

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 8

October 6, 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

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:01 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 August 4, 2023, board meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

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

- StRAP
 - Met with City of Hickory and looked at the potential next site.
 - State budget set aside \$20M for StRAP but the funds have not been allocated.
 - Met with a potential applicant for StRAP and took drone pictures of the blockage.
- YMCA
 - Staff as well as Steve Killian and Bill Shillito attended the ceremony on August 17th.

- We have joined the Sheriff Department's drone team.
- We hosted our portion of the County's Mini-Course.
- We assisted with 3 pond site evaluations.

NCACSP

- Met with two potential applicants for ACSP
- Updates on PY 22 applicants

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-23-801-01 has been completed and the RFP has been mailed to Raleigh in the amount of \$11,204.00.

Upcoming Dates & Other Business

- Awarded NRCS Outstanding Conservation District
- Area 2 Fall Meeting October 12

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Fifth Grade Environmental Awareness Field Days were held September 19 and 26 at Southside Park in Newton. More than 300 students attended. Great weather both days. Students enjoyed the following stations: Wildlife, Water Cycle, Forestry, Food Webs, Local Agriculture, Air Quality and Bees. Field Days were featured on the Catawba County Blog and Facebook pages.
- Drone class at Bandys High School
- Soil sample class at Sherrills Ford Elementary School
- Blake spoke at Cattlemens Meeting
- Farm Family judging

Other Business

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

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

FY 23 EQIP/CSP:

Final FY23 EQIP Contracts:

Team 5 currently has (15) applications Obligated

= \$1,167,309

Team 4 (Forsyth, Stokes, Yadkin) currently has (16) applications Obligated

= \$1,535,606

Finalizing Team 5 CSP contract obligations, (6) Contracts

= Est. \$250,000

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (8) Waste Storage Systems, (4) Stream Exclusion/Water Systems, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for newly ranked projects.

NRCS Positions:

Advertised Team 4 SSC position late last week. Will be advertising a SC position in Lenoir and possibly Statesville soon.

Rick McSwain gave the Division Report highlights. Additional money will be allocated to StRAP program. Gave updates to state budget for ACSP and CCAP (non-agriculture). Annual Meeting to be held in Durham, NC.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair