

June 23, 2021

## MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

June 23, 2021 Meeting #6

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz

Rick McSwain

Graham Fox- Tech

Michelle Kasey - Admin

Jimmy South

Denny Norris called meeting to order

**Approval of the minutes-** Chris Hughes made motion to accept with one change, Bill Moretz 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**

**Contract 95-2020-801:** David Tucker Extension granted.

**Contract 95-2020-005:** Rodney Pressnell Design for smaller pad on Beech Mountain because of bedrock. Prioritized because of size limitations.

**Contract 95-2021-002 – Larry Kitchens – Daphne working on design.**

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**Contract 95-2020-001** – Todd Combs – RFD approved by Denny. Project complete and the payment has been processed.

**Impaired and Impacted funds** – Michael Greene in Vilas applied for a feed pad, heavy use area and exclusion fence. The cattle are drinking out of a spring fed creek. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the contract and Jimmy South seconded. This contract will encumber funds.

**Kris Kuhn** – Beaver Dam area has erosion issues and wants road repair and installed culverts. Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz seconded.

**There are \$19,000 of Cost Share Funds for the year.**

**FIG Farm** – Dave Walker – would like to lease the Vegetable washer. He would like a long-term rental. This equipment needs rollers and sponges, but the electric motor is good. Graham Fox and Michelle Kasey spoke with the County Manager about a long term lease.

Denny Norris state that it will be alright as long as other people can use it and they make sure it's available and make sure we don't lose it.

Bill Moretz – the lease needs to be a reduced rate.

Graham Fox – We discussed charging them \$50/month and they replace the rollers and get it in working order.

Chris Hughes – We will need to have a contract.

Denny Norris – Other people can use it there. We keep control.

Chris Hughes – made a motion to approve:

1 – contract, 12 month renewable each year of \$50/month and they keep it maintained.

2 – The FIG Farm to provide access for other people to use and it is available for inspection any time. They also need to notify us 30 day in advance if they decide to quit using.

They also submit repair receipts to be deducted from rent.

Bill Moretz – suggested an amendment to this – which is deducting the amount of power for someone else to use it. We will rent to the public.

Graham Fox – when was this purchased?

Denny Norris – when everything else was purchased

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Bill Moretz – it was all purchased with Grants.

Jimmy South seconded the motion

Chris Hughes – Can we get a contract through the County's attorney? Would we have to pay for the contract?

Bill Moretz – provided the County approves the lease.

Chris Hughes – Can anyone get hurt using this equipment? Do we need a disclaimer about someone getting hurt?

Graham Fox – All of our contracts have a provision in them.

Denny – Do we need any further discussion? NO, then this has been approved.

**Graham Fox – Spot checks** are complete. There were no compliance or maintenance issues. A 10 day notice was given on all.

**NRCS Report- David Tucker** – no report

**RC&D Report- Chris Hughes** - Annual meeting – amend budget and get grants.

**Rick McSwain** – Commission meeting 7/21/21 with a work day on 7/20/21. There will be conservation training in August at the CET. Rick asked is anyone has a heavy use area planned. He would like to have one to use for training and site assessment. He would like to schedule a ½ day class to see the install.

Rick McSwain's training during CET will be for 6 hours of credit.

Denny Norris – There is no July meeting unless it's an emergency meeting.

**Michelle Kasey** - Preparations for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day at the Valle Crucis park are ongoing. To date 11 speakers have agreed to hold a station.

**Meeting was Adjourned at 8:35am.**

**Next meeting will be August 25th, 2021**

**Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey**

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*Denny Norris*

Signed

10-27-21

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair