

**Minutes**

**Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District**

**971 West King Street, Boone NC**

**February 22, 2017 Meeting # 7**

**Present:**

**Denny Norris – Chair**

**Janie Poe- Admin.**

**Rob Hunt**

**Isaac Hodges - Technician**

**Todd Combs**

**David Tucker- NRCS**

**Joey Clawson**

**Christie Vance- NRCS**

Denny Norris opened the meeting.

Al Childers- will be absent due to eye doctor's appointment.

Agenda was approved as presented.

Denny Norris asks if anyone needed to recuse themselves from voting. None noted.

Denny Norris asks if there were any corrections to the minutes from January 25, 2017.

Minutes were approved as presented.

RC&D: Jonathan Hartsell presented the Board with a couple new programs they are working with. He just wanted to inform the Board about them. Jonathan also wanted to thank Al Childers for his service to the RC&D Board.

Eddy Labus: (will be a little late)

District Report: Isaac Hodges

- Charles Norris 95-2016-002. Isaac Hodges reported SWCD has just received his design for the project. Isaac Hodges will let Charles know. Denny Norris stated he had talked to Charles and he wanted to get some information on a well. His well that serves his residence has been running out of water during this dry period. Denny Norris asks Isaac Hodges to check into what assistance we could offer to help with this problem and let Charles know. When Charles first applied for the contract his well was doing fine, so they did not feel it was necessary to add it.
- Andy Bryant 95-2016-001. Andy is getting started on the fencing. Isaac Hodges reminded the Board that when Mr. Bryant done this contract there was not enough money to fund the whole

contract so they added all the components, then they could do a supplement. Isaac Hodges said the Board should get the RFP at the next meeting if weather and everything hold out.

- Victor Fortune 95-2017-003. Contract has been submitted, waiting on approval.
- Gerald Haas 95-2017-801. Contract has been submitted, waiting on approval.

NRCS Report: David Tucker

- All Ranking due Friday February 24
- Still not sure on the budget.
- Hiring freeze impacts Ashe position

Eddy Labus- Presented to the Board some ideas on the shared equipment between Extension and SWCD. This does not include the drill. The Board discussed and talked about getting a draft together and letting the County attorney look over it. It needs to be simple. Discussed having a place everyone in the building could access in case others were out in the field. Eddy and Isaac will work on this. David Tucker messaged Andrew in Ashe County to see if he would send a copy of their agreements.

Administrative Report – Janie Poe


- Farmland Preservation is getting ready to do a workshop and might need to use some of the Bill Edmisten fund. Denny Norris said that was supposed to be for their use. It went for a long time with no use and Margaret from finance told us at the budget meeting Auditors did not like that just sitting there. Year before last we used it to send a child to the RCW workshop in Raleigh. The Ag teacher is scouting for a prospect for the workshop this year. It's at a hard time. Families are on vacation and at camps so it makes it hard to find someone to commit.
- Spring Meeting will be March 9<sup>th</sup> at Surry. If you are interested in going pay me before you leave today. Denny Norris told anyone wanting to carpool to be at the office at 7am that morning.
- Isaac Hodges will be attending the training in Yadkinville on February 27. Janie told the Board she would be unable to attend due to doctor's appointment.
- March meeting we will go over the strategy plan.

Next meeting will be March 22, 2017

Denny Norris thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

 signed 3 - 2 2 - 1 7 date

Denny Norris, Chair