

January 25, 2023

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

January 25, 2023

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Michelle Kasey

Mikey Woodie

David Tucker

Rick McSwain

Jim Hamilton

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:01 am.

Approval of the minutes- Accepted - Chris Hughes made motion to accept minutes with corrections, Bill Moretz seconded. Minutes approved with corrections.

Approval of the 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.

Appointment of Board Officers – Denny Norris

Mr. Norris stated that the Officers for the Board must be appointed at the first Board meeting after the Election.

January 25, 2023

Chris Hughes made a motion to keep Denny Norris as Chairman and Todd Combs as Vice Chair/Department Head. All approved and Mr. Norris and Mr. Combs agreed to continue to serve in that capacity.

Resignation of Jimmy South – Denny Norris

Mr. Norris stated that a written resignation had been received from Jimmy South. Discussion followed regarding filling the vacant position and appointed vs. elected positions. Mr. Norris stated that Chris Hughes has requested to be appointed to Jimmy South's position.

Bill Moretz made a motion to appoint Chris Hughes to Jimmy South's appointed position. Todd Combs 2nd the motion. Chris Hughes abstained from voting. The motion was carried. Board discussed names of individuals to fill the vacant seat on the Board. Board agreed to table the conversation until the February meeting and to bring names of suggested replacements. Bill Moretz suggested we have at least 2-3 names from which to choose a replacement. Rick McSwain stated that there are guiding principles for Board members and the candidates should meet most of them.

District Report - Mikey Woodie

New Applications:

95-2023-003 Joe Brown Well & Pump, Watering tanks – 2, Exclusion fencing. The farm is off 421 Villa Drive. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes 2nd. Application approved.

Contracts:

Elk Creek: Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes 2nd. Contract approved.

UT to Dutch Creek: Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2020-005 Rodney Presnell. Client requested a cancellation. Chris Hughes made a motion to cancel. Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract cancelled.

January 25, 2023

Updates:

ACSP

- 95-2021-003 Michael Greene Engineer scheduled. Contract expires in June.
- 95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn Waiting on contractor, materials have been purchased.
- 95-2022-004 Rusty Henson Issues with contractor. Looking for a new one.
- 95-2022-005 Dale Cornett Waiting on final grading of gravel.
- 95-2022-007 Jessica Miller Well to be drilled in March or April.
- 95-2023-001 Scott Jensen – Engineer coming 2/2 along with soil scientist.
- 95-2023-002 Jeff Brown and Daniel Brown Soil scientist and Engineer coming 2/1/23.

AgWRAP

- 95-2022-801 Genevieve Mentee Still well contractor.

CCAP

- 95-2022-501 Green Valley Community Park Waiting on new engineer to be assigned to project.
- 95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy Waiting on new engineer to be assigned to project.
- 95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Soil scientist coming next week.

StRAP

Elk Creek Project and South Fork New River Project The trout moratorium does not apply. Two areas with debris. One is 1160' one on Jakes Mountain Rd is 2260. Waiting on one land owner. Chris Hughes made a motion to move these projects forward contingent on last homeowner. Bill Moretz 2nd. Motion carried. Other StRAP potential projects mentioned: Chris Hughes mentioned the Greenway had a lot of stream debris. Bill Moretz mentioned Beaver Dam off 194 close to dumpster.

NRCS Report –David Tucker – Mentioned the Inflation Reduction Act funding. Conservation will be hiring to fill vacant positions soon.

January 25, 2023

Division Report – Rick McSwain All resolutions submitted were approved at the Annual Meeting.

The Spring Meeting is March 2023 in Avery County. Annual Meeting in Cherokee was a success, having the most people at an Annual Meeting in years.

RC&D: Chris Hughes No report.

Michelle Kasey – Administrative update – Poster contest is complete. Two schools competed this year. Board approval is needed to pay winners. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve \$210 paid to Michelle Kasey for poster contest award money. Chris Hughes 2nd. All in favor.

Michelle Kasey mentioned that logo'd shirts were tabled at the last meeting in November. Chris Hughes made a motion to purchase 3-5 shirts each for Kasey and Woodie. Todd Combs 2nd. Motion approved by all. Kasey and Woodie to purchase shirts and have them embroidered locally. Denny Norris asked Kasey to find the name of the company that was used last.

Denny Norris, Chair thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:41am.

Next meeting will be February 22, 2023

Minutes submitted by:



Signed

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair