

April 26, 2017

Minutes

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

April 26, 2017 Meeting # 9

Present:

Denny Norris – Chair

Al Childers- Dept. Head

Rob Hunt

Isaac Hodges - Technician

Todd Combs

David Tucker- NRCS

Joey Clawson

Janie Poe- Admin.

Rob Baldwin

Andy Hill – Watauga River Partners

Christine Vance- NRCS

Denny Norris opened the meeting.

Agenda – Approved as presented

Minutes from March 22, 2017 were approved as presented.

Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest paragraph was read- none noted

District Report- Isaac Hodges

Isaac Hodges handed out an email about AgWrap. \$7,500 was allocated. Isaac Hodges informed the Board there is \$4,500 in funding left. Justin Steins has mentioned he might be interested. Isaac Hodges will get in contact with him and see if he wants to submit an application. The Board told Isaac Hodges to check with him and see if he is interested. If he is not interested the Board agreed to return the \$4,500.

Victor Fortune 95-2017-003 contract is approved. They are getting in touch with the well driller and will contact us when they start. This contract is in our Impaired and Impacted watershed.

Shelena Helms-95-2017-004 waiting for approval. Andrew Cox and Isaac Hodges went out and spoke with them and let them know they were waiting on the approval from the Division.

Jerry Haas 95-2017-801- David Tucker to sign a form and then Isaac Hodges will submit it to the Division for approval.

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Against the Grain 95-2016-001 is waiting for payment. Holly and Andy Bryant still have not been paid. As soon as they are paid the supplement will be submitted to the Division. The supplement was approved by the Board at the March 22, 2017 meeting.

Jimmy South 95-2016-006 He started about two weeks ago. Brushy Fork is out there grading. Soil & Water will be doing the fence. This is in our Impaired and Impacted watershed.

Seed Drill- the Board discussed charging a minimum on rental.

Joey Clawson made a motion to charge a minimum of \$50 if the client picks it up and if we deliver it the minimum charge will be \$75. The drill Will BE RETURNED CLEAN either way during business hours ONLY, to insure it was maintained and cleaned properly. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Remaining Funds- ACSP - \$30, 716 left. Isaac Hodges spoke to Mr. Shipley and he is planning on moving forward. The Board discussed and wanted Isaac Hodges to contact Mr. Shipley and let him know he has 30 days to get 1/3 of the 2016 contract complete in order to get another contract with us.

NRCS- David Tucker

Sonny Purdue is head of USDA. A Chief has not been appointed yet. They are trying to get a budget passed this week to avoid a government shutdown.

The hiring freeze has been lifted; Alan Walkers position is a priority position they will fill first.

Western North Carolina received an extra 1.5 million in funding. There is a possibility of getting more if they get all of these funds incumbered.

Division Report- Rob Baldwin

Vernon Cox is our new Director, taking Pat Harris's place. Mr. Vernon is familiar with Soil & Water and how it works.

If the District has any unused AgWRAP funds they are not going to use, please send them back in the Division can use the funding in other areas across the state.

Division will oversee 53 million in disaster recovery funding in the eastern part of the state. The first of that money was spent last week.

Andy Hill- Watauga River Keepers- Mr. Hill wanted to drop by and introduce himself and let Soil & Water know what Watauga River Keepers are doing in Valle Crucis. The Soil & Water Board welcomed Mr. Hill and explained the programs they offer along with NRCS.

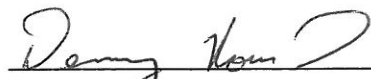
Administrative Report- Janie Poe

- August meeting date will need changed due to CET Training. The Board discussed and decided that August 30th would be a better date for everyone.
- Annual reports are ready the Commissioners.

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- Supply closet need more binder covers before this year's annual reports are done.
Rob Hunt made a motion to approve the purchase of the binder covers. Todd Combs seconded; Al Childers questioned the necessity, but did not vote for or against it; all others were in favor.
- Janie Poe informed the Board that the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board voted to purchase new parcel maps. High Country Council of Governments priced them and was approved by the Board. Janie Poe received an invoice for \$150 and wanted to let the Soil & Water Board know about this because this would be coming out of a line in their budget.
- Registration for CET for Isaac Hodges and Janie Poe is \$230. Janie Poe wants to make sure the Board wants it taken out of Employee Training line. Board agreed it needs to be taken out of the employee training line.
- Janie Poe asks the Board for approval to attend the "Growing up Wild" workshop.
Joey Clawson made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to attend Growing up Wild Workshop at Elk Knob Park on May 18th. Rob Hunt seconded; all were in favor.
- Awards night for Soil & Water will be May 16th at 6pm downstairs. Janie Poe explained to the new Supervisors about the awards night. Denny Norris asks Al Childers if he could attend due to a conflict with his schedule. Janie Poe to see Margaret Pierce about a check we received from Greene Construction to purchase food items for the awards night.
- Supply Closet needs ribbons for awards night. Blue Horse promotions quoted us a price \$180 before taxes.
Al Childers made a motion to approve the purchase of the ribbons. Joey Clawson seconded; all were in favor.
- Janie Poe asks the Board to approve a voucher for \$660 made out to her for prize money for the Poster contest.
Rob Hunt made a motion to approve the \$660 voucher for prize money made out to Janie Poe. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- RC&D has re-invoiced Soil and Water again. Janie Poe informed the Board this has happened before. A check has already been sent to them for the original invoice of \$50. The Board discussed and decided not to pay this invoice because the other one had been sent through finance.
- Chris Stevens's letter, Al Childers will fill it out and Janie Poe will mail it back to the NC Bar.
Next Meeting will be May 24, 2017
Thank you all for coming!

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

 signed 5-24-17 date
Denny Norris, Chair