

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 7

September 6, 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 9:02 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 agenda for the board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

William Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2024, board meeting. Julia Elmore 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- Jim Summers came out and inspected the City of Hickory site and signed off on the project. An RFP was sent to Raleigh in the amount of \$26,250. Zulu Marine is coming back to remove a tree root ball that washed in after one of the storm events.
- We assisted one land owner with spring development options and another landowner with erosion issues.

- We assisted the YMCA with weed control options.
- Pond Site Assessments

**NCACSP**

- Contract 18-22-02-03 request for payment was mailed to Raleigh.
- Contract 18-25-01-03 was approved by the State. The request for payment was signed and mailed to Raleigh in the amount of \$2,349.00. Steve Killian signed the request for payment on 8-23-2024.
- Contract 18-24-01-03 has drilled the well.
- We have been meeting with landowners to prepare them for ranking.

**AGWRAP**

- We met with contract 18-24-801-03 to check the setbacks for the well.
- Ranking PY 25 applicants.

**CCAP**

**Upcoming Dates**

- Area 2 Fall Meeting October 10, 2024, in Burke. Registration open now.

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

- Two library programs (grass head science) in August.
- Environmental Awareness Field Days scheduled for September 26 and October 3 at Southside Park in Newton. Schools have applied and spots are filled.
- 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

**William Shillito** presented his report from attending the Supervisor Advanced Training in Raleigh last month. Topics covered included Leadership; Recognizing and Preventing Hostile Work Environments; Employee Development and Retention; Cost Share Programs – A Deeper Dive; and Contract Development and Management.

**Jim Propst** gave the Team 5 NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report and the Catawba NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report and also conducted the annual review of the Memorandum of Agreement and the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Affirmation:

**FY 24 EQIP/CSP:**

**EQIP:** In process of signing final contract this week.

**CSP:** In process of signing final contracts this week.

Will give final numbers update at October Meetings.

**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.

**Area Office Appraisal:** Team 5 part of this appraisal, SO personnel will visit Morganton Service Center Sept. 10.

**Iredell/Statesville SC Position:** Have advertised position, interviewed, and candidate has accepted offer. As soon as things are finalized will announce person – tentative start date October 2024.

**Elise McLaughlin** gave the Division Report:

Fall Meeting registration is open until September 30. The meeting will be held on October 10. Supervisor appointments and reappointments will be voted on in a batch at the November Commission meeting. Recommendations must be approved by the district board and submitted through FormSite by October 31.

Mikey Woodie from Watauga is serving on a new division training committee. If you have any particular training requests, please pass them on to her.

Upcoming trainings:


- Grassed Waterway mentorship – October TBD, Wake
- Grow More training – October 16, Raleigh
- Farmland Preservation – October 23, Raleigh
- Heavy Use Area – date TBD, Alamance
- Arc GIS Pro – date TBD
- Critical Area Planting Part 2 – Goldsboro (do not have to have attended part 1)
- RUSLE2 – maybe in Watauga in November
- EWP training – October 24 (tentative), Caldwell
- No-Till Drill demo – September 23, 10-12, Wilkes (lunch/t-shirt provided)

Wilkes may be sending out an amended version of the resolution that was sent out last month regarding removing funding caps for cost share programs. It will be brought to the floor at the Fall Area Meeting in October.

Education Coordinators: Keep track of number of students reached; this will be important for future funding.

William Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair