

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 1

January 6, 2023

Supervisors Present:

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman

William (Bill) Shillito

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5 Supervisor

Julia Elmore read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:07 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 December 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:

- All of the Oaths of Office have been administered.
- We attended the District Issues Committee meeting in Wilkesboro. The topics of discussion were the StRAP program, well costs and Technical Service Provider (TSP) designation.
- StRAP
 - Temporary easements have been signed
 - Scope of Work has been submitted to Purchasing for the Bid Package
- YMCA
 - Engineer is finalizing design for the project.

NCACSP

- Met with a potential applicant about erosion around the entrance to his barn.
- Contract 18-23-002-03 will be submitted to State once the cultural resource review has been completed.

AGWRAP

- The request for payment for contract 18-22-801-01 has been mailed to the State.
- Contract 18-21-801-01 will be installing the pump in the coming weeks.

Other Business

- Calendar of events

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Schools have received information about education contests.
- Farm Family nominations need to be made and voted on today. David Caldwell made a motion to nominate Wilson Sigmon (Wilson Family Farm) for Conservation Farm Family. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

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

- **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 Evaluating new EQIP Applications, field data, prep for ranking

- **FY 23 EQIP**

- Catawba (5) Eligible Applications**

- 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**

Team members now working on site evaluations, field notes, and cost estimates preparing for ranking eligible applications

Julius Johnson gave the Catawba NRCS Report:

- **FY23 EQIP:**

Below is the up-to-date timeline for this funding year of EQIP 2023

- The highlighted description in red is what I'm currently working on

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	December 2, 2022
Screening/Priority	January 6, 2023
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

Catawba has 5 EQIP applications:

- 1 Pasture
- 1 Confined Animal
- 1 Wildlife
- 1 NBF -New Beginning Farmer
- 1 Urban Initiative - (High Tunnel)

- **Fieldwork/Projects:**

- (1) Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and Pipeline (1) Forage Seeding
- Litter Storage building
- (2) Seasonal High Tunnels (applicant has informed me that the materials are on the way)
- Assisting with StRAP maps (McDowell County)

Randy Willis 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.

Bill Shillito made a motion to enter Closed Session at 10:03 a.m.

Closed Session ended at 10:43 a.m.

Brandon Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Shillito seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair