

February 28, 2024

## MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District  
971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

February 28, 2024

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Jennifer Hanifan

Chris Hughes

Michelle Kasey

Mikey Woodie

David Tucker

Elise McLaughlin

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

**Approval of the minutes-** Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Chris Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Minutes accepted.

**Approval of the agenda-** Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Chris Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
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.***

February 28, 2024

## **District Report - Mikey Woodie**

### **New Applications:**

#### **ACSP:**

Against the Grain – Diversion or grassed waterway

Fred Yates – Stream Debris removal and stream crossing

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve these two contracts; Chris Hughes 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Applications approved.

#### **Contracts needing approval:**

#### **AgWrap:**

95-2024-801 Jay Bost – Water supply well and pump. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the contract; Jenny Hanifan 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contract approved.

#### **CCAP:**

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Community Park – Bio retention area and grass swale.

Was a storm water wetland, but the plan changed. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contract approved.

#### **Contract Updates:**

#### **ACSP:**

95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Ag road repair, heavy use area, feed pad and fencing. Concrete installed waiting to hear back from farmer.

95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn – Ag road repair. Waiting on farmer to pick contractor. Contract expires in June – letter sent regarding deadline.

95-2024-002 Dale Cornette – Supplement, ag road repair. Waiting on signature.

95-2023-001 Scott Jensen – Meeting with engineer on March 1.

95-2023-006 Bart & Robina Walker – Tank installation scheduled for summer.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Feed pad, heavy use area, diversion. Working with engineer to finalize design contract.

95-2024-004 Rusty Henson – Ag road repair and heavy use area supplement. RFP needs Board approval. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve Request for Payment; Todd Combs 2<sup>nd</sup>. RFP approved.

95-2024-005/006 Shipley Farm – Feed pad, heavy use area, diversion, two ag-road repairs. Working with Shipley, NRCS & NCATS on project.

February 28, 2024

95-2042-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. Unable to reach Zimmerman. Impaired/Impacted funds must be returned 3/1/24.

**AgWrap Updates:**

95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente – cooperater waiting on payment from state.

95-2024-801 Jay Bost – Water supply well and pump. Yadkin Well to schedule with farmer to site well.

**CCAP Updates:**

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Waiting on Blue Ridge Conservancy to get contractor estimates before finalizing design.

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Park – Floodplain permit obtained from County. Final design was approved.

**StRAP Updates:**

Stone Mountain Branch – Construction began 2/15/24 and inspection is 5/5/24.

2024 StRAP award announcement is mid-May. Watauga requested \$340,000.

**General Updates:**

Mikey Woodie passed the drone exam.

**NRCS Report – David Tucker**

Boone position advertised and will need to be re-posted. Tucker gave other employment updates for NRCS. EQUIP deadline has been extended 2 weeks.

**RC&D Report & Soil & Water Commission Report – Chris Hughes**

The Next Commission meeting is March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the NC State Fair Grounds. RC&D will be holding a live stake giveaway. There will be a Fly-In on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 in Washington DC. The National Conservation District meeting will be held in San Diego this year. The SE Association meeting will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June in Gainesville, FL.

**Division Report – Elise McLaughlin**

The Spring Meeting will be held on 3/14/24 in Morganton. There will be Fencing Training in Wilkes County, registration is not open yet. McLaughlin has been working with John Beck on the program review the reporting part.

February 28, 2024

**Admin Report: Michelle Kasey**

Research Institute has generously agreed to pay our 1/3 of a Soils Tent. The State has a grant to pay 2/3 of some educational equipment. We will be getting a custom panel that will show a Watauga Soil Series – graciously supplied by John Kelley a former NRCS employee. We will also be getting an Enviroscope and we will be able to cover the 1/3 with our budget.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:55am.**

**Next meeting will be March 27, 2024**

**Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey**



Signed

3-27-24

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair