

November 20, 2024

MINUTES

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

November 20, 2024

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Chris Hughes
Bill Moretz
Jennie Hanifan

Michelle Kasey
Mikey Woodie
Nate Coppenbarger
Samantha Dame
Brandon Turlington

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

Welcome to Nate Copperbarger, newly elected Board Member.

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.

Approval of the minutes – Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2nd.

Minutes accepted.

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Approval of the agenda – Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. Agenda accepted.

District Report - Mikey Woodie

New Applications: None

Contracts needing approval: None

Contract Updates:

ACSP:

95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Ag Road Repair/HUA/Feed pad/Livestock Exclusion. Damage from Hurricane. Should have fencing done by end of the year.

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Spring development, tanks, exclusion fencing. Hurricane damage. Fencing to be complete in 2025.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Livestock exclusion system with well. Has experienced severe damage from Helene, huge landslide, and may need extension next year.

95-2023-006 Bart and Robina Walker – Decided not to cancel.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Feed pad, HUAP, Diversion. Construction will be delayed due to damage from Helene. Lost hay and sileage, equipment flooded.

95-2024-005 Shipley Family, LLC – Payment received. Contract complete.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Went with David Tuccker to finalize survey.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. Wants to begin early spring.

95-2025-001 Will Zulczyk – Ag road repair and stabilization. Landowner reviewing final design.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides (repair) -Waiting on engineer site visit.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Finalizing design with landowner and engineer.

95-2025-004 Diane Cornette Deal - Landowner reviewing preliminary design.

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AgWrap:

95-2025-801 Jay Bost – Request for Payment needs Board approval.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve request for payment, contingent on signatures, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. Motion carried.

95-2025-802 Daniel Brown – Waiting on engineer. Will be delayed because of Hurricane.

CCAP:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Riparian buffer/stream restoration.

Finalizing design with engineer. Waiting on funding.

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Park – Park Board evaluating bids for construction.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy at Green Valley Park – Planting to begin 11/23/24.

StRAP Updates:

2022 Funds: Mikey Woodie is working with Emergency Management. Chris Hughes asked Woodie if she had been able to help with our drone. Woodie stated that Emergency Management had been working with the Corp of Engineers. Ms. Woodie attended the Watauga County Board of Commissioners meeting to request permission to extend the contract for the 2022 Funds. This was granted.

2024 Funds: Finalizing contract with New River Conservancy. County Manger to review contract.

General Updates - Mikey Woodie

Woodie is working with Samantha Dame and NRCS on hurricane damages to farms. A spreadsheet of farms/damages to do site visits is being kept. Site visits are being done mostly in order, but also grouped by location. Soil & Water, NRCS and FSA are working with each location to find the correct program to get them help.

Mikey Woodie stated she would not be able to attend the Annual Meeting.

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NRCS Report – David Tucker/by Samantha Dame

Deadline for EQUIP is January 10th. Currently 17 EQUIP applications.

Cost Share program closed 11/1/24 with 1 application.

EWP – Watauga County has submitted a sponsor letter for this program. Still a few months away from work beginning. No focus from the County yet.

Friday, 11/23, from 1-2:30 there is a FSA Program Farmer Informational meeting with RAFI in our Conference room. There is a 2nd meeting December 19th without RAFI. Soil & Water to be involved. This meeting will be from 6-8pm.

RC&D Report – Chris Hughes No meeting.

Chris Hughes took this moment to thank Mikey Woodie and Michelle Kasey for their work during Hurricane aftermath.

Mr. Hughes also thanked Todd Combs for his service. He also asked Denny Norris when the Vice-Chair needs to be elected. Mr. Norris stated that the January meeting is when officers are chosen.

Division Report – Elise McLaughlin No report.

Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

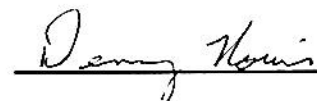
Kasey contacted Diane Deal about attending the Memorial Service at the Annual Meeting.

Kasey asked the Board if a room should be provided to Ms. Deal. Chris Hughes made a motion to pay for one night's stay at the Government rater for Ms. Deal. Jennifer Hanifan 2nd the motion. Board agreed to pay for 1 night stay for Ms. Deal. Kasey will reach out to Ms. Deal to offer a free night's stay for the Memorial Service after the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19am.

Next meeting will be January 22, 2025. No meeting in December.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey



Signed 1-22-25

Dated

November 20, 2024

Denny Norris, Chair

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