

August 24, 2022

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

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Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes – phone in

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Mikey Woodie - Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

David Tucker

Rick McSwain

Denny Norris called meeting to order 8:02 am.

Approval of the minutes- Bill Moretz made a motion to approve; Todd Combs 2nd. Motion Carried.

Approval of the agenda- Bill Moretz made a motion to approve; Todd Combs 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.

District Report- Mikey Woodie

Mikey Woodie presented at the Christmas Tree Association Annual Meeting. Explaining our programs.

Mrs. Woodie certified 27 water points for Cover Creek Volunteer Fire Department.

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Mrs. Woodie shared that Tom Hill is no longer our Cost share specialist, John Beck took his place in this role.

New Applications:

95-2023-001 ACSP Scott Jensen – Livestock exclusion and watering system. David Tucker shared that the Jensen farm has a full easement with NRCS.

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application, Todd Combs 2nd. Motion carried.

Contracts ready for approval:

95-2022-501 Green Valley Community Park – Structural storm water conveyance, grassed swale and critical area planting. Denny Norris noted that he was on the Green Valley Park Board and though not paid, he abstained from voting on this contract. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Todd Combs 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Riparian buffer and stream restoration. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Todd Combs 2nd. Contract approved.

Updates: Mikey Woodie handed out print out of allocations for the New Year. CCAP is \$25,000 this year.

Denny Norris asked Rick McSwain about the State budget. McSwain said that it hasn't been mentioned yet.

95-2020-005 Rodney Presnell. Contract extended. Waiting on contractor.

95-2021-003 Michael Greene Feasibility site visit done by State Engineer. Soil survey completed. Land survey completed. Stream on both sides, one side underground. Feed pad may not meet 100' set back.

95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn Conservation plan and road design complete. Pre-construction site visit scheduled for 8/26/22.

95-2022-001 Jeff Brown Meeting to discuss preliminary design scheduled for end of August.

95-2022-004 Rusty Henson Client ready to begin construction.

95-2022-005 Dale Cornette Working with client on final design. Meeting next week.

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95-2022-007 Jessica Miller Stream crossing, livestock exclusion, well – working on design with client.

AgWrap

95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente Waiting on cultural resources review from the State.

CCAP

95-2022-501 Green Valley Community Park Contract approved and signed by client. Working with Tom Hill. Plan needs a professional engineer.

StRAP

Elk Creek project needs bids. Mikey Woodie looking into the County's bidding process.

South Fork New River – Mikey Woodie to discuss with Wahoo's about using their property for equipment placement for project.

Farm Family – Mikey Woodie discussed with Board. Holland Whitesides farm, Against the Grain was suggested. Board agreed on this farm. Kasey and Woodie to take pictures and order plaque in the coming weeks.

Division Report – Rick McSwain

There will be Supervisor Training the day before the Annual Meeting.

CET was successful. The Annual meeting is in the same place, Cherokee. The Fall meeting is October 13th in Alleghany County.

RC&D: David Tucker

Timelines for applications have changed to enable NRCS to have more time on contracts.

The New River has been included in a Hell Bender Initiative – to increase habitat during stream restorations.

Boone has been included in the Urban Initiative – a five mile circle around Boone. This will help pay for some non-traditional ag projects.

COVID is still cancelling meetings for NRCS. NRCS still has to follow federal guidelines. Not allowed to meet in COVID hotspots. May not be able to attend the Fall meeting if Alleghany is still in high transmission rates.

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Michelle Kasey –

Mikey Woodie has created a Watauga County Soil & Water Facebook page and is adding content to share what we do along with an equipment spotlight to share what we have available to rent.

Woodie and Kasey attended Soils Training in Gaston County July 26th.

5th Grade Environmental Field Days are September 8th & 9th with rain dates of September 15th & 16th.

Woodie attended CET in Cherokee from 8/15-8/18/22.


Woodie attended Cultural Resource Training 6/29-6/30/22.

Denny Norris, Chair adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:13am.

Next meeting will be September 28, 2022

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

 Signed 9.28.22 Dated _____
Denny Norris, Chair