

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 2

February 3, 2023

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

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

Julius Johnson, Catawba NRCS

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Steve Killian 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.

Julia Elmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2023, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Bill Shillito gave a report on the Annual Meeting which was held January 8-10 in Cherokee, NC.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- StRAP
 - Updated pictures of the debris using the drone.
 - Pre-Bid meeting was held on January 26th, we had contractors attend
 - Bids are due by Monday, February 6th at 5:00 PM
 - Submitted the quarterly report for the second quarter of PY2023
- YMCA
 - Engineer is finalizing design for the project.
 - Spoke with Scott Melvin, Engineering Services Section Chief, about the progress

- WPCOG- We met with the Western Piedmont Council of Government and Catawba County Emergency Services to discuss the new Flood Mitigation Model and give input about futures measures.
- Nutrient Management/Waste Plans

NCACSP

- Applied for a supplemental allocation in the amount of \$3,332.00.
- Contract 18-23-002-03 has been submitted to the State.
- Contract updates on PY 21.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-22-801-01 has been paid.

CCAP

- Contract 18-22-501-01 called to ask about the status of the design for the project.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Received posters, essays and poetry entries.
- Speech Contest was held January 28, 2023. Two seventh graders participated.
- Farm Family has been nominated.
- Envirothon Committee Meeting held Thursday, February 2, at McGee Center.

Upcoming Dates

- Area 2 Spring Meeting, Thursday, March 9, Newland, NC
- Education Contest Night, Thursday, March 16, Morganton
- Clean-up day for Envirothon Monday, March 20, at McGee Center
- Middle School Envirothon Tuesday, March 21, at McGee Center
- High School Envirothon Wednesday, March 22, at McGee Center

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

Team 4 Acting Duties: Roger Toledo has accepted State Office ECS position. Jim Propst is scheduled to continue Team 5 Acting Duties until new Team 4 SSC is hired. He is working Forsyth and Stokes counties and will be assisting Lance Parker in Yadkin as teams move into ranking phase. Plan to evaluate sites to gather data & discuss with participants to properly rank applicants. Have evaluated sites in Forsyth & Stokes, plan to assist in Yadkin next few weeks.

FY 23 EQIP

- **FY2023 EQIP timeline:**
 - o **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

Kim Fox, Catawba EQIP – Jim Propst is the Team member working with Ms. Fox on her plan, evaluations, assessment, and ranking. He is also conferring with Clinton Barden, Wildlife Resources. Once agreed upon, Jim Propst will present her conservation plan for approval.

Julius Johnson gave the Catawba NRCS Report:

FY23 EQIP:

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

Rick McSwain gave the Division Report highlights. The Annual Meeting which was held January 8-10 brought forth many resolutions. Bona fide farm is a big issue for smaller farms. We will be holding local work groups in the spring. Catawba County will host this year. Area 2 Spring Meeting will be held in March.

Bill Shillito made a motion to go into closed session at 10:34 a.m. Julia Elmore seconded.

Bill Shillito made a motion to end closed session at 10:51 a.m. Brandon Bowman seconded.

No motions were made in the closed session.

Julia Elmore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.


Stephen Killian, Board Chair