in favor. The Board discussed going ahead and getting everything in place on this AgWRAP applicant (because no one else has applied) to be ranked at the next Board meeting. If they have another applicant, they will then both be put in the last batching and be ranked.**
- **Carl Roten has submitted an application for our programs. He wants help doing repairs to a contract from August 2006. It is out of the maintenance period. Isaac Hodges will send a letter**

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to Mr. Roten explaining his contract is out of the maintenance period and that he will have to reapply.

Al Childers made a motion to table Mr. Roten's application until next meeting. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Isaac Hodges is going to get Andrew Cox and Mark Forbes to help him with obligating the funds in CS2.

NRCS- Davis Tucker was on vacation. Christine Vance mentioned something's that are going on with NRCS. Their deadline was November 18, 2016 for their 1st batching period. They are still waiting on ranking sheets and cost lists. They are not sure if there will be second batching period, but they accept applications all year regardless.

Derek Goddard did let the Board know he is working on a couple other prospects.

Division Report- Rob Baldwin congratulated the Board on a great fall meeting. Thanked all the Supervisors for their participation. Rob told the Supervisors he doesn't think it will be hard for them to obtain the 6 hours of credit hours. Brian Evans is the new Executive Director of the NCASWCD. Rob also discussed CCAP funding with the Board.

Denny Norris introduced Todd Combs to the Board. At the November 8, 2016 election he won the seat Angela Gragg held.

Administrative Report- Janie Poe

Janie Poe asks the Board for approval for Isaac Hodges to attend a "Listening Session" in Morganton from 9 -12:30.

Al Childers made a motion for Isaac Hodges to travel to Morganton for the training on December 2, 2016. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Janie Poe ask the Board for approval to attend LEP Training at Valle Crucis Park February 3, 2016. It will count towards her EE Certification and the cost is \$30.

Al Childers made a motion to approve \$30 cost of the training and approval for her to attend. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Janie Poe asks the Board to approve \$70 for a three year membership to the District Employees Association.

Angela Gragg made a motion to pay the \$70 for a 3 year membership to the DEA for Janie Poe. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

NCASWCD is asking for each District to donate \$100 to the Food Land & People Program. This helps with the cost of the resources, workbooks etc.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve \$100 for Food, Land & People Program. AL Childers seconded; all were in favor.

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The Board discussed the letter From Casie Childress. They decided not to fund at present time.

The Foundation is requesting Districts to send any monetary donation they can.

Al Childers made a motion to donate \$100 to the Foundation. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Angela Gragg made a motion for the Board to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Angela Gragg made a motion to resume the open session meeting. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Next meeting will be December 14, 2016 at 8am

Angela Gragg thanked everyone for allowing her to sit on the Board of Supervisors. She stated she had really enjoyed it and if they ever needed her just call.

Denny Norris wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

Denny Norris Signed 12/14/16 Date

Denny Norris, Chair