

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 1

January 5, 2024

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

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5 Supervisor

Will Faulkner, NRCS Catawba

Rick McSwain, Regional Coordinator

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:07 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 December 1, 2023, board meeting. David Caldwell 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
- Assisted multiple landowners with soil sample information
- STRAP/Flooding
- Ag. Resource Center update
- Farm Family

### **NCACSP**

- Working on contract 18-24-001-03.

### AGWRAP

- Contract 18-23-802-03 has drilled the well.
- Talked to a possible applicant for PY25.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-24-801-03 in the amount of \$11,534.00. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Leia Hamlyn** gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Continuing to market upcoming Education Contests
- Contest deadline is Monday, January 22, 2024
- Speech Contest is Saturday, January 27, 2024
- Steve Killian nominated Stanley Steward, Promise View Acres for Catawba Farm Family.

### 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. (Info is in Rick McSwain's Regional Coordinator Report which was emailed to you.)
- Your Land Your Legacy January 30<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Catawba County Commissioners Meeting February 5, 7:00 p.m.
- Area 2 Spring Meeting will be March 14.

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

### FY 24 EQIP/CSP:

CSP Applications                      Jan. 12, 2024

Act Now: There is a new segment of EQIP, Act Now. Applications in certain pools (High Tunnel, Urban, Cropland, Forestry, CAP plans) that meet a minimum ranking score for each pool will be automatically funded. We have gone through that process and are now working to get those contracts ready for approval. Then the next step is ranking eligible applications within the regular EQIP pools, which should be ranked and ready to pre-approve around April.

### Catawba SWCD of Year Award Presentation:

I have requested to be on agenda for **Feb. 5 Catawba County Commissioners meeting 7:00 pm** in order to present NRCS SWCD of Year Award to Catawba Staff. Hopefully Board members will be able attend in order to support them on such a tremendous achievement.

**Fieldwork:** Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (7) Waste Storage Systems, (2) Stream Exclusion/Water Systems, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for FY24 EQIP & CSP applications.

**Rick McSwain** gave the Division Report highlights including the new website for the Division. He introduced Elise McLaughlin, the new Area 2 Division Coordinator.

Bill Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
Stephen Killian, Board Chair