

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 6

June 2, 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

Will Faulkner, NRCS Conservationist

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:03 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 May 5, 2023, 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

- StRAP
 - Recommended county budget included \$75,000.00 for stream debris removal.
 - W. Brown Construction started removing debris on May 19th.
 - Met with Chris Vance and had the first section certified.
- YMCA
 - Construction phase is complete and crew is cleaning up construction debris. Next step is the vegetative plan and installation and signage.

- Assisted a landowner who had issues with lake bank erosion.
- Assisted a landowner who had issues with stream bank erosion.

NCACSP

- Contract 18-23-03-03 was approved by Raleigh. We will be delivering specs to the producer.
- Contract 18-21-01-01 RFP was mailed to Raleigh.
- All PY21 contracts are completed for ACSP and AGWRAP.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-23-801-01 and 18-23-802-03 are waiting on CRR to be able to start.
- Contract 18-21-801-01 has been completed. RFP has been mailed to Raleigh.

CCAP

- No CCAP updates at this time.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Catawba Seventh Grade Speech contestant won second place at the State Competition on May 5.
- RCW student has been registered for event which is scheduled for June 25-30.

Other Business

- Partisan/Nonpartisan Board – Steve Killian is in the process of speaking to local representatives to gather more information.

Will Faulkner gave the Catawba NRCS Report and Team 4/5 NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report:

FY 23 EQIP (Catawba)

Applications Preapproved-

Pasture ~\$88,000

Wildlife ~\$7000

Active Contracts-

CSP – 2 both (1 year remaining)

EQIP- 8

- One has asked to be let out of their pasture application due to financial hardship
- Have been contacted by 2 new producers and planning field visits. Possible CAFO & Pasture

Team 4/5 Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report

FY 23 EQIP

New IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Pools have now been ranked, awaiting Area Office Pre-approvals. Team members now working finalizing preapproved/approved regular EQIP applications and getting prepared to sign contracts.

Catawba has (2) New Preapproved Applications, (1) Past, (1) wildlife = Estimated \$95,000

Team 5 has (9) New Preapproved Applications (5) Past, (2) Crop, (2) Wildlife = Estimated \$351,000

Team 4 (Forsyth, Stokes, Yadkin) currently has (6) New Preapproved Applications (1) Past, (3) Crop, (1) Wildlife, (1) N&B/Past = Estimated \$387,000

Team 5 currently has (6) applications Approved/Obligated = \$471,778

Team 4 (Forsyth, Stokes, Yadkin) currently has (6) applications Approved/Obligated = \$979,353

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (3) Waste Storage Systems, (1) High Tunnel System, (2) Grassed Waterways, (1) Stream Exclusion/Water System, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for newly ranked projects.

Randy Willis gave the Division Report highlights. All Cost Share deadlines have been met. Vernon Cox is retiring.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair