

March 22, 2023

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

March 22, 2023

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Chris Hughes

Bill Moretz

Jennifer Hanifan & Husband

Mikey Woodie

Jessica Janc

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

Approval of the minutes- Accepted -

Approval of the agenda- Accepted with edits. Discussion of supervisor replacement was moved to last and in a closed session, and the replacement is for Chris Hughes' position who moved into Jimmy South's position.

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 - Mikey Woodie

March 22, 2023

New Applications:

Ag Cost Share

Michael Greene - Feed pad, heavy use area protection, Ag Road repair, diversion, fencing.

Denny Norris asked if applying for programs while having an on-going project is allowed. Mikey Woody stated that there is nothing against it in our Strategic Plan. Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

Bob Shipley – Feed pad, heavy use area protection, Stock Trail, Fencing, Critical area planting

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

Robina Walker – Watering tanks, heavy use area protection, fencing, grassed swale

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

John Leggett – Spring development, watering tanks, heavy use area protection, fencing, critical area planting

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

Eugene Walker - Feed pad, heavy use area protection, diversion, fencing

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

Ag Wrap

Daniel Brown – Livestock water storage

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application and Chris Hughes 2nd. Application was approved.

Contracts:

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown Well & Pump, Watering tanks – 2, Exclusion fencing

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

95-2021-003 Michael Greene – Ag road repair, watering tank, heavy use area protection, fencing

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

March 22, 2023

95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Ag road repair, feed pad, heavy use area protection, diversion, fencing

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes 2nd. Contract approved.

StRAP:

Elk Creek Section 2 – Hicks Construction Enterprises

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes 2nd. Contract approved.

Elk Creek Section 3 – Hicks Construction Enterprises

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve, Chris Hughes 2nd. Contract approved.

Vanderpool Contract – Stream Restoration

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve, Bill Moretz 2nd. Contract approved.

Updates:

ACSP

95-2021-004 Kris Kuhn Meeting with contractor at the end of March.

95-2022-004 Rusty Henson Searching for contractor.

95-2022-005 Dale Cornette Working on Road.

95-2023-001 Scott & Dawn Jensen Waiting on state archaeologist to make an evaluation.

Ag Wrap No update

CCAP

95-2022-501 Green Valley Community Park Design review complete. Contractor has been hired. Waiting on pre-construction meeting.

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy Stream survey complete. Waiting on design from engineer.

95-2023-501 Valley Crucis Community Park Infiltration test complete and waiting on design.

StRAP – Greenway near water treatment plant could make a good new project section

Mikey Woodie presented a slide show on the current projects.

NRCS Report –David Tucker – No report – not in attendance

Division Report – Rick McSwain - not in attendance

March 22, 2023

RC&D: Chris Hughes & Jessica Janc

Chris Hughes:

The Southern Blue Ridge Prescribed Burn Association has been formed. They are focused on prescribed burns on private land.

Women's Chainsaw class – May 11th

Lake James birthday Party – April 2nd.

New River State Park will be hosting prescribed fire trainings.

The Over Mountain Victory Trail is set to be completed by 2026.

The Creek Walk project in Mitchell County is complete.

Jessica Janc:

Looking for volunteers to run education tables and to bring groups of students around on a tour of the restoration work done at Todd Island's Grand Reopening, April 27th & 28th, 9am-11am will be students, lunch provided to volunteers, then afternoon will be tours for partner and conservation organizations.

Admin Report:

Mikey Woodie reporting for Michelle Kasey.

Budget worksheet presented to Board. Board asked to add cost of desired drone package to budget as a one-time allocation with the understanding that StRAP funds will reimburse that as an admin expense; discussed making sure there is plenty of money for additional training and travel expenses due to volatile gas prices and additional required training.

Poster Contest: Discussed possibility of additional press opportunities with HC Press connection. Would also like to advertise StRAP work in the County.

Embroidered hats: Board requested that hats for staff be ordered.

"Good Fields" Food and Farm Festival at Shipley Farms – Mr. Shipley has requested Soil & Water man a table during the festival. Denny Norris stated that he would like to have staff at this event, but that Soil & Water not sponsor or donate. He asked Mikey Woodie to discuss with Bob Shipley.

March 22, 2023

Mikey Woodie asked if the Board would like to pursue Impaired & Impacted funding. Board said yes. Mikey Woodie explained changes to rules involving voluntary return of funds mid-year or reallocation of unused funds.

Denny Norris stated that the Board was going to take a break and then go into Closed Session to discuss applicants to replace Chris Hughes in the elected position.

Meeting was adjourned at 11am.

Next meeting will be April 26, 2023

Minutes submitted by:

Denny Norris

Signed

5-21-23

Dated

Denny Norris, Chair