

February 26, 2020

**Minutes**  
**Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**971 West King Street, Boone NC**  
**February 26, 2020 Meeting # 6**  
**Present:**

Denny Norris – Chair  
Bill Moretz  
Jimmy South  
Chris Hughes  
Todd Combs

Janie Poe- Admin  
Graham Fox- Tech  
David Tucker  
Jessica Janc

Denny Norris called the meeting at 8 am

Approval of the minutes – Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Bill Moretz seconded; all were 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.*

No conflicts presented.

No conflicts noted

District Report – Graham Fox

95-2020-001 Matt Duval – Graham Fox is going out to measure fence and check on the last drinker. If it is okay, he will do the RFP for this contract.

95-2019-006 Justin Eggers- client wanted a feed barn. After researching we can only do feed pads. Graham contacted Mr. Eggers and let him know what we can do. Justin told Graham he was still interested and would finance the rest himself. The Engineers are still working on the design.

95-2020-002 Jeff Brown- would like to do an addition to the access road we done on the last contract. Jeff Brown came by the office and stated they were interested in building a house up on top of the hill and could they use the access road to get to it. Graham Fox explained they can't fund roads for driveways. They are responsible for maintaining that access road for 10 years. If they build and use that road to get to the house with in the next 10 years, they will be out of compliance. Then they will have to bring it back into compliance. Most likely paying the money back for the road.

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A client wanted to bring Veterans Preference before the Board. After discussion the Board voted.

Chris Hughes made a motion to use the same rules that USDA (NRCS, FSA) use. Veteran Farmer or Rancher- The term "Veteran Farmer or Rancher" means a producer who served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof; was released from the service under conditions other than dishonorable; and-

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years; or
- Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period?

A legal entity or joint operation can be a Veteran Farmer or Rancher only if all individual members independently qualify.

Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

Chris Hughes mentioned being over at Valle Crucis Park and it looked like everything the CCAP project done got destroyed by the last flood event. Staff will go out and get some pictures and have at the next Board meeting.

NRCS Report- David Tucker

- March 6<sup>th</sup> EQIP deadline.
- EQIP Final Rules are not in yet
- Approximately 21 million to spend in North Carolina, RCPP pools are separate
- New Computer system
- CSP grasslands initiative, a few in Watauga are interested. Eligibility is according to FSA records.

RC&D Report- Chris Hughes/ Jessica Janc

- Wards Mill Dam Removal project – meeting March 6<sup>th</sup> in Asheville regarding permitting.
- Invasive Plant workshop April 2, 2020
- Shade your Stream Workshop March 14, 2020
- 25% off equipment for renewable energy

Administrative Report – Janie Poe

- Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the invoice for grant # 7964 Wards Mill Dam Removal project to RC&D \$11,468.75. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- Chris Hughes made a motion to send two kids to the RCW Workshop after parent's conformation. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- Bill Moretz made a motion to approve Area 2 dues (\$175) NW Envirothon dues (\$75) Envirothon donation (\$200). Jimmy South seconded; all were in favor.

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- Bill Moretz made a motion to approve \$540 paid to Janie Poe for the Poster contest award money. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.
- Chris Hughes made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to attend mid-year DEA meeting in Asheboro May 12-13. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.
- Chris Hughes made a motion to approve changing the March 25<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to March 18<sup>th</sup> due to Envirothon being scheduled March 25. Jimmy South seconded; all were in favor.
- Board agreed on leaving the budget for next year at \$130,295.
- Chris Hughes made a motion to approve Graham Fox time and travel to attend Cropland training in Statesville April 20-21 traveling back and forth each day. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.
- Denny Norris asks Janie Poe to send Deron Geouque an email asking about staff taking the County truck home if it cuts down on time and travel. Most of our trainings are off the mountain.
- Spring Meeting March 12, 2020.
- Annual Hardwood Tree Sale will begin in March.

Next meeting March 18, 2020.

Thank you, for coming.

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

Denny Norris sign 5-27-2020 date

Denny Norris, Chair