

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 5

May 5, 2023

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

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

Will Faulkner, NRCS Conservationist

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Justin Merritt, Assistant County Manager

Steve Killian read the following statements 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.

Statement of Professionalism

Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility to uphold the laws of the United States and North Carolina and their constitutions. Business is to be conducted in a professional manner, free of bias, of interactions that violate policies or individual liberties and that address business issues only. Interactions are to be held with integrity, courtesy, honesty and in compliance with the highest ethical standards.

Bill Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2023, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

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

- StRAP
 - We were not able to request supplemental funds. We had to have >75% expended, not just encumbered. Submitted quarterly report.
- YMCA
 - Construction started last Monday and should be completed within the next week, after which we will start with the planting portion of the project.
- Assisted Facilities Director with an erosion issue at Public Health
- Update on emails for Board Members.

- Met with a landowner about water seeping out of her yard.
- Assisted a landowner with GIS information about a stream.
- Staff attended the County Benefits Fair.
- 1st amendment audit training.
- Strategic Plan and Ranking Sheets
 - David Caldwell made a motion to approve Delegated Authority. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - David Caldwell made a motion to approve all Ranking Sheets. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Brandon Bowman made a motion to approve Fund Certification Audit. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Bill Shillito made a motion to approve Job Approval Authority. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Julia Elmore made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

NCACSP

- Contract 18-21-01-01 has been completed. RFP in the amount of \$20,914.00.
- Contract 18-23-03-03 has been submitted.

AGWRAP

- We received a supplemental allocation in the amount of \$11,204.00
- Brandon Bowman made a motion to accept Contract 18-23-802-03 application. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-23-802-03 in the amount of \$11,204.00. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Contract 18-21-801-01 has been completed.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- 7th Grade Speech contestant won first place and will compete at the State Competition May 5.
- Three Catawba County High School Teams placed in the top seven and will advance to the State Envirothon April 28-29.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve a Catawba County student to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Jim Propst gave the Team 4/5 NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report:

FY 23 EQIP

**Catawba (3)* Eligible Applications, \$104,500 Estimated
Pasture, Urban, Wildlife**

***One application, Urban has already been obligated.**

Team members now working finalizing preapproved/approved regular EQIP applications as well as additional site evaluations, field notes, and cost estimates preparing for ranking IRA applications in the following pools: Cropland, Pasture, Wildlife, and Forestry,

Team 5 currently has (6) applications Approved/Obligated

= \$471,778

Rick McSwain gave the Division Report highlights. The next Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will be held May 16-17 in Wilmington. The State Conservation Farm Family Celebration will be held next week. Ralston James is retiring.

Bill Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair