

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 9

November 3, 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 9:04 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 October 6, 2023, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

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

- YMCA
 - Planted the last of the grasses and wildflowers along the upper section that is not grant funded.
- We attended drone training and mapped Mt. Creek Park.
- Assisted 2 landowners with streambank erosion issues.
- Assisted multiple landowners with soil sample information.
- Completed a pond site assessment.
- Received new(er) County truck and transferred all of our tools and gear over from the old one.

- Department head/HR update meetings.
- Wilson Sigmon honored for Farm Family award at the Area 2 Fall Meeting

NCACSP

- We have 4 applicants for ACSP.
- We will be ranking the applicants in the coming weeks.
- Applied for a supplemental allocation in the amount of \$55,000.00.

AGWRAP

- We have 5 applicants for AGWRAP.
- In the process of ranking the applicants.

CCAP

- No CCAP updates at this time

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Salt Water Marsh presentation at the main library in Newton on October 6th
- Homeschool education event in Conover on October 25th
- Marketing upcoming Education Contests

Upcoming Dates

Other Business

- NCASWCD Annual Meeting to be held January 7-9, 2024, at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center in Durham, NC. Registration is now open and meeting details are online.

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

FY 23 EQIP/CSP:

Team 5 currently has (15) applications Obligated = \$1,167,309

Catawba- 3 contract = ~\$90,000

9 Active Catawba contracts- 2 will be complete by 12/31 and 3 will be cancelled by 12/31

FY 2024

5 EQIP applications so far

Estimated allocation EQIP \$22.6M + \$30.2M (up from \$39M in FY23)

CSP \$13.8M + \$8.2M (up from \$15M in FY23)

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

NRCS Positions:

Advertised Team 4 SSC has closed and we are waiting on a decision. Will be advertising a SC position in Lenoir and possibly Statesville soon.

Dates

- Jim is on Leave through next week
- 11/3/23 application deadline for EQIP
- 1/12/24 application deadline for CSP

Blake Henley and Randy Willis gave the Division Report highlights. A new SharePoint platform has been established for districts to submit materials to the Division. Registration is open for the Annual Meeting to be held January 7-9, 2024, in Durham, NC. Listing of Supervisors Training Program Credit Hours available on NCDA&CS website.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:04 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair