

February 27, 2019

**Minutes
Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District
971 West King Street, Boone NC
February 27, 2019 Meeting # 6**

Present:

Denny Norris – Chair

Todd Combs

Chris Hughes- New Supervisor

Bill Moretz-New Supervisor

Jessica Janc – RC&D

Janie Poe- Admin

Isaac Hodges- Tech

Rick McSwain- Coordinator

David Tucker – NRCS

Courtney Baines - BRWA

Denny Norris called the meeting at 8 am

Minutes from January 23, 2019 meeting.

- **Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.**

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- **Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the agenda. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.**

Conflict clause was presented – No conflicts noted

District Report – Isaac Hodges

Active Contracts

- **95-2018-005 Jeff Brown
Access road currently being repaired**
- **95-2016-002 Charles Norris
Heavy use area and access road repairs under construction**

CR Reviews

- **Still waiting for a response from Jim Erante about the status of all 2019 contracts (including CCAP). We need approval from him before breaking ground on new construction.
Will follow up after today's meeting.
Board discussed concern over the amount of time these are taking. The producer is already having to work around the weather. Advised to let the Division know the turnaround times these are taking. Board suggested to Isaac Hodges to send an email to Mr. Erante and see about the reviews.**

Tool Box for the truck.

Staff and Board discussed what they were looking for in a tool box. Suggestions on places to check on prices were mentioned. Isaac Hodges will let the Board know what he finds out on prices.

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Chris Hughes made a motion to approve up to \$275 for the purchase of a tool box for the county truck. Bill Moretz seconded all were in favor.

Isaac Hodges discussed SWCD hours with the Board. We are trying to be as accessible as we can. The traffic in town is terrible and to a lot of our producers, farming is a second job. If they have to work 8-5 it is hard for them to use our equipment program or a lot of times getting contracts and forms signed is hard. If people punch a time clock they can't take off to run by our office on a 30 minute lunch break. Some of our clients don't farm, but utilize our equipment rental. Unless they take a day off work, picking up and dropping off is an issue. This is something that could help not only Soil & Water clients, but also Extension, USDA, and NRCS.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve work schedule of 7 to 5:30 with a 30 minute lunch break contingent on County Manager approval. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

David Tucker – NRCS

- 20 million funding in NC for EQIP this year. Ranking process will be done by March. Will start funding projects in April. There will be 8 or 9 contracts for Watauga County funded. Should start seeing contracts in April.

Rick McSwain- Area Coordinator

- Updated the Board on hurricane relief.
- School of Government in Burke County showed great participation
- JAA-/CCP training coming up
- CCAP- there might be more funding discussed program and projects
- Area 2 Spring Meeting

Administrative Report – Janie Poe

- Important Dates handout provided
- Budget- Janie Poe is going to prepare it and have Department Head Todd Combs to look over it before turning it in to finance.
- Area 2 Spring meeting count. All Supervisors are planning on attending.
- Update on Jimmy Souths appointment paperwork.
- Janie Poe ask the Board to approve for staff (Isaac & Janie) to attend CET Training at Atlantic Beach October 28-31 2019.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve time and travel for Isaac Hodges and Janie Poe to attend CET Training in October. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

- Janie Poe ask the Board to approve time and travel to the National Envirothon in Raleigh July 28 through August 1, 2019.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to attend the National Envirothon.

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- **Janie Poe ask the Board to approve time and travel to Caldwell County April 9th & 11th to present at their Field Days.**
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to present and help Caldwell with Field Days. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- **Janie Poe ask the Board for approval of time and travel to Wilkes March 5th, April 2, and April 3. She is a facilitator for the LEP workshop and has been ask to do a workshop in Wilkes April. March 5 they will be meeting to order supplies and work on agenda, April 2 will be to set room up and fix participants packets and April 3 is the workshop.**
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the time and travel for Janie Poe to plan/prepare for LEP workshop in Wilkes. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- **County contest awards night April 16, 2019**
Approval for \$575 check to Janie Poe for Poster Contest Prize money and to purchase pizza and snacks for the winners and guest.
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve \$575 (check to Janie Poe for contest prize money) and purchase food and snacks for Awards night. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- **Denny Norris signed a Resolution for David Stephens Stream project on 2/13/19. It was received in between Board meetings.**
- **Approval to attend Shade your Stream workshop March 16, 2019 in Alleghany County.**
Chris Hughes made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to attend the Shade your Stream workshop in Alleghany. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
Janie Poe also discussed having a live stake workshop here in Watauga County.

Courtney Baines- BRWA (Blue Ridge Women in AG)

Programs and services offered by BRWA

Next meeting March 27, 2019 at 8am

Thank you all for coming. Meeting Adjourned 9:17

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

 signed 4-27-19 date

Denny Norris, Chair