

October 27, 2021

## MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

October 27, 2021 Meeting #8

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz - phone

Todd Combs – Zoom

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

Jimmy South

Kayleigh McHugh - Zoom

Denny Norris called meeting to order

**Approval of the minutes-** Chris Hughes made motion to accept with one change, Jimmy South seconded.

**Approval of the agenda-** No opposition

**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.***

**Introduction of Kayleigh McHugh, CREP Specialist:** Kayleigh McHugh introduced herself via Zoom to the Board. She then explained the CREP – water quality protection program that is a conservation program with FSA, NRCS and the Forestry Service as partners. This program targets erosion with tree planting using Long Leaf pines, Short Leaf Pines and Hardwoods. The sign up is with FSA.

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**District Report- Graham Fox**

**Contract 95-2020-801:** David Tucker has been waiting for months on Yadkin Well Drillers. Denny Norris suggested that since the extension deadline is 11/25/21, that another Extension should be granted. Chris Hughes made a motion to grant a second extension, Jimmy South seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**Contract 95-2020-005:** Rodney Pressnell Grader contractor has been lined up. Looking for someone to pour concrete.

**Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens –** Engineer designed a small 15' pad because of bedrock. Mr. Kitchens needs a larger 20x30 pad. Engineer is redesigning the pad by shifting the orientation.

**Jeff Brown –** A spring development plan instead of a heavy use pad is being designed.

**Contract 95-2021-003: Michael Green** Owner not available when engineer was in town.

**Kris Kuhn –** Trying to secure funding to begin road repair project.

Chris Hughes asked if we held the Environmental Field Day. Michelle Kasey replied that Watauga County schools were not allowing the Field Day due to COVID, but Graham Fox and Michelle Kasey took the kids snacks ordered for Field Day and made goody bags for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> graders with worksheets and coloring books and delivered to the school board building to be distributed to all of the students in those grades along with the teachers. This allowed us to get our foot in the door for future education projects.

Chris Hughes then asked Graham Fox if he had any Job Approval Authority. Graham Fox responded that he was working on JAA for road repair, fencing, and spring development. Working on Jeff Brown Project with Andrew Cox and Mark Forbes to get a sign off for this project.

Chris Hughes then stated that the State is cracking down on continuing education for Board Members. Any board member missing credits can get them by scheduling a speaker for either before or after a board meeting if they are interested. He then mentioned that Board members could get some credits by attending the Annual meeting scheduled for January in Durham or the Fall meeting.

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**NRCS Report- David Tucker – no report**  
**RC&D Report- Chris Hughes - no report**  
**Rick McSwain –no report**

**Michelle Kasey** - no report, but asked Board if Environmental Educator training needed to be done during personal or business hours. Both Denny Norris and Chris Hughes replied that the hours may be done during working hours. Michelle Kasey also asked the Board for permission for Graham Fox and Michelle Kasey to be able to drive personal vehicles to the Annual Meeting in January to Durham. Chris Hughes made a motion to allow staff to drive personal vehicles , Jimmy South seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Graham Fox asked if the November meeting scheduled for November 24<sup>th</sup> could be moved up to November 17<sup>th</sup> since it was close to Thanksgiving. Todd Combs made a motion to move the meeting to November 17<sup>th</sup> from the 24<sup>th</sup> and Jimmy South seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**Meeting was adjourned at 8:47am.**

**Next meeting will be November 17th, 2021**

**Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey**



Denny Norris, Chair

Signed 11-17-21

Dated