

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 6

August 2, 2024

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

William 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

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:01 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.*

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

William Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2024, board meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

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

### **District Operations and Technical Assistance**

- STRAP- The project at the City of Hickory site is complete and we had the pre-bid meeting at the Bill Long site on Tuesday July 30<sup>th</sup>). The bids are due back on August 8<sup>th</sup>. We requested \$490,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of StRAP funds and received an allocation \$159,184, so we will be looking at the sites we had targeted for this round on money and formulate a plan on projects we will target.

- YMCA project is complete and the RFP has been submitted. The original budget was \$92,794 and the final project cost was \$92,586, which put us coming in at \$208 under budget.
- We renewed our FAA Part 107 UAV license and mounted equipment in the truck.
- Assisted landowner with a stream under his property.
- Assisted Burke SWCD with stream debris pictures.

#### NCACSP

- Contract 18-22-02-03 was granted an extension. The contract has been completed and the landowner has signed the request for payment.
- Contract 18-22-02-03 Request for Payment was signed by Stephen Killian on August 2, 2024.
- Contract 18-22-01-01 was cancelled.
- Contract 18-24-01-03 checked the setbacks for the well.
- Contract 18-23-03-03 was paid in the amount of \$14,962.00. Request for Payment was signed by Steve Killian on June 21, 2024.
- PY25 allocation in the amount of \$59,669.00
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept Contract Application 18-25-01-03. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-01-03 in the amount of \$2,349.00. William Shillito seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

#### AGWRAP

- PY25 allocation in the amount of \$10,500.00.
- Contract 18-24-802-01 was delivered the specs.

#### CCAP

- Contract 18-22-501-01 was cancelled.

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

- Mini-Course
- Two library programs planned for August.
- Environmental Awareness Field Days scheduled for September 26 and October 3 at Southside Park in Newton.
- Envirothon dates have been set for 2025. The NW Envirothon event will be held on Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> for middle school, and Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> for high school.

**Clean-up Day** is on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Inclement Weather** dates are Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

**Registration Deadline** is February 7, 2025

**Registration Changes Deadline** is March 7, 2025

- The Contest Theme for 2024-2025 is Wetlands Are Wonderful

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

**FY 24 EQIP/CSP:**

**EQIP:** Still in process of generating contracts for the additional funds in EQIP as Area Office releases them.

**Team 5 (31) Contracts Obligated/Preapproved/Approved = \$1,862,160**

**CSP:** Applications now assessed and being ranked, they have begun to release preapprovals

- **Team 5 has (17) Applications Assessed and (13) ranked.**

**Catawba = (2)**

**Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operation A-1:** Darron Felton will be serving in a 90-120 day acting role within Area-1 in the wake of Mark Ferguson's sudden retirement in June due to health concerns. Darron currently works in Georgia but used to work in Team 6, Rutherfordton.

**Team 5 Small-Group Training – Elmore Farm:**

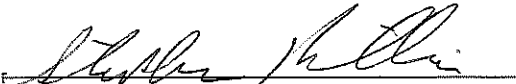
Held a small-group training on Elmore Farm in Catawba 7/24/24. Evaluated pasture site for well, tank, & heavy use area placement, performed a mock stream crossing survey, discussed various aspects of a beef cattle operation planned for well & water system/stream exclusion by fencing. NRCS and SWCD members from all (6) counties within Team 5 present. Nice job of hosting by Catawba SWCD staff.

**Fieldwork:** Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, (4) Waste Storage Systems, (4) Stream Exclusion/Water Systems, several follow-up measurements/site evaluations for CSP applications, meeting with producers to rank, etc.

**Elise McLaughlin** gave the Division Report highlights. Strap allocation focus on highest priority sites. RCW report. Fall meeting to be held October 10 in Burke County. Review of appointed and reappointed seats. CET to be held September 16-19. LGBFCA audit. Information for Advanced Training for supervisors.

William Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
Stephen Killian, Board Chair