

February 10, 2021

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

March 24, 2021 Meeting #3

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes -zoom

Bill Moretz - zoom

Todd Combs – in person

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

Jimmy South – in person

David Tucker – zoom

Rick McSwain - zoom

Denny Norris called meeting to order

Approval of the minutes- Chris Hughes made motion, Jimmy South seconded

Approval of the agenda- Chris Hughes made motion, Todd Combs seconded

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- Graham Fox

Tree Sale is ongoing. We will continue to take orders through the end of the week.

Contract 95-2020-004 – Elaine Pritchard – waiting to hear back from her. Well estimate was higher than she expected.

Contract 95-2020-005 – Rodney Pressnell and David Yeatts – will visit site to pull soil cores on 3/25/2021.

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Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens – visiting site to pull soil cores 3/25/21.

Contract 95-2020-001 – Todd Combs – Construction may now begin.

Contract 95-2021-801 – Board voted to approve Ag-wrap contract. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Todd 2nd the motion.

Denny – Asked if a wetland determination was being done for Jeff Brown.

Graham to do with Division Soil Scientist on 3/25/21.

Currently working on forms for renewal for the Beaver Dam Creek which expires on 6/30/21.

Isaac Hodges interested in Ag-Wrap Contract – will have to new fiscal year which begins in July.

David Isaacs – interested in feed Pad for heavy use area. Still need to schedule time to meet with him.

Rick McSwain – Spring trainings are coming up. Calendar is on website. Trainings are planned until June. CET meeting will be in person as of now with an option to participate online if you prefer not to travel.

Remote meeting audio/video equipment list will be out soon. Each location will be able to purchase up to \$500. If more than \$500 is needed, requests will be considered.

Division is expanding their JAA training.

There was an email that went out about District Confidentiality with examples. This pertains directly to public meetings.

Denny Norris asked if there was no public in attendance is there a problem.

Rick McSwain – Just be cautious. Don't share maps or details about contracts unless it is a closed session.

NRCS Report- David Tucker – There was a local work group meeting yesterday on 3/23/21. Everything is about the same. Every pasture application has been funded and most crop applications were funded. There are other pools of funds, area specific pools, most don't apply to our District. There are high tunnel and stream restoration – set by the State – Raleigh – but most were not in Watauga County.

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There will be a discussion about Civil Rights. A meeting will be held to cover this information.


RC&D Report- Chris Hughes- No Report

Michelle Kasey – A flat budget was created for the upcoming year with no increases requested. The Board was asked if there were any upcoming large expenses that need to be included – and there were none. Denny Norris said to look at numbers and see if any needed to be moved around according to previous expenditures. Board members were invited to attend the meeting with the County Manager on April 12, 2021 at 1:30pm. Todd Combs requested the link to join along with Chris Hughes.

Meeting was Adjourned at 8:38am.

Next meeting will be April 28th, 2021

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey


Denny Norris, Chair

Signed

3-24-21

Dated