

May 22,2019

Minutes
Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District
971 West King Street, Boone NC
May 22, 2019 Meeting # 9

Present:

Denny Norris – Chair
Jimmy South
Bill Moretz
Todd Combs
Bill Moretz
Rick McSwain

Janie Poe- Admin
Isaac Hodges- Tech
David Tucker-NRCS
Rosie Grajales-NRCS
Jessica Janc- RC&D
Ashley Hawkins- Resource Institute
Hallmon Hughes- Visitor

Denny Norris called the meeting at 8 am

Approval of the minutes – Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

Approval of Agenda- accepted as presented

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.

No conflicts presented.

Resource Institute- Ashley Hawkins resolutions and conflict forms needed Chair's signature

- Cove Creek project
Chris Hughes made a motion for Denny Norris to sign the resolution and conflict forms for the E. Walker project on Cove Creek. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.
- Dutch Creek project
Chris Hughes made a motion for Denny Norris to sign the resolution and conflict forms for the Blue Ridge Conservancy site on Dutch Creek. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

District Report – Isaac Hodges

CCAP- 95-2019-501 – The construction has went very well and it looks great. They are going to move some utility lines and then we can submit RFP.

After speaking with Tom Hill he advised Isaac Hodges to wait to submit the RFP.

Project Updates

Charles Norris 95-2016-002 will expire June 30, 2019. Isaac Hodges has went out and checked on this and will keep reminding him of the deadline.

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Matt Duval 95-2019-005 Isaac Hodges sent the standards for BMP's and he is planning on starting construction before June.

Jeff Brown 95-2018-005 road graded needs filter cloth and gravel. Should be done by next meeting

Jerry Haas has come by regarding his completed contract 95-2018-80. Mr. Haas has concerns over a 10-99 he received from the Division for the cost share contract. Isaac Hodges explained the problem to the Board. Isaac Hodges felt like the Board needed to know just in case they received any calls. The Board agreed the staff was not at fault and done nothing wrong.

BMP Audit- Isaac Hodges explained the numbers and wanted the Board to recall back to Shelena Helms contract. The Division cancelled the funds (\$17,361) before the actual contract deadline of 2018. The Board had to submit a new contract in 2019.

This is what is showing on the BMP Audit form. Denny Norris wanted Isaac Hodges to note that on the Audit letting the Division know why those numbers were like that.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Program Audit with the notation explaining the Division mistakenly cancelled Shelena Helms funds, before the contract 95-2017-004 expired. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

Rick McSwain suggested to take this problem to the cost share training on Thursday.

Spot Checks- Isaac Hodges asks the Supervisors who might be able to help with these next week. Chris Hughes volunteered to help. Denny Norris also volunteered to help if Isaac needed him.

Cost Share Training in Morganton- Isaac Hodges ask the Board to approve time and travel to Morganton May 23, 2019.

Chris Hughes made a motion for Isaac Hodges to go to the Cost Share Training in Morganton 5/23/19. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Strategy Plan Review/Revision- Isaac Hodges went over changes and addition of adopting the records retention schedule done by NCNCR at the April 24, 2019 meeting.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the Strategy Plan as presented. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

New Application / Contract

- Jeff Brown has submitted an application to finish seeding if the active contract does not cover it all. Board advised Isaac Hodges to let Jeff Brown know the active contract has to be completed before another contract can be voted on. Isaac Hodges stated he had already told Mr. Brown that stipulation.
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the application for Jeff Brown. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Impaired & Impacted

- Justin Eggers submitted an application for a feed pad and livestock exclusion fencing. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the application for Justin Eggers for \$10,687 for a feed pad and livestock exclusion fencing. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.
- Justin Eggers submitted a contract 95-2019-006 for a feed pad and livestock exclusion fencing \$10,687.

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Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the contract 95-2019-006 for Justin Eggers for a feed pad and livestock exclusion fencing \$10,687. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Impaired & Impacted survey will expire this year. The deadline to resubmit or add is June 1st. Isaac Hodges told the Board he will be submitting the survey on line. They discussed with the new Supervisors about streams in the county affected by agriculture.

Bill Moretz asks Isaac Hodges about the out of compliance letter that was sent to Robert Shipley. Denny Norris talked with Robert Shipley at the cattleman's meeting about the problems and Robert said he got in touch with the person leasing the farm. He felt like the problem was taken care of now.

NRCS Report- David Tucker

- NRCS is working on contracts. Some of which are in Watauga County. David hopes to have them done by the next SWCD Board meeting.
- NRCS done the final walk through on the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex. Very impressive David Tucker encouraged the Supervisors to go out and tour it.
- Mr. Tucker discussed a couple projects with the Board and will keep them informed.
- Request for extension on Oliver & Winebarger project. They are set to start construction in June or July.
- Hodges stream project was awarded with a July or August start date.

Division Report- Rick McSwain

- Ag Cost Share training in Morganton tomorrow.
- JAA training in August.
- JAA Committee will meet for the 3rd time. Hoping to have a list of common practices to present to the Commission in July for approval.
- Farm Act- no information on this as of yet, they are not waiting on it to pass. They are rolling forward with it.
- Davis Ferguson is retiring. Rick McSwain will take over his counties until a replacement is hired.
- Discussed changes on extensions due to weather. Explained the process to the Board.

RC&D Report – Jessica Janc

- Discussed Energy power grants. If anyone has anyone interested call Jonathan Hartsell with Blue Ridge RC&D.

Administrative Report- Janie Poe

- Resource Institute requested Denny Norris to sign an extension on Cove Creek project #7355. It was signed 5/15/19. Denny Norris signed and it was scanned back to the before the 5/17/19 deadline.
- Invoice for Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex. Janie Poe explained a phone conversation with Ashley Hawkins about Soil & Waters administrative payment. Ashley called Charles Anderson and ask. Soil & Water will get \$1,000 for administering the grant.
- Fiscal year will be ending for the Division and the County.
- Award letter for EQIP on Hodges stream restoration project on Linville Creek.
- Award letter for Ward's Dam Mill Project. SWCD paring with RC&D.

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- RCW workshop. Olivia Haigler was not sure if the ones fitting the criteria would be available for those dates. She was going to check and get back to us.
- Field Day will be September 5th & 6th with rain dates of 12th & 13th.
- Janie Poe will be attending a workshop at Grandfather on amphibians June 5.
- Supervisors Bio's

Next meeting will be June 26, 2019
Thank you all for coming.

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe


_____ signed 6-26-19 _____ date
Denny Norris, Chair