

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 11

December 2, 2022

Supervisors Present:

Stephen Killian

Julia Elmore

Laura Parnell

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman (via phone)

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

Julius Johnson, NRCS Catawba

Stephen Killian read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:10 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 November 4, 2022, board meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

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

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

- Assisted Lincoln Soil & Water with estimating an access road.
- StRAP
  - We have been identifying trees for removal.
  - We have Temporary easement forms for the landowners to sign.
- YMCA
  - We met with YMCA about replacing the bridge across the stream.
  - Engineer is finalizing design for the project

### **NCACSP**

- Julia Elmore made a motion to accept Contract 18-23-003-03 application. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-23-002-03 in the amount of \$23,405.00. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

### AGWRAP

- Contract 18-22-801-01 has completed the well. We will be processing the payment.

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

- Schools have received information about education contests.
- Poetry Contest advertised in Hickory Daily Record.
- Farm Family nominations need to be made and voted on at the January meeting.

**Jim Propst** gave the NRCS Team 4/5 Report:

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

#### **Expiring Contracts:**

Teams 4 & 5 are working now on contracts that expire 12/31/22, first trying to get work completed if possible and secondly modifications as needed to extend any that may not be able to meet deadline but are in process.

**Team 4 Acting Duties:** Began Acting SSC duties in Team 4, mainly working Stokes and Forsyth Counties but also various supervision duties throughout Team 4. Main Focus on Payments to CSP contracts and Expiring Contracts/modifications.

#### **FY 23 EQIP**

**FY2023 EQIP timeline:**

- **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**

**Julius Johnson** gave the Catawba NRCS Report:

**FY23 EQIP:**

Below is the timeline for this funding year for EQIP

Description	Date
Application Cutoff	October 14, 2022,
Program Eligibility Certification Request Letter Mailed* (to include 530.142E Conservation Program Application Checklist)	October 21, 2022,
Eligibility Determination	<b>December 2, 2022</b>
Screening/Priority	December 9, 2022,
Assessment/Ranking	February 24, 2023,
QA (National, State, Area Pools)	February 24, 2023,
Preapprovals (National, State, Area Pools)	March 3, 2023,
Intent to Proceed Letter Mailed (National, State, Area) (530.141C)	March 10, 2023,
EQIP Fund Obligation (National, State, Area)	April 7, 2023,
QA (Local)	March 17, 2023,
Preapprovals (Local Pools)	March 24, 2023,
Intent to Proceed Letter Mailed (Local Pools) (530.141C)	March 31, 2023,
EQIP Fund Obligation (Local Pools)	May 5, 2023,

**Fieldwork/Projects:**

- Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and Pipeline), Forage Seeding – we have modified for a 3-month extension.
- Litter Storage building
- (2) Seasonal High Tunnels (construction has begun)
- Field visits will begin once eligibility has been complete for EQIP

**Rick McSwain** gave the Division Report highlights. The Annual Meeting will be held January 8-10 with a UNC School of Government Training on January 7. The new terms for supervisor training hours are available to view online.

Stephen Killian presented Laura Parnell with an 8-year service award recognizing her time served as Board Supervisor with the Catawba County Soil & Water Conservation District.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Parnell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
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Julia Eimore, Board Vice Chair