

February 23, 2022

MINUTES

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

February 23, 2022

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

Jimmy South

Rick McSwain

Denny Norris called meeting to order

Approval of the minutes- Chris Hughes made motion to accept with one change, Jimmy South seconded.

Approval of the agenda- No opposition

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.

District Report- Graham Fox

New Applications:

Holland Whitesides – Application approved for Ag Road repair. Bill Moretz made a motion to accept the application and Jimmy South seconded. Motion carried. Application approved.

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Isaac Hodges – Application approved for Ag Wrap Well. Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz seconded. Motion carried. Application approved. Mr. Hodges is leasing the property. Property owner signed the application.

Contract 95-2022-002: Ernest Moretz Contract is completed. Denny Norris approved RFP outside of meeting. Board was notified.

Contract 95-2020-801: David Tucker Contract close to deadline

Contract 95-2020-005: Rodney Pressnell Work to begin in two to three weeks weather permitting.

Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens Waiting on weather to pour concrete pad.

Contract 95-2022-001 – Jeff Brown Adding heavy use area close to spring with exclusion fencing.

Contract 95-2021-003 – Michael Greene Waiting on site visit with engineer

Contract 95-2021-005 - Kristopher Kuhn Waiting on contractor & funding. To start around two weeks.

CCAP – There is additional allocation this year. We are reaching out for potential projects. Deadline is March 25. May call an earlier board meeting if necessary to approve applications if we get them.

StRAP: Potential new project along Elk Creek Rd. – Triplet area.

Rick McSwain: This new program pays 100%. Applicant has to pay contractor, but the applicant can be the county and the state can reimburse the county.

The district can be the applicant and put a line item in their budget. The county then writes the check to the contractor and the state reimburses the county. The Contractor signs an agreement that they will get paid when the state pays. March 31st is the deadline for submitting the amount you need. Division Staff members have to go approve the final project.

Denny Norris – The Division staff should be involved at the beginning of the project to make sure everyone knows what is required.

Graham Fox – The debris from the Stream Removal Projects can be chipped or burned.

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Rick McSwain – There are three categories of funding and you can request funds from all three.

EWP Match, Stream debris removal, and PL566.

You will need a ranking system for your applications.

Graham Fox – We are going to submit as many feasible projects as we can to show interest.

Rick McSwain – There is a new newsletter format. It is shorter. Please read and give feedback.

There is a Commission meeting on 3/15 & 3/16 with the StRAP program as the main topic. Please send at least 1 staff person. Lunch and Dinner will be provided at no charge.

The Spring Meeting is 3/10 in Alleghany County. Deadline for signing up was 2/21.


Michelle Kasey – Graham Fox and Michelle Kasey attended the Budget meeting with the County manager. The budget worksheet has been sent out. She asked the board for guidance on preparing the numbers.

Denny Norris stated that we need to increase the budget by 1-2%. Increases should be made in: Motor fuel, equipment repair, educational materials, staff training.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

Next meeting will be March 23, 2022

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey


Denny Norris, Chair

Signed

3-23-22

Dated