



**WATAUGA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
August 28, 2024**

Supervisors Present	Staff / Others Present
Denny Norris, Chair	Mikey Woodie, Watauga SWCD
Bill Moretz	David Tucker, NRCS
Chris Hughes	Samantha Dame, NRCS
Jennifer Hanifan	John Beck, SWC Division
	Elise McLaughlin, SWC Division

Meeting held at Watauga SWCD office; 971 West King St, Boone, NC.

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Denny Norris called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He inquired whether any Watauga SWCD board members need to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, for items that would come before the board. Chair Denny Norris also reminded supervisors of the NCASWCD Statement of Professionalism.

2. **Welcome - Introductions:** Chair Norris welcomed all in attendance.

3. **Approval of Agenda –** The draft agenda was shared with the supervisors. David Tucker asked to submit his report first since he had another meeting to attend. *Supervisor Chris Hughes offered a motion to approve the agenda with the change that David Tucker would present his report first. Supervisor Bill Moretz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.*

4. **Approval Of Minutes – June 26, 2024 Meeting:** The minutes of the Watauga SWCD meeting held on June 26, 2024 were presented. *Supervisor Hughes offered a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Supervisor Hanifan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.*

INFORMATION ITEMS

5. **Federal Programs Update:** David Tucker, District Conservationist, presented the the following updates:
 - Darron Felton is serving as the Interim Team Lead until November 6.
 - The Boone position has been offered to a candidate; waiting on the HR Department to finalize this. It is expected that the Boone office will be fully staffed within 30-60 days.
 - EQIP application period is complete. Next year there will be double the funding from this year; only certain practices (mostly climate smart) will be eligible. Mikey Woodie and Samantha Dame are working to sign up new cooperators for both federal and state programs at the same time.
 - CSP application is complete.

Chair Norris thanked David Tucker for his presentation.

DIVISION PROGRAM REVIEW SUMMARY

6. **Program Review Report:** John Beck, ACSP Manager for the Division, updated the board on the program review. The board discussed how to implement the changes recommended by the program review summary.

- *Supervisor Hanifan made a motion to add to the October agenda a discussion of how to implement changes to agendas and minutes. Supervisor Hughes seconded the motion, motion carried.*
- Mikey Woodie agreed to provide a hard copy of a spreadsheet with active contract updates along with the agenda, as well as a spreadsheet of ranking results from each batching period (which occur on August 15, October 15 and January 15).

Chair Norris thanked John Beck for his presentation.

COST SHARE UPDATES

7. **NC Cost Share Applications:**

7a. **ACSP:** Conservation Technician Woodie presented the following four applications to the board:

Name	Practice	Ranking Order	Ranking Score	Application Date
Will Kulczyk	Ag road repair	1	90	7/3/2024
Holland Whitesides (repair)	Ag road repair	2	88	7/16/2024
Larry Kitchens	Stock trail	3	87	7/5/2024
Diane Cornett Deal*	Ag road repair	4	77	8/6/2024
Eugene B. Walker	Livestock feeding area, stock trail	5	76	8/1/2024
Danny G. Miller	Fence, well, tanks, heavy use area	6	72	7/12/2024
Against the Grain	Diversion	7	70	7/16/2024

Supervisor Moretz made a motion to approve the applications. Supervisor Hanifan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

7b. **AgWRAP:** Technician Woodie presented the following three applications to the board:

Name	Practice	Ranking Order	Ranking Score
Jay Bost	Supplement for well	1	80
Daniel Brown (repair)	Ag water collection system	2	80
Daniel Brown (new)	Ag water collection system	3	60

Supervisor Moretz made a motion to approve the applications. Supervisor Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

7c. CCAP: Technician Woodie presented the following application to the board:

Name	Practice	Ranking Order	Ranking Score
Kellwood Townhomes POA	Stream restoration and riparian buffer	1	105

Supervisor Hanifan made a motion to approve the application. Supervisor Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

7d. Contract Updates: Technician Woodie presented status of ongoing contracts. Chair Norris thanked Ms. Woodie for her presentation.

8. StRAP Update: The district has funds remaining for debris removal that must be spent by December 31, 2024.

9. General Updates:

- Ms. Woodie shared updates on water resource grants. Chair Norris will go to the County Commission meeting and present the request.
- Ms. Woodie requested permission to close the office Friday, September 13. Permission was granted through board consent.
- Ms. Woodie presented a new Landowner Drone Consent Form. *Supervisor Hughes made a motion to approve the form with the following addition after "This agreement shall remain in effect for 3 years": 'or end of contract or whichever is longer.'* Supervisor Moretz seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
- Supervisor Hughes updated the board on stream restoration projects by RC&D.
- Supervisor Hanifan attended the biannual Carolina Meat Conference in July and recommended that Watauga SWCD be represented at the next conference.
- Ms. Woodie delivered the administrative/educational updates. Michelle Kasey, Administrative Assistant/Education Coordinator, taught water quality/pollution prevention with Enviroscape at 4-H camp on 8/2. The office will purchase magnetic SWCD logo for truck.

10. Supervisor Reappointment: *Supervisor Hughes made a motion to reappoint Supervisor Norris. Supervisor Hanifan seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Supervisor Norris abstained.*

11. Regional Coordinator Update: Elise McLaughlin reported the following:

- Fall Meeting registration is open until September 30.
- She shared via email the proposed resolution that will be presented at the Fall Meeting, to eliminate all BMP funding caps.
- Supervisor reappointment must be submitted to the Division through FormSite by October 31.
- The Advanced Training for Supervisors included sessions on federal laws protecting workers, recognizing and preventing hostile work environments, employee development and retention, a deeper dive into cost share programs and CS2 (specifically how supervisors can use CS2 to

review contracts in their districts), and managing contracts to reduce district financial exposure. The training will be offered yearly rotating around the three regions of the state.

CONCLUSION


- 12. **Next Regular Board Meeting – Wednesday, September 25 at 8 a.m.**
- 13. **Adjourn:** With no further business, Chair Norris declared the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



Denny Norris, Chair
Watauga SWCD

Elise McLaughlin, Interim Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Watauga SWCD on September 25, 2024.



Denny Norris, Chair
Watauga SWCD