

March 24, 2025

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

March 24, 2025

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Chris Hughes
Jennifer Hanifan
Nate Coppenbarger

Michelle Kasey
Brian Bonville

1. Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:02 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** – Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. Minutes accepted.

6. **Approval of the agenda** – Chris Hughes made a motion to accept with amendment; Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. Agenda accepted.

7. **District Report: Michelle Kasey for Brian Bonville**

8. New Applications: None

9. Contracts needing approval: None

10. Contract Updates:

A. ACSP:

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Expires June 30th, 2025; construction delayed due to Helene damage. Will probably need extension.

95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Expires June 30th, 2025; sent certified letter; no reply from coordinator. Denny Norris asked that Bonville contact all 2023 contracts. Chris Hughes stated that he has Michael Greene's cell phone number.

95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn – Ag Road Repair. Expires June 30th, 2025; sent Certified letter. No reply from Coordinator.

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Spring development, tanks and exclusion fencing. Construction to restart this spring. 1/3 of project is complete. Pre-construction meeting was 3/18/25.

95-2023-006 Bart and Robina Walker – Livestock Exclusion system. Expires June 30th, 2025. Sent certified letter. No contact from Cooperator.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Feed pad, HUAP, Diversion. Construction delayed due to Helene damage; expects to start construction in Spring.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Ag Road repair; waiting on preliminary design approval from NRCS.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. Project to begin in spring.

95-2025-001 Will Kulczyk – Ag Road Repair. Cooperator has not contacted office.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides – Engineering meeting 3/20/25.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Preliminary design given to cooperator; Cooperator deciding whether to proceed.

B. AgWrap updates:

95-2025-802 Daniel Brown – Engineer to schedule feasibility site visit.

C. CCAP updates:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Waiting on funding from cooperator.

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Community Park – Visited site 3/18/25.

Construction almost complete.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy – Engineer has not replied with revised plan.

D. StRAP:

2022 Funds – Stream assessment complete; waiting to see EWP covers After the Corp of Engineers project which will be complete on 6/1/25.

2024 Funds – Edited contract based on County review. Waiting on County attorney.

11. General updates:

Chris Hughes – Budget was submitted to the County with a small increase for RCW camp and the Envirothon team. Michelle Kasey to meet with County Manager to review budget requests. Form to request new employee was filled out by Chris Hughes to be turned in with the budget request. Chris Hughes stated that the board needs to be in unison on requesting a new employee. Discussion followed.

12. NRCS – No report.

13. RC&D – Chris Hughes – No report.

14. Division Report – Elise McLaughlin

The Division mailed out a survey; the due date is April 30th. The Division has money to help pay for an addition person to deal with Helene Damage temporarily. Displaced NRCS employees would be eligible to apply for these Positions. Districts with the most damage will be prioritized. Technicians should talk to surrounding Counties to gauge need.

NCSU received funding to provide scholarships to underserved students that would like to attend RCW Camp. Districts should apply by April 30th, 2025 and up to 2 scholarships per County could be funded.

Local Work Group meeting will be held by Yancy County for Team 3 District and NRCS. If you have issued bring them to the meeting.

There will be advanced Supervisor training in July. More information will be provided later.

Elise McLaughlin to send out information on Caldwell County Farm Succession workshop.

15. Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

Kasey asked the Board if logo'd shirts could be purchased since Brian Bonville doesn't have any. Chris Hughes made a motion to purchase 4 logo'd shirts for Kasey and Bonville. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Michelle Kasey told the Board that only 2 people have signed up for the Farm Succession workshop and one of them is Chris Hughes. Kasey has already Spoken with the Cooperative Extension Director, Jim Hamilton who has suggested that the event be cancelled. Chris Hughes made a motion to cancel the Farm Succession Workshop; Jennifer Hanifan 2nd. Motion carried. Kasey to cancel the event. Chris Hughes stated that Rob Baldwin, the former Wilkes County Director, would be willing to give a presentation at a future Event. Chris Hughes mentioned that an application to the State could be made to offer continuing education credits at an event.

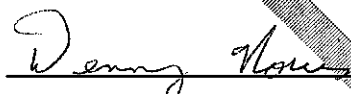
Michelle Kasey and Brian Bonville to work at the District Envirothon in Wilkes County March 26th & 27th.

Kasey and Bonville will hold a booth with the new soils tent and enviroscape at the Buildfest, April 5th, 2025 at the High School.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 am.

Next meeting will be April 23, 2025.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey


Denny Norris, Chair

Signed 4-23-25

Dated

March 24, 2025

DRAFT

