

April 28, 2021

## MINUTES

**Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District**

**971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607**

**April 28, 2021 Meeting #4**

**Present:**

**Denny Norris- Chair**

**Chris Hughes**

**Bill Moretz**

**Todd Combs**

**Graham Fox- Tech**

**Michelle Kasey - Admin**

**David Williams**

**David Tucker**

**Rick McSwain**

**Denny Norris called meeting to order**

**Approval of the minutes-** Chris Hughes made motion, Todd Combs seconded

**Approval of the agenda-** Chris Hughes made motion, Todd Combs seconded

**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.***

**District Report- Graham Fox**

Persimmon tree vendor called to say they were out. Refunds have been initiated with County Finance.

Contract 95-2020-801: David Tucker Looking to start ag-wrap well soon. Still working on electrical hook-up.

Contract 95-2020-005: Rodney Pressnell Daphne finishing up design after soil information received from Dalton. Bedrock is close to surface.

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Contract 95-2020-004 – Elaine Pritchard – Still waiting to hear back from her. Well estimate was higher than she expected.

Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens – Survey and soil sample taken on 3/25/21. Feed pad design being drawn up. May need to add pump to get water to reach drinkers.

Contract 95-2020-001 – Todd Combs – Met with Todd and contractor on 4/16/21 to go over plan. Looking to start in next few weeks.

Contract 95-2021-801 – Dale Cornett – Contract approved at last meeting. Dale will be starting relatively soon. Already met with driller prior to approval to go over specs.

Jeff Brown – Dalton visit on 3/24/21. Area is not a wetland. He recommended Daphne Carter take a look to determine project feasibility. TA request submitted on March 25, 2021.

Beaver Dam Creek impaired and impacted. Expires on 6/30/2021. Currently working on forms for renewal. Requested same amount as previous allocation. Will hear back early July.

New applicaton: Isaac Hodges interested in Ag-Wrap Contract – will have to new fiscal year which begins in July. Denny suggested that the board go ahead and approve the application. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Application was approved.

**NRCS Report- David Tucker** Team 3 has funded all crop and pasture applications. The stream initiative and high tunnels have not all been fully funded. High tunnels usually have a three year wait. He and Ashland are still covering Team 4, but someone has been hired and are starting May 1. David will continue to help with Team 4.

**RC&D Report- Chris Hughes-** Conference call for Wards Mill Dam is April 29. Date of demolition to be determined on conference call.

**Rick McSwain** – Commission meeting May 19<sup>th</sup>. Spring trainings are ongoing through June are encouraged for all employees and supervisors. New employee orientation is May 11-13<sup>th</sup> – virtual. Please check the calendar on the website.

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CET meeting in Wilmington, August – in person.

Conservation Farm Family – if you have the name of a Farm Family, please submit names to Rick McSwain or Kathy Bunton, (Alexander SWCD), Chair of Area 2.

Vernon Cox has released a ranking of districts across the state. The ranking is for years 2017-2019. Watauga gets a gold star for it's high rankings in multiple categories.

**David Williams** – Watauga County received remarkable numbers. He stated that he is excited about how we are working with areas and local working groups. Congrats on the rankings. Gold star to Watauga.

**Michelle Kasey** – Budget meeting County Manager and Finance Officer on April 12, 2021 at 1:30pm went well. No changes.

Michelle and Graham need board approval to turn in mileage for CET meeting in August.

Denny Norris asked for a motion to approve. Bill Moretz made the motion and Christin Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Christin Hughes asked if the electronics that were offered by the state were ordered. David Williams answered that they were ordered by Watauga and should be delivered soon.

**Meeting was Adjourned at 8:45am.**

**Next meeting will be May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey**



Signed

5 - 27 - 21

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair