

April 27, 2022

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

April 27, 2022

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes – by phone

Bill Moretz

Johnathan Hartsell

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

David Tucker

Rick McSwain

Craig Miller

Denny Norris called meeting to order 8:00 am.

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

Approval of the agenda- Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 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.

Jonathan Hartsell – Reported that the Wards Mill Dam Project was complete. Graham Fox did final walk-through. ASU is still conducting research at the site. Mr. Hartsell mentioned two projects that he would like to partner with Soil & Water to complete. Both projects are in Valle Crucis.

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The first project is at Dutch Creek – stream restoration.

The second project is on the Watauga River on the old Church Property, corner of 194 and Watauga River road. This is a restoration and river access project. Plans are to build a parking lot with signage along with bank restoration.

Denny Norris asked, "What type of parking lot is planned for the space?"

Jonathan Hartsell replied that he thinks it will be gravel.

Denny Norris stated that a permeable pavement would be better to keep the river clean.

Jonathan Hartsell replied that a permeable pavement is high maintenance. He also said that the parking lot would be high above the river with BMP's to help with erosion.

Jonathon Hartsell asked if a vote was needed to pursue grants.

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve grants and Chris Hughes 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

District Report- Graham Fox

New Applications:

Dale Cornette – Road repair on impaired and impacted area on Beaver Creek.

Bill Moretz made a motion to accept the application, Chris Hughes 2nd the motion and the motion carried.

Contracts ready for approval:

Rusty Henson – Ag Road Repair. Road eroding, culverts need to be redirected.

\$12,036 Contract Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the contract. Chris Hughes 2nd. Contract approved.

Contract 95-2020-801: David Tucker – Cancel Contract.

Contract 95-2020-005: Rodney Pressnell Contract will expire 6/22/22. Need extension letter to be presented to the Commission for extension. Letter has been drafted. Per Rick McSwain, a Board member must be present. Need for extension is no fault of the landowner.

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve to send to the Commission for an extension. Chris Hughes 2nd and the motion carried. Denny Norris offered to coordinate with Chris Hughes on the Commission's meeting.

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Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens Concrete for project was poured on 4/25/22. Needs a little gravel to connect to road.

Contract 95-2022-001 – Jeff Brown - Levi Preston drafting design.

Contract 95-2021-003 – Michael Greene Waiting on Daphne (Engineer) to do visit.

Contract 95-2021-005 - Kristopher Kuhn Grading has started.

NRCS: David Tucker Introduced Craig Miller, the new Technician for Team 3. He will serve Watauga to Alleghany.

Mr. Tucker gave information on the Stream Initiative Project. Planning is in the initial stages.

RC&D: no report

Division Report – Rick McSwain

Committee met 4/26/22 to discuss the procedure of allocations for the StRAP program which is 38 million in funds. The Commission did not allocate funds. The amount requested by Watauga county is comparatively small and will probably be awarded at the next Commission meeting.

Mr. McSwain also stated that there is a big push to revive local workshop. The plan is for Avery County to host. Watauga County will need to have 1 supervisor and 1 staff at this meeting.

Michelle Kasey – Graham Fox and Michelle Kasey have completed the Strategic Plan for 2023.

Chris Hughes made a motion to accept the Strategic Plan and Bill Moretz 2nd. Motion carried. Michelle Kasey will submit.

Denny Norris asked Michelle Kasey to become a Notary Public since there isn't one currently in the Ag Building.

Chris Hughes made a motion to adjourn. Bill Moretz 2nd.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47am.

Next meeting will be May 25, 2022

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

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Denny Norris

Signed 6 - 27 - 22

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair