

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 7

August 4, 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

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:08 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 June 2, 2023, 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:

- StRAP
 - The county finance office, with BOC approval, moved the StRAP funds and county stream debris funds into a "Special Revenue Fund" which will allow us to carry funds over from year to year.
 - The StRAP project is complete. W. Brown Construction submitted two separate invoices totaling the contracted amount of \$249,902.00. We submitted the RFP to the state to reimburse the county for the project.

- YMCA
 - Ceremony on August 17th at 12:00. We have been working with Sign Systems In. on a sign to highlight the construction elements of the project and will have it place for the celebration.
- Assisted Burke SWCD with drone photographs.
- Attended a meeting about improving the water quality in the South Fork river watershed. Spoke with county attorney about the county/district hold working lands easements.
- Assisted Town of Maiden with soil sample information.
- New ARC building updates.

NCACSP

- PY 24 allocation in the amount of \$52,248.00. State budget has not yet passed.
- Contract 18-23-03-03 has been delivered the specs.
- Met with a potential applicant for ACSP.

AGWRAP

- PY 24 allocation in the amount of \$11,546.00.
- Contracts 18-23-801-01 and 18-23-802-03 have been approved and given contract specs.
- Contract 18-2022-802-01 had been completed and RFP has been processed.
- Met with a potential applicant for AGWRAP and completed a pond site assessment.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- RCW student attended event 25-30. PowerPoint presentation
- Environmental Awareness Field Days scheduled for September 19 and 26.

Other Business

- Partisan/Nonpartisan Board – The Board is presently non-partisan.

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

2023 Contracts-

Pasture ~\$88,000

Wildlife ~\$7000

Seasonal High Tunnel ~\$9500

TOTAL: \$105,500

Active Contracts-

CSP – 2 both (1 year remaining)

EQIP- 10 (8 needing to have a practice started but includes 3 new contracts & 1 waiting to be canceled)

Field Office Appraisal 8/ 21-25

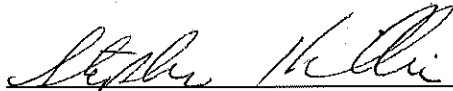
Area Office will be in Team 5 reviewing all aspects of the Team

**Review CIVIL RIGHTS / EQUAL OPPORTUNITES RESPONSIBILITY

Rick McSwain gave the Division Report highlights. David Williams is the new director. Ken Parks is the new Central Region Coordinator. Rick is moving to Area 8. The Area 2 Fall meeting will be held in Avery County.

Bill Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair