

October 25, 2023

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

October 25, 2023

Present:

Denny Norris - Chair

Bill Moretz

Todd Combs

Jennifer Hanifan

Chris Hughes

Mikey Woodie

Michelle Kasey

Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:10 am.

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

Approval of the agenda- Bill Moretz made a motion to accept, Chris Hughes 2nd. 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.

Statement of Professionalism:

Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to uphold the laws of the United States and North Carolina and their constitutions. Business is to be conducted in a professional manner, free of bias, of interactions that violate policies or individual liberties and that address business issues only. Interactions are to be held with integrity, courtesy, honesty and in compliance with the highest ethical standards.

October 25, 2023

District Report - Mikey Woodie

New Applications: none

Contracts needing approval: none

Ag Cost Share:

95-2021-003 & 95-2023-004 Michael Greene – Road complete last week.

Concrete poured Tuesday. Has one other road section left to complete.

95-2021-004 Chris Kuhn - Cooperator injured, preconstruction meeting rescheduled.

95-2022-007 Jessica Miller – Waiting on well drilling. Andrew Cox helping with stream crossing.

95-2023-001 Scott Jensen – Construction to start soon. Engineer and Mikey to meet this month for new spring development dig.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Well pre-construction meeting in October.

95-2023-006 Bart & Robina Walker – Waiting on landowners to approve waterer placement.

Ag Wrap:

95-2022-801 Genevieve Mente – Waiting for pump installation.

95-2023-801 Daniel Brown – Constuction complete, waiting on engineer October 26th.

CCAP:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Waiting on design from engineers.

95-2023-501 Valle Crucis Park – Waiting on revised design.

Submitted two applications to the Division for the Regional application process.

Project is in top 5 of ranking with New River Conservancy with Green Valley Park.

StRAP

Construction on Elk Creek Section 3 – ½ complete; submitted RPF for ½ project

Construction on Elk Creek Section 1 – To begin late November. Have told

Contractor that this has to be complete by 12/31/23.

Stone Mountain Branch – Reduced size of project and is out for bidding. Bids due November 9th.

Mikey Woodie also stated that Jim Hamilton has done a radio ad on our StRAP program that is airing now. Mikey Woodie is doing assessment for potential new

October 25, 2023

projects. Mikey Woodie also would like to request an additional \$30,000 for ACSP with the deadline of 10/30/23. Chris Hughes made a motion to allow this, Bill Moretz 2nd. Motion carried.

Jenny Hanifan asked about newspaper promotion for the Farm Family Award and Farm City Banquet. Mikey Woodie stated that Jim Hamilton has already done a radio ad and newspaper article stating that tickets are now on sale and promoting the event.

Denny Norris asked if our pictures of the Farm Family have been taken. Mikey Woodie stated that she has already taken the pictures and made and ordered the Photo album for the family. She also stated that the plaque has already been ordered by Michelle Kasey.

Jennifer Hanifan suggested that we contact the Watauga Democrat and High-Country Press to do a preliminary article on the event and our award. She suggested that Mikey complete this.

NRCS Report – None

Commission Meeting – Chris Hughes

Chris Hughes discussed the upcoming Commission meeting that Watauga County is hosting on November 14th & 15th. There will be two tours. The first one will be at De La Cruz Farm at 11:00am. They will highlight their beekeeping along with their horse ministry. Lunch will be held at this farm and will be subs. James Wilkes will speak on a program he wrote to help beekeepers. The 2nd tour will be at Joey Clawson's Christmas tree farm at 2:00pm. Dinner will be held at the Dan'l Boone Inn at 4:30pm with a work session at the County Commissioners conference room beginning at 6pm. The regular Commissioners meeting will be held in the same place Wednesday morning at 9:00am.

RC&D Report – Chris Hughes – no report

Division Report – Rick McSwain – no report

Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

October 25, 2023

Mikey Woodie and Michelle Kasey helped with the Alleghany Envirothon on October 19th.

Michelle Kasey stated that the poster contest has begun. She is to teach and promote the contest at Cove Creek School on 10/26 and at Valle Crucis on 10/27. Michelle Kasey asked Board for permission for staff to order a couple of logo'd shirts. Chris Hughes made a motion to allow shirts to be ordered. Bill Moretz 2nd. Motion Carried.

Denny Norris made a suggestion that we move the November meeting to 7:30am if Mikey Woodie had a lot of items that required discussion to enable the Board to adjourn in time to be at the Commission Meeting at 9am on 11/15/23.


Chris Hughes stated that an email might need to go out to the Commission regarding parking on 11/15/23. Parking is limited in the mornings on King St. Several parking locations were discussed.

Jennifer Hanifan brought up the new tablecloth and the lack of marketing materials. Mrs. Hanifan suggested that the Board approve the purchase of a tri-fold board and printed foam boards for display on it. Mrs. Hanifan made a motion to purchase the materials with a \$150 limit, Chris Hughes 2nd. Motion carried. Michelle Kasey to research and purchase these quickly to have them in time for the Farm City Banquet. Mrs. Hanifan to request space to put a table at the Banquet to highlight the programs of Soil & Water.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:09am.

Next meeting will be November 15, 2023

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey

 Signed 11-25-23 Dated

Denny Norris, Chair