

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 3

April 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

Will Faulkner, NRCS Catawba

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:03 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 February 2, 2024, 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

- STRAP- Easement forms have been sent out to the necessary parties and we are waiting receive the last ones back.
- YMCA- Project is complete. We are waiting on final inspection so we can submit the reimbursement forms to the state.
- Looked at a couple of potential STRAP sites.
- Attended the District Issues Meeting.
- Assisted Iredell SWCD with program information.
- Attended a cost share training in Statesville.

- Assisted a dairy with updating their information for their General Permit renewal.
- Listened in on a webinar about spot-checks.
- Attended the Spring Meeting.
- Met with a landowner about a stream crossing.
- Program Review on April 17th and possibly 19th.

NCACSP

- Contract 18-22-02-03 is working on the fencing.
- Met with landowner about cost share assistance.

AGWRAP

- We received a supplement allocation in the amount of \$11,534.00.
- Contract 18-2023-802-03 has been completed and the RFP in the amount of \$11,204.00 has been mailed to the State.
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept Contract 18-24-802-01 application. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-24-802-01 in the amount of \$11,534.00. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

CCAP

- Contract 18-22-501-01 update.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- Education Awards Banquet was held February 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
- March 15 was clean-up day for the Envirothon
- March 18 was the Middle School Envirothon competition and March 19 was the High School competition. Six Catawba County high school teams competed. Three placed in the top seven and will advance to State competition.
- State Envirothon Competition will be held April 26-27 at Cedarock Park in Burlington.
- Area 2 Contest Night was held on March 21 in Caldwell County. Catawba's 8th Grade Essay student won first place and will advance to State! The 9th-12th Grade Essay student won second place and the 5th Grade Poster student received an honorable mention.
- The deadline for RCW applications is April 30.

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

FY 24 EQIP/CSP:

EQIP: In process of generating contracts for the remaining batch 1 participants in EQIP. Preapprovals have begun.

CSP: Applications accepted and now being evaluated, ranking to follow.

Lenoir Soil Conservationist: Jason Crosby has officially accepted the position and will start April 22. Jason is originally from Newberry, SC area but currently lives in Texas, moving to the area. He will be working both Caldwell and McDowell counties.

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (5) Waste Storage Systems, (6) Stream Exclusion/Water Systems, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for FY24 EQIP & CSP applications. Some assistance to SWCD's with Strap projects as well.

Elise McLaughlin gave the Division Report highlights. The next NRCS Local Work Group will be hosted by Iredell in May or June. The Fundamentals of Conservation Planning will be held in Waynesville May 6-10. Registration deadline is April 26. The Grow More Training along with the National Wildlife Federation will hold workshops in July, October, and December this year. And April of next year. Resources related to Financial Administration is available on the Division website.

Brandon Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair