

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 3

March 3, 2023

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

Brandon Bowman

William (Bill) Shillito

David Caldwell

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Julius Johnson, Catawba NRCS

Steve Killian read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:05 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 February 3, 2023, board meeting. Bill Shillito seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- StRAP
 - Bid proposals were due on February 9th and all the contactors that attended the pre-bid meeting submitted a bid. W. Brown Construction of East Bend NC submitted the lowest bid of \$248,902.00. The contract was signed and we met the 50% benchmark requirement set forth by the Soil & Water Commission.
- YMCA
 - Cindy Safrit has provided a sealed design and revised the scope of work. Everything was forwarded to Tina Wright and a bid package has been created. The Invitation For Bids will be posted tomorrow with a required pre-bid meeting taking place on March 16th at 2:00. Bids must be submitted by March 29th at 3:00
- Delivered an updated waste plan.
- Provided technical assistance to a landowner about water draining across his property.

- Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher meeting.
- Assisted Julius with surveying a stock trail/creek crossing.
- Cost Share Training.
- Ag. Advisory Board/VAD
- Catawba County Cooperative Extension Education & Livestock Facility

NCACSP

- Contract 18-23-002-03 has been approved by the State. Will be delivering contract specs next week.
- We should be notified sometime in March if we were allocated the supplemental allocation.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Assisted Tuttle Elementary School on Feb. 10 with STEM program merging robotics and environmental impact.
- Education Banquet was a success.

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

Other Business

- County Manager's listening session
- Calendar of events

Julius Johnson gave the Catawba NRCS Report:

FY23 EQIP:

Catawba has 4 EQIP applications:

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

Fieldwork/Projects: All Expiring Contract 3/31/2023

- (1) Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and Pipeline (1) Forage Seeding
- Litter Storage building
- (2) Seasonal High Tunnels

Randy Willis and Blake Henley gave the Division Report highlights. Spot checks will be held in May and there will be a local workgroups meeting in April.

Bill Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.


Stephen Killian, Board Chair