

## MINUTES

Catawba Soil and Water Conservation District held at Newton, N.C.

Meeting Number 4

April 1, 2022

Supervisors Present:

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman

Laura Parnell (via phone)

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator (via phone)

Julia Elmore read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.:

*The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of any meeting the Chair reminds all the members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Board. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state so at this time.*

David Caldwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2022, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

**Randy Willis and Blake Henley** gave the Catawba District Operations Report:

### **District Operations and Technical Assistance:**

- StRAP Stream Rehabilitation Assistance Program update
- YMCA update
- Area 2 Spring Meeting

### **NCACSP**

- Ranking Sheets
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept the cancellation of Contract 18-2019-01-01. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Contract 18-2022-02-03 has pick up their specs.
- Met with contract 18-2022-01-01 about tank and fence placement.
- Met with a landowner about an old contract design.

### **AGWRAP**

- Brandon Bowman made a motion to accept Contract application 18-2022-802-01. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-2022-802-01 in the amount of \$9,988.00. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

- Brandon Bowman made a motion to accept cancellation of contract 18-2020-803-01. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### CCAP

- David Caldwell made a motion to accept contract application 18-2022-501-01. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Brandon Bowman made a motion to approve Contract 18-2022-501-01 in the amount of \$25,000.00. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Leia Hamlyn** gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Six Catawba County teams participated in the Area 2 Envirothon. Three of those teams placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> place and will advance to the State Envirothon at the end of April.
- Catawba's 1<sup>st</sup> place 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Poster won first place at the Area 2 Contest and has advanced to the State Competition which will be judged in April.
- Catawba's 1<sup>st</sup> place 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Essay won 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the Area 2 Contest
- Catawba's 7<sup>th</sup> grade speech winner won 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the Area 2 Contest
- Catawba's 8<sup>th</sup> grade speech winner won an honorable mention at the Area 2 Contest
- We have received one application for the RCW. April 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for applications.
- State Envirothon will be held April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> in Burlington, NC

**Randy Willis** gave the NRCS Catawba Report:

**1. FY22 EQIP:**

As of March 11, 2022, we have evaluated & ranked all of the EQIP applicants in our respected areas. At the moment we are waiting for State Office guidance on which applicants will get selected for funding this year. Below are the applications fund pools and dollar amount.

- 1 Forestry - \$11,000 (**Brush Management**)
- 1 Forestry - \$7,000 (**Brush Management**)
- 1 Closure of Waste Impoundments- \$11,000
- 1 Pasture - \$7,500 (**Watering Facilities and Livestock Pipelines**)
- 1 Wildlife – **Early Successional & Pollinator Habitat** - \$8,000
- 1 Confined Animal (**Incinerator**) - \$14,000

Currently the workload of the last few weeks was to complete the status reviews of the pending EQIP contracts.

In Catawba there are two that are off schedule due to contractor issues, purchasing materials.

**2. Fieldwork/Projects:**

- (2) Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and Pipeline (1) Forage Seeding
- Pumping Plant for Waste Transfer
- Litter Storage Design (waiting for Contractor to break ground)
- (2) Seasonal High Tunnels

**3. Upcoming Meetings/Training: Via Computer**

- 569/HEL Training Iredell April 4<sup>th</sup>
- NC Grassland CRP - Joint FSA & NRCS Training -April 6<sup>th</sup>

**Randy Willis** gave the NRCS Team 5 Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report:

**Team 5 Fieldwork/Projects:** Team 5 continues to provide field assistance to landowners. Ongoing field projects: (4) Poultry Waste Storage Structures, (3) Pasture Systems, (1) Large Dairy Survey/Design Revision, (1) Crop system with GWW's & Rock Lined Waterways.

**4. FY 22 EQIP**

**Team 5 – (28) Eligible applications, assessed and Ranked, waiting on Area Office to release pre-approvals.**

**Cost Estimates Thus Far are \$2,264,000**

**StRAP Program:** – Team 5 members continue to assist SWCD's with Field/Site Visits and during construction phases as needed.

**Rick McSwain** gave the Division Report which included an update on the local workgroups, StRAP applications received and the Farm Family deadline.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
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Stephen Killian, Board Chair