

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 4

May 3, 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

Justin Merritt, Assistant County Manager

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:05 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.

Julia Elmore stated she would abstain from one contract vote due to personal knowledge of landowner.

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.

David Caldwell made a motion to approve the agenda for the board meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

Bill Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2024, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Jim Propst 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, many preapproved and being signed/obligated.

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

Catawba (2) Contracts Preapproved/Approved = \$40,000

Lenoir Soil Conservationist: Jason Crosby has officially accepted the position and began duties Monday, April 22. Jason is originally from Newberry, SC area but is moving to the Ferguson Caldwell County 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.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- STRAP- We have received all of the easement agreement forms back on the City of Hickory project and are waiting on weight limit documentation for the bridge used to access the property. We are working on the final easement agreement for the Bill Long project from Microsoft.
- YMCA- Project is complete. We had the final inspection and everything looked good. We are working on the RFP forms.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve the Board policy of 75% for every applicant regardless of income or new/beginning farmer status. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Bill Shillito made a motion that May 1st will be the deadline for completion of contracts. Brandon Bowman seconded. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve the AgCost Share Ranking sheet cancellation policy with negative point categories requiring board approval. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Bill Shillito made a motion to approve AgWrap Ranking Sheet Cancellation Policy with negative point categories requiring board approval. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve CCAP Ranking Sheet Cancellation Policy with negative point categories requiring board approval. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Randy and Blake attended monthly drone training.
- State programs review.
- Bill Shillito made a motion for board response to be "maybe" while we await more information regarding IRA grant question. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

NCACSP

- Contract 18-22-02-03 is almost completed.
- Contract 18-23-03-03 has completed the grading and will be laying down the filter cloth and gravel.
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept Contract 18-2024-02-01 application. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-2024-02-01 in the amount of \$65,108.00. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept Contract 18-2024-03-03 application. Brandon Bowman seconded. Julia Elmore abstained from voting. All other board members in favor. Motion passed.
- Brandon Bowman made a motion to approve Contract 18-2024-03-03 in the amount of \$26,707.00. David Caldwell seconded. Julia Elmore abstained from voting. All other board members in favor. Motion passed.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-2024-801-03 has been delivered the specs for the well.
- Contract 18-24-802-01 has been approved by the State will be delivering the specs.

CCAP

- Contract 18-22-501-01 update.

Leia Hamlyn gave the Education and Outreach Report:

- State Envirothon Competition was held April 26-27 at Cedarock Park in Burlington. Three Catawba high school teams participated and placed 19th, 28th and 29th out of 51 teams.
- The deadline for RCW applications was April 30.
- The winning Catawba County 8th Grade Essay has advanced to the State Competition.

Randy Willis gave the Division Report highlights. Fencing School in Wilkes County has been rescheduled for May 23. More information will be forthcoming for the next Area 2 District Issues Committee Meeting. The two dates currently being considered are May 23 and May 30.

Bill Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.


Stephen Killian, Board Chair