

May 27, 2020

Minutes
Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District
971 West King Street, Boone NC
May 27, 2020 Meeting # 7
Present:

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

Janie Poe- Admin
Graham Fox- Tech
David Tucker

Denny Norris called the meeting at 8 am

Approval of the minutes – Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Todd Combs 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.

Todd Combs recused from voting on anything pertaining to his ACSP application.

District Report – Graham Fox

95-2020-001 Matt Duval –RFP for this contract was submitted March 18, 2020 that completes this contract.

95-2019-006 Justin Eggers- Division Engineers are still working on the design.

Board discussed the time associated with this process and decided to send a letter voicing their concerns because of the effect on producers and our funding deadlines.

95-2020-003 Jeff Brown- we are waiting on the cost estimate pertaining to the 95-2019-006 Eggers contract to see how much funding will be left for this contract.

New Application ACSP

Todd Combs submitted an application for access roads to his ginseng operation.

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Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the application for Todd Combs. Bill Moretz seconded; others in favor. Todd Combs recused from voting.

New Application AgWRAP

David Tucker submitted an application for the AgWRAP program for an irrigation well.

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the application for David Tucker. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Strategy Plan- Discussed changes with the Board.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the strategy plan with changes discussed. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Spot Check Policy- The Division change was presented to the Board. The Supervisors discussed concerns with this change, after discussion a motion was made.

Bill Moretz made a motion to hold off on them at this time. We don't feel the need to do spot checks with the new condition of (Contacting and obtaining permission from the cooperators prior to visiting for a spot check. Cooperators must be contacted a minimum of 10 days in advance of a visit). Chris Hughes seconded; all were in favor.

Board agreed to send a letter to the Division with concerns and bring this up at the next DIC meeting.

MOU- Options were discussed

Bill Moretz made a motion to use the MOU that was signed in 2018. Chris Hughes seconded; all were in favor.

NRCS Report- David Tucker

NRCS is through accessing the applications. Deadline for ranking is set at June 5th 2020 due to setbacks this is not going to happen. NRCS will do contracting this year, hopefully in July.

RC&D- Chris Hughes

Next meeting is in June 4th waiting on the agenda. Jonathan Hartsell called the office and let them know he would not be able to make this meeting. Janie Poe updated on the Wards Mill Dam Removal project.

Division Report – Rick McSwain

Update on Commission's Special Meeting.

Administrative Report- Janie Poe

Election filing starts Monday June 8th at noon and ends July 6th at noon.

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CET cancellation for this year at Wilmington

Field Days- waiting to hear back from BOE. Discussed needing time to prepare and get presenters. Will keep the Board updated.

Poster Contest winners will get their ribbons and prize money when school starts back in the fall.

Annual Report has been submitted.

Request for Clay Hagaman from Watauga High School to intern with SWCD this fall.

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the internship request for Clay Hagaman with WSCD this fall. Bill Moretz seconded; all were in favor.

Tree sale update – sold 290 trees, profit of \$780

Rain Barrel sale is still in progress ends June 12, 2020

Chris Hughes made a motion to approve the invoice for Blue Ridge RC&D dues \$100. Todd Combs seconded; all were in favor.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting June 24, 2020

Thank you for coming!

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

Denny Norris signed 6-24-2020 date

Denny Norris, Chair