

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 10

December 1, 2023

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman

William (Bill) Shillito (via phone)

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5 Supervisor

Rick McSwain, Regional Coordinator

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.

Julia Elmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 3, 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

- Monthly drone training
- South Fork Watershed update
- Assisted landowner with terrace concerns
- Assisted multiple landowners with soil sample information.
- Livestock load-out facility / education facility
- Ag. Resource Center update

NCACSP

- We applied and received a supplemental allocation of \$55,000.00.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve contract application 18-24-001-03. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

AGWRAP

- All of the applicants have been ranked.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve contract application 18-24-801-03. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

CCAP

- Update on design of contract 18-2022-501-01.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Continuing to market upcoming Education Contests.
- Received positive feedback from Library for Salt Water Marsh program. Their follow-up event was successful and the content of the education program gave the students a better understanding of the book.
- Working on programming for spring.
- Envirothon dates were moved to March 18, 2024, (middle school) and March 19, 2024 (high school).

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.
- Office closed December 25, 26, 27th

Jim Propst gave the Catawba NRCS Report and Team 5 NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report:

FY 24 EQIP/CSP:

Dates for upcoming FY 24 are as follows:

EQIP Eligibility	Dec.22
CSP Applications	Jan. 12, 2024

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) offers technical and financial assistance to help agricultural and forest producers take their conservation efforts to the next level. The program is designed to compensate agricultural and forest producers who agree to increase their level of conservation by adopting at minimum one additional conservation activity and continue to maintain their baseline level of conservation. Payments are issued as a cost-share for the

agreed additional activity, as well as an annual payment for the existing level of conservation currently being managed on the farm. All land that is owned or controlled by the participant (5+ year long-term lease) must be enrolled. CSP contracts are long-term, five year agreements.

Examples of systems that qualify are cropland no-till rotations with cover crops, pastures using stable water systems/tanks, and well managed forest land.

Please contact USDA-NRCS Conservationists Jim Propst (704) 775-3300 for Alexander, Will Faulkner (828)358-5187 for Catawba, and Kyle Watkins (704) 873-6761 ext. 3 for Iredell in order to sign an application for CSP.

Applications are to be submitted prior to January 12, 2024.

Acting Team 4:

My Acting role in Team 4 is coming to an end officially Friday, 12/1/23. There will be a transition period of 1 -2 months more than likely where I continue to assist, esp. in Stokes.

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (6) Waste Storage Systems, (2) Stream Exclusion/Water Systems, (2) High Tunnels, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for FY24 EQIP & CSP applications.

Rick McSwain gave the Division Report highlights. Registration is open for the Annual Meeting to be held January 7-9, 2024, in Durham, NC. Interviews for Area 2 Coordinator continue. District Issues Committee meeting to be held Friday, December 8, in Wilkesboro. Highlights of training opportunities along with Fall allocations and state budget updates.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.


Stephen Killian, Board Chair