

October 26, 2016

Minutes

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

October 26, 2016 Meeting # 3

Present

Denny Norris- Chair

Janie Poe- Administrative/ Education Coordinator

Angela Gragg- Vice Chair

Isaac Hodges – Technician

Rob Baldwin

Al Childers

Denny Norris opened the meeting

Denny Norris asks if anyone needs to recuse themselves from voting.

Denny Norris asks if there were any corrections to the September 28, 2016 minutes.

Approved with no corrections mentioned.

District Report- Isaac Hodges

Billy Kennedy contract # 95-2015-008: He has completed everything except the Christmas tree removal. Isaac Hodges presented the Board with a RFP for \$5,626. This request is a partial payment. Angela Gragg reminded Isaac Hodges to get Mr. Kennedy to sign the new form the Board approved at the August 2016 meeting regarding a partial payment/applicant liability. Angela Gragg also asked Isaac to remind Mr. Kennedy that he will have until May 2017 to complete the tree removal component and make sure he has O&M sheets on all practices in contract.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve a partial payment of \$5,626 (for everything except Christmas tree removal) for Billy Kennedy's contract # 95-2015-008. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Against the Grain (Andy Bryant) contract # 95-2016-001: They stopped by the office and wanted to get copies of the contract to use as proof they were in a cost share agreement with us. They were concerned about the amount of fence. Isaac Hodges asked Angela Gragg about the history on this contract because it all took place before he came to work for SWCD. Angela Gragg explained it was done that way because we did not have the money to fund his entire project with the 2016 allocation. The Board knew there would have to be a supplemental contract done when they were granted the next ACSP 2017 allocation. Note: Refer to March 30, 2016 minutes.

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Angela Gragg also told Isaac Hodges that Against the Grain's contract had to be ranked against the Batch 1 and 2 contracts that were in the first ranking. The resulting ranking is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Robert Shipley scored 81

2<sup>nd</sup> Shelena Helms scored 75

3<sup>rd</sup> Against the Grain 73

Isaac Hodges will provide Against the Grain a copy of contract and an estimation of work to be done in the supplemental contract. All the work in the original contract and work to be done by supplemental contract needs to be completed before the original contract can be paid out and the Supplemental Contract submitted to the Div. of Soil and Water for approval.

Charles Norris contract # 95-2016-002: Isaac Hodges visited with Mr. Norris and he decided not to do a feed pad on the lower area. Isaac Hodges will forward site assessment to Jake Stokes so he is aware of Mr. Norris' decision and NRCS can proceed with upper area feed pad design.

Al Zimmerman contract # 95-2015-006: Isaac Hodges received a call this morning from him stating his access road has been graded and 3 loads of gravel have been delivered. Isaac Hodges told the Board he was going to go out after the meeting today to check on it.

Watauga BOE Hardin Park contract # 95-2016-501 CCAP: Brian Johnson and Daphne Cartner have been contacting each other about this project. Isaac Hodges will contact Brian Johnson and make sure he can comply and meet the program requirements. Angela told Isaac to give Brian her mobile number if he has any questions about the additional information needed by Daphne. He can call her or Daphne.

Paul Gragg contract # 95-2015-01 (Silverstone): Fencing has been done. Bobby Higgins is still working on the installation of pipeline and waterers. Isaac Hodges will make a visit today.

Paul Gragg contract # 95-2016-003 (421 area): Bobby Higgins is scheduled to go to this site as soon as he is finished with the Silverstone site. The well has been installed at this site.

Justin Stines has mentioned interest in our programs. Isaac Hodges will take him an application and tell him we need to have it back in by January 15. That will be our last batching period for this fiscal year.

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Isaac Hodges will get the plaque made for Farm Family of the year. Gragg Farms was agreed upon by Supervisors via phone. Angela Gragg was not contacted for input on this decision.

Isaac Hodges will also have the book made for the Farm Family at Wal-Mart.

Angela Gragg made the Board aware of a project that will be happening on Payne Branch. Research Institute has applied for a Clean Water grant to remove the dam and restore the stream. It is located on the Middle Fork of the New River near the Greenway. They want to know if they can partner with the SWCD. The grant when approved would be granted to the District. ASU has already provided a letter of intent to provide matching funds for the grant to Resource Institute

Angela Gragg made a motion for the District to be a partner with Research Institute on the Payne Branch Dam Removal and Stream Restoration project. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Angela Gragg and Janie Poe will send Research Institute a letter with the Board's decision to partner with them contingent on the grant being received.

Eddy Labus – Was not able to attend

NRCS Report- Was not available due to NRCS employees being at training.

Division Report – Rob Baldwin wanted to express his appreciation for the Supervisor's attendance and participation at the Area 2 Fall meeting in King.

Rob Baldwin asks Angela Gragg about the teleconference with Joey Hester on the Watauga River Basin update by DWR.

RC&D Report- Al Childers stated he had nothing to report.

Angela Gragg told the Board she had discussed the DIC meeting with Marvin Cavanaugh at the Area 2 meeting. She wanted to know what the Board thought about having a little training to go with our next DIC meeting. The Board thought it was a good idea.

Administrative Report- Janie Poe

Invoice for National Association of Conservation Districts Membership dues \$500 has been received.

Al Childers made a motion to pay the membership. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

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Farm City is November 3, 2016 at 6pm at the Boone United Methodist Church. Tickets are on sale for \$10 at Extension. Janie Poe asked the Board for approval for 17 tickets for the farm family and 2 tickets for herself and Isaac Hodges.

All Childers made a motion to purchase 19 tickets for Farm Family and staff. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Janie Poe asked the Board to approve time and travel for her to attend an Envirothon meeting on December 13 at 10: 00 in Burke County.

All Childers made a motion to approve time and travel for Janie Poe to attend the Envirothon meeting on December 13 in Burke County. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

SWCD received the signed Amendment (from NC Dept. of Ag) contract # G40100296015SWC.

Grant application for matching funds has been submitted and we have a notification it was received.

SWCD received the Western North Carolina Stream Initiative Resolution from Research Institute. This was voted on and approved for signature in the August 17, 2016 minutes. Denny Norris signed it October 25, 2016. Janie Poe will send it in.


Angela Gragg wanted to make a request for the Soil & Water office to have an air purifier.

The Board all agreed it would be good to have. Janie Poe will contact Suzanne Winebarger with Maintenance to see if that is an item we would run through their budget.

Next meeting will be November 23, 2016.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

 signed 11/23/16 date

Denny Norris, Chair