

June 28, 2023

**MINUTES**

**Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District**

**971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607**

**June 28, 2023**

**Present:**

**Denny Norris - Chair**

**Michelle Kasey**

**Chris Hughes – by phone**

**Mikey Woodie**

**Bill Moretz**

**Todd Combs**

**Jennifer Hanifan**

**Guests:**

**Mikey Bugge – Down Home, NC**

**Dalton George – Boone Town Council**

**Nate Copenbarger – Down Home, NC**

**Olive Burress – Down Home, NC**

**Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:00 am.**

**Approval of the minutes-** Chris Hughes made a motion to accept, Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Minutes accepted.

**Approval of the agenda-** Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Todd Combs 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
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.***

June 28, 2023

### **District Report - Mikey Woodie**

Attended the Vet Event hosted by App State and NC Cooperative Extension  
Manned water table at Good Fields Farm Event

**New Applications: None**

**Contracts that need approval:**

**95-2023-801 Daniel Brown Agriculture water collection and storage system  
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve; Bill Moretz 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contract approved.**

**95-2023-006 Bart & Robina Walker Grassed waterway, tanks, heavy use area  
protection, livestock exclusion fencing**

**Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Todd Combs 2<sup>nd</sup>. Contract approved.**

### **Ag Cost Share - updates**

**Woodie – A Supervisor need to attend the Commission’s meeting to request the  
extensions.**

**David Williams – Chris Hughes can not represent the Board nor vote on the extensions.**

**Someone can attend virtually. Denny Norris volunteered to attend virtually.**

**95-2021-003/95-2023-004 Michael Greene - Extension requested. Board member must  
attend Commission meeting.**

**95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn Cooperator requests extension. Board member must attend  
Commission meeting.**

**95-2022-005 Dale Cornette – Ag Road Repair Construction completed and paid.**

**95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – construction to begin in July.**

**95-2023-005 John Leggett – Cancelled project due to medical reasons.**

### **Ag Wrap**

**95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente - Construction scheduled for August.**

### **CCAP**

**Green Valley Park – Complete.**

**Blue Ridge Conservancy – Reference reach survey scheduled to finish design.**

**Valley Crucis Community Park – Working on final design.**

June 28, 2023

**StRAP:**

**Elk Creek Section 1 – Waiting on construction to begin.**

**Elk Creek Section 2 – Completed and paid.**

**Elk Creek Section 3 – Construction delayed.**

**Stone Mtn Branch – Woodie to bid out in July.**

**Spot checks – Mikey Woodie – Complete**

**NRCS Report –David Tucker – Still obligating EQUIP contracts with more money from the State. Discussion about vacant positions at NRCS. Several in our area are open.**

**Division Report – Rick McSwain - Vernon Cox has retired and David Williams will be replacing him. Ralston has retired and Rick McSwain will be replacing him in Areas 3 & 8 and continuing to cover Area 2 until a replacement is found. Contract Extensions will be addressed at the Commission meeting in July. CET coming up in September.**

**RC&D: Chris Hughes - no report**

**David Williams – Soil & Water is having the same struggles with filling positions and unexperienced applicants. There is also an HR position open.**

**Admin Report:**

Michelle Kasey

Taught at Children's Museum for Water Week


County Budget was approved.

No meeting in July

**Meeting was adjourned at 10am.**

**Next meeting will be August 23, 2023**

**Minutes submitted by:**

  
Denny Norris, Chair

Signed 8-23-23

Dated