

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 9

October 7, 2022

Supervisors Present:

Stephen Killian

Julia Elmore

Brandon Bowman

David Caldwell

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5 Supervisor

Stephen Killian read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:04 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.*

Julia Elmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2, 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:**

- Met with the rangers at Mountain Creek Park about taking soil samples.
- Met with a landowner about trees in a creek.
- Assisted a farmer with information about slowing erosion near a chicken house.
- StRAP --We have received the completed signed contract from the State.
- YMCA -- Engineer is finalizing the permits and design for the project.

### **NCACSP**

- Contract 18-23-001-03 RFP in the amount of \$16,094.00
- Contract 18-22-002-03 has met with a well driller.
- Update on ranking the applicants and current ACSP funds.

### **AGWRAP**

- Contract 18-22-801-01 has drilled the well.
- In the process of ranking this year's applicants.

### **CCAP**

- Completed a status update on the CCAP project.

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

- Field Days were held September 20 and 27. Very successful! Beautiful weather both days.
- Hosted St. Stephens High School on October 6 for students to learn more about Soil & Water and Cooperative Extension. Another group is scheduled to return on October 25.
- Envirothon Committee meeting Tuesday, October 11, in Wilkes County.
- Area 2 Fall Meeting Thursday, October 13, in Roaring Gap, NC.

David Caldwell made a motion to reappoint Stephen Killian as Board Chair. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Jim Propst** gave the NRCS Team 5 Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report and the NRCS Catawba Report:

1. **Team 5 Fieldwork/Projects:** Team 5 continues to provide field assistance to landowners. Ongoing field projects, including NCACSP projects: (6) Poultry Waste Storage Structures, (3) Pasture Systems, (1) Large Dairy System, Multiple Stream debris removal projects as SWCD's move into StRAP work.

2. **FY 23 EQIP**

**FY2023 EQIP timeline:**

- **Application Reception Deadline – October 14, 2022**
- **Eligibility letters can be sent as soon as possible following application reception but by October 21, 2022**
- **Eligibility Deadline – November 18, 2022**
- **Ranking/Assessment Deadline – February 24, 2023**
- **Preapproval Announcement – March 3, 2023**
- **Obligation Deadline (\$150k apps, State, Area, National Fund Pools) – April 7, 2023**
- **Obligation Deadline (Local Fund Pools) – May 5, 2023**

3. **FSA Compliance Reviews:**

The Annual FSA Compliance Reviews have been completed by RI/Pilot View as a part of a mutual agreement with NRCS. Landowners/Operators that were found not following an approved conservation plan or system for HEL or with concentrated erosion areas are out of compliance. Team 5 staff will work with them to resolve these situations as needed/requested.

#### **4. Upcoming SWCD Fall Meetings:**

For the first time since 2020 Team 5 members have all been authorized to attend upcoming Fall meetings in either Area 1,2, or 8, depending on the counties they are responsible for covering. Jim Propst will be attending all three.

#### **5. Catawba Fieldwork/Projects:**

- (2) Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and Pipeline (1) Forage Seeding
- Pumping Plant for Waste Transfer (modification for pump size has been sent to Area Office Review Staff)
- Litter Storage Design (grading of pad has begun)
- (2) Seasonal High Tunnels (applicant has informed NRCS that the materials are on the way)

**Rick McSwain** gave the Division Report which included an overview of the trainings coming up along with a recap of issues discussed at the District Issues Committee meeting last week. There has been a change in the definition for bona fide farm. There are three resolutions for the Fall Meeting.

Brandon Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
Stephen Killian, Board Chair