

October 28, 2020

Minutes
Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District
971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607
October 28, 2020 Meeting #3

Present:

Denny Norris- Chair
Bill Moretz
Chris Hughes

Todd Combs
Graham Fox- Tech
Morgan Harris- NRCS

Denny Norris called the meeting at 8am

Approval of the minutes- Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Todd Combs seconded, all in favor

Agenda was 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.

**Update to status of Todd Combs' contract, but nothing that requires a vote at this meeting.
No other conflicts**

Bog Turtle RCPP Proposal- Morgan Harris- Morgan presented the board Defenders of Wildlife RCPP grant proposal. He expressed the desire to have more districts onboard with the project to identify landowners with bogs and do community outreach and education about the program and wetlands in general. He is requesting in-kind matching to the grant of staff hours. Graham Fox suggested a \$7,500 in-kind match of staff hours over a 5-year period (\$1,500 per year). Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the district's in-kind grant match, Todd Combs seconded, all in favor.

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District Report- Graham Fox

95-2020-003 Jeff Brown- Jeff said he has been working at other properties, will call Graham before road construction begins. Graham has been having trouble getting in contact with Jeff for the past week. Board recommended trying to call him again or doing a drive-by of his property if he still cannot get in touch.

95-2020-004 Elaine Pritchard- Still searching for contractor

95-2020-005 Rodney Presnell/David Yates- Surveyed site with Levi Preston on 9/22. Design being drafted by area engineers. Graham noted the response time from engineers since the board's letter to the division has improved significantly

95-2020-801 David Tucker- Will dig well in spring.

95-2021-001 Todd Combs- Finishing up draft contract. Graham needs to get measurements for the top section of road then should be ready to finalize a contract.

95-2021-002 Larry Kitchens- Agreed to spring exclusion fencing and installation of drinkers. Engineer request submitted for feed pad on 10/20.

NRCS Report- David Tucker- David not present, Graham provided NRCS update. EQIP regional application deadline is now November 20th, 2020

RC&D Report- Chris Hughes- No updates to report

Division Report- Rick McSwain- Absent

Administrative Report- Graham Fox

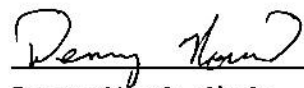
Farm Family of the Year- Coy Miller & Family. Graham met with Coy on 10/21 to get pictures and info for farm. Drafting article now, article due to be published week of November 16th. Need board approval for award plaque. Chris Hughes made motion to approve award plaque, Bill Moretz seconded, all in favor. Board members asked Graham to send them draft of the article before finalizing.

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Admin Position- Opening was extended one week. Closed 10/27- Graham is hoping to have the applications picked up by the end of the week. Denny Norris asked for the applications to be ready for the board to review by Monday, Nov 2nd. Tentative interview dates for new admin position set for Nov 4th and Nov 10th.

Next meeting will be November 18th, 2020

Minutes submitted by: Graham Fox


Denny Norris, Chair

Signed

10 - 28 - 20

Dated