

August 23, 2023

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

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Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Jennifer Hanifan

Michelle Kasey

Mikey Woodie

David Tucker

Rick McSwain

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:05 am.

Approval of the minutes- Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Todd Combs 2nd. Minutes accepted.

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

Statement of Professionalism:

Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to uphold the laws of the United States and North Carolina and their constitutions. Business is to be conducted in a professional manner, free of bias, of interactions that violate policies or individual liberties and that address business issues only. Interactions are to be held with integrity, courtesy, honesty and in compliance with the highest ethical standards.

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District Report - Mikey Woodie

New Applications:

Ag Cost Share:

Dale Cornette – Supplement for Ag Road Repair. Needs filter cloth and gravel. Application for \$1935.

Russell Henson – Supplement for Ag Road Repair.

Eugene Walker – Feed pad, heavy use area protection, filter strip, diversion, stock trail, fencing.

Shiple's Family LLC – Feed pad, heavy use area protection, filter strip, diversion, stock trails, fencing, watering tanks, prescribed grazing.

Valley View Land Company, LLC – Ag road repair, watering tanks, heavy use area protection, prescribed grazing

Jerry & Jenny Hanifan – Exclusion fencing, spring development, watering tank, heavy use area protection

Justin Eggers – Feed pad, heavy use area protection, filter strip, diversion, well, pump, two watering tanks, fencing (stream exclusion) Add: had a previous design, but did not sign contract – Mikey Woodie asked if still needed points deducted in ranking. All agreed that points should not be deducted.

Charles Norris – Livestock feed pad, heavy use area protection, filter strip diversion. Mr. Norris had previous contract. Heavy use areas in disrepair. Fence enclosures need to be repairs. He needs a solution for manure management system. Wants a concrete replacement for the gravel pad.

Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system

All applications were discussed. Todd Combs made a motion to approve all of the applications, Bill Moretz made a 2nd. All applications were approved.

Jenny Hanifan asked how to rank repairs as opposed to new applications.

Denny Norris stated that there needs to be something in the ranking sheets giving so many points to correct.

Bill Moretz – Points should be deducted with no maintenance.

Ag Wrap:

Jay Bost – Water supply well and pump. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve.

Todd Combs 2nd. Application approved.

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CCAP:

Garrick Jackson – Stream restoration, riparian buffer, erosion, stream encroachment. Todd Combs made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2nd. Application approved.

New River Conservancy – Stream restoration, riparian buffer – Green Valley Park
Contracts that need approval: None

ACSP – Updates:

95-2021-003/95-2023-004 Michael Green – Construction has begun on road, fence and feed pad

95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn – Waiting on client for pre-construction meeting for Ag Road Repair

95-2022-007 Jessica Miller – waiting on Dewey Wright well drilling

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – construction to begin in September. Spring development, exclusion fencing

95-2023-006 Bart & Robina Walker – Finalizing design for tank placement; Construction to begin 5-6 months

AgWRAP

95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente – well complete, waiting on pump

95-2023-801 Daniel Brown – Design finalized, construction to begin October on Ag water collection system

CCAP

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy Waiting on design from engineer

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Community Park – working with Division engineers on final design

StRAP

Section 1 2000 linear ft to begin in October

Section 3 1800 linear ft – in progress.

Stone Mountain Branch (Peoria) 2950 linear ft – may reduce footage to reduce job cost

Other:

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Watauga High School and Helms Farm required maintenance is complete.

Need: Farm Family of the Year Nomination

After much discussion, Michael Greene's name was suggested. Bill Moretz suggested that we approach him soon to see if he is willing to take the award. Mikey Woodie stated that she is presenting at CET on how to complete the Impaired and Impacted survey.

Woodie stated that she has submitted a letter of Support for Hellbender RCPP.

NRCS Report – David Tucker

NRCS is partnering with Research Institute (Daphne Carter) on a two year project at the Watauga River at Valle Crucis – Stream bank restoration project.

RD&D Chris Hughes – no report

Division Report – Rick McSwain

The District Issues meeting will be in Wilkes County on 9/26/23.

The Fall Meeting will be October 12th.

McSwain will continue to cover area 2 until around October.

Denny Norris asked about the High Rock Lake Project – Woodie to send email to Ally Dinwiddie for update.

Admin Report:

Michelle Kasey

We received a pledge letter to support the new Education/Outreach Coordinator position. McSwain stated that Brian Evans will be discussing this at the Fall Meeting. The State wants pledges from Counties. Denny Norris stated that he doesn't think that County funds can be used for this.

Manned table at Library's Conservation/Climate Fair

5th Grade Environmental Field Day September 7th & 8th with rain dates of September 14th & 15th

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Kasey discussed the need for a logo'd table cloth for events like the library. Denny Norris suggested Kasey get prices for this and email out to the Board. Jennifer Hanifan stated that her business uses the vertical banner flags that can be seen from pretty far away.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:55am.

Next meeting will be September 27, 2023

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris Signed 8-27-23 Dated
Denny Norris, Chair