

April 24, 2024

MINUTES

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

April 24, 2024

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Michelle Kasey

Bill Moretz

David Tucker

Chris Hughes (on phone)

Jennifer Hanifan

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

Approval of the minutes- Jenny Hanifan made a motion to accept, Chris Hughes 2nd. Minutes accepted.

Approval of the agenda- Jenny Hanifan made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2nd. Agenda accepted.

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.

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District Report - Mikey Woodie given by Michelle Kasey

New Applications: none

Contracts needing approval: none

Contract Updates:

ACSP:

95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene - Have not been able to reach Mr. Greene. RFP deadline is June 1.

95-2024-002 Dale Cornette Supplement – Needs Board Approval. Jenny Hanifan made a motion to approve the supplement, Bill Moretz 2nd. All approved. RFP needs David Tucker & Denny Norris signatures.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Finalizing contract – to be signed in May.

95-2024-004 Rusty Henson Supplement – Complete.

95-2024-005 Shipley Family LLC – Waiting on engineers for site visit and survey.

95-2024-006 Valleyview Land Company – Survey to be conducted in May or June.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Army Corp of Engineers working through permit system.

AgWrap Updates:

95-2024-801 Jay Bost – Well drilled. Reached water at 1000 – will be hydrofracking to increase water flow. Pump to be installed.

CCAP Updates:

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy at Green Valley Park Meeting in May.

Strategic Plan and Ranking Forms: Draft copies given to Board for review.

Jenny Hanifan stated that she had gone on spot checks with Mikey Woodie. Ms. Woodie did a great job coordinator with the farmers.

NRCS Report – David Tucker

The EQUIP program will be complete in two months. CSP is next. An offer has been extended for the open Boone position and has been tentatively accepted

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Jenny Hanifan requested to look at the Pay study job descriptions that were given to the County.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05am.

Next meeting will be May 22, 2024

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris Signed 5-22-24 Dated
Denny Norris, Chair

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Local Work Group Meeting next Tuesday in the Watauga County Cooperative Extension's conference room. It should last about an hour.

StRAP Updates:

Stone Mountain Branch – Construction complete. RFP sent to State.

NRCS Report – David Tucker

RC&D Report & Soil & Water Commission Report – Chris Hughes

RC&D – Funding secured for Foscoe/Valle Crucis Park.

Commission – No report – Mr. Chris Hughes rolled off the Board

Division Report – Elise McLaughlin – given by Michelle Kasey

Local Work Group meeting 3/30/24 10am-12pm.

Fundamentals of conservation Planning in Waynesville, May 6-10th Pasture and Livestock.

Resource conservation Workshop scholarship applications due Lat May or June 1.

Grow More Training. Various dates see coordinators' newsletter for more information and flyer.

Save the Date – CET – Atlantic Beach September 15-19.

Fencing School in Wilkes postponed due to weather. Will be rescheduled to 5/23/24 9:00am.

Stay tuned for information regarding the next District Issues Committee meeting.

Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

Kasey to attend State Envirothon in Burlington on 4/26 & 4/27/24. Watauga County has one team competing.

John Beck gave a virtual program review summary. He made recommendations for changes to meeting minutes. He will review with Board other changes that need to be made at a Board meeting soon.

Chris Hughes – requested that he wants to be included in employee reviews – that are currently done by Co-Chair, Todd Combs. He wants to help employees going forward.