

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

November 19, 2025

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Nate Coppenbarger
Bill Moretz
Jennifer Hanifan

Michelle Kasey
Brian Bonville
Brandon Turlington
Samantha Dame
Jessica Janc

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

2. Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Approval of the minutes

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the minutes; Jennifer Hanifan 2nd Motion. Minutes approved.

6. Approval of the agenda

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve agenda. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd the motion. Agenda approved.

7. District Report: Brian Bonville

New Applications: None

Contracts needing approval: None

Contract Updates:

A. ACSP:

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Engineers will be paying for project minus the drinkers.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Brown having issues finding a well company.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Project has not been started.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Ag Road Repair. Monitoring construction.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. No update.

95-2025-001 Will Kulczyk – Ag Road Repair. Meeting with Andrew Cox to finalize road layout.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides – Project not started.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Waiting on preliminary project design from engineer.

95-2025-004 Diane Deal – To begin in early spring.

95-2023-004 Greene – Waiting on receipts to submit RFQ. No update.

95-2026-001 Moretz – Cattle exclusion fencing. Waiting on JAA field visit.

95-2026-002 Whitesides – Diversion. Waiting on JAA field visit.

95-2026-003 Kulczyk – Ag Road. Waiting on JAA field visit.

B. AgWrap updates:

95-2025-802 Daniel Brown – Tank is set. Waiting on receipt and approval from engineer.

95-2026-801 Moretz – Tank repair. Waiting on JAA field visit.

95-2026-802 Brown - Spring tank project on field he leases. Waiting on JAA field visit.

C. CAP updates:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Riparian Buffer/Stream

Getting design finalized and construction should begin in spring.
Preliminary design done by engineers.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy (at Green Valley Park). Waiting on sealed designs from engineers. Erosion issues. They are to do spring planting.

95-2025-501 Kellwoods 1 Townhomes POA – Waiting on stamped designs and permits from engineers.

D. StRAP:

2022 Funds – Successfully tolled over to 2024.

2024 Funds – Targeted start date is May 2026 because of a Trout Moratorium. Waiting for stamped engineering designs.

2026 Funds – Waiting on fund allocation. Potential projects with Valle Crucis and the Town of Boone.

E. EWP Updates:

1 site visit per week. Paperwork is ready to send to NRCS.

8. Brian Bonville:

Bonville attended the HUAP training in Ashe County. He also attended the Wells for Livestock training in Wilkes on 11/18/25. Bonville was invited and attended the Meet Your Local Government on October 26th held in the Ag Conference Center.

9. NRCS Samantha Dame

NRCS had wanted all EWP site visits to be complete by 11-1-25. The NRCS was having a morning meeting at the same time as the Board meeting. Ms. Dame to get timeframe once she gets an update. NRCS is in the review stage. They are converting paperwork for review by Supervisors. Application deadline is January 15, 2026. Bonville stated that at the County Commissioners meeting the RFQ went out and they decided to split the EWP projects between two contractors, Breck & Brushy Fork.

10. RC&D Report –Jessica Janc

There is a stream planting project at the Jensen's farm after Thanksgiving. Bonville stated that he was out there recently and the wild flower seed that was planted has come up.

Janc stated that they are holding a Live Stake training soon. They also have a project at Angler Park. Blue Ridge RC&D will be doing the live stake giveaway in late winter in Ashe, Wilkes, Alleghany and Watauga.

Bonville asked if she had heard about the Grant from Trout Unlimited. They are giving away 7500 5-gallon trees. They prefer to drop 100 at a time. Jessica Janc stated that Ashe was doing a tree giveaway during the live stake giveaway. Just in case another county might be interested in doing the same.

11. Division Report – Elise McLaughlin

No report.

12.Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

Kasey stated that so far there has been no interest in the Speech Contest. Did the Board still want to host a contest night for the Poster Winners?

Denny Norris stated that yes, they had done that in the past and a lot of parents had shown up for it.

Kasey stated that she attended a zoom meeting for the Buildfest planning – event to be held in April. We are doing seed bombs at our station.

Kasey stated that we now have 2 Envirothon teams – one High School and one Middle School.

Kasey also stated that there were now 5 classes participating in the poster contest. These are classrooms that previously did not compete. Valle Crucis school usually has two teams, but that school just opened.

13. Bonny Bonville told the Board that he was planning on attend the Blue Ridge Women in Ag's event – Farming on Leased Land Friday 11/21/25 from 4-6pm. This event is good for young farmers.

14. Denny Norris asked Bill Moretz to help him do the Employee Annual Reviews for Bonville and Kasey since there is no Co-Chair. Kasey to find out due date and communicate with both Norris and Moretz.

November 19, 2025

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 am.

Next meeting will be January 28, 2026.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris

Signed 2-4-26

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair

DRAFT

