

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 9

December 6, 2024

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman

William 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 9:10 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.

Julia Elmore made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2024, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- New ARC Building- We have a semi-final design, but no planned date.
- We met with a lady about stream bank erosion.
- Attended the FSA Committee meeting to discuss hurricane Helene response.
- Attended the Fall Meeting.
- Soil Sample Updates.

NCACSP

- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-04-01 application. Bill Shillito seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-05-01 application. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Contract 18-24-01-03 has been completed. Steve signed the RFP on 11-21-2024.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-03-03 application. Julia Elmore seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-25-801-01 has been approved and we will be delivering the contract specs.

Leia Hamlyn presented the Education and Outreach Report:

- The Contest Theme for 2024-2025 is Wetlands Are Wonderful. Entry deadline is Jan. 24, 2025.
- Randy, Blake and Leia presented a mini-field day to the 5th grade students of Webb A. Murray Elementary School on November 7.
- Funding needed for contest night.

Upcoming Dates

- Speech Contest – Saturday, February 1, 2025 (Snow Date – Saturday, February 8, 2025)
- Banquet – Tuesday, February 25, 2025 (Snow Date – Thursday, February 27, 2025)
- Area 2 Contest Night – Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Catawba County

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

EWP: In response to Helene, Team 5 will be requesting EWP funding. All counties affected by hurricane requested assistance. Mr. Beard has approved the request and sent letters back to county management. Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) can now be started by local staff.

FY 2025 EQIP/CSP:

EQIP 2025: Team 5- 60 applications

CSP 2025: Team 5- 13 applications

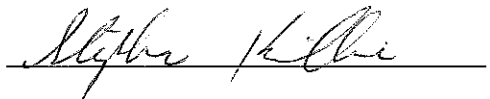
All EQIP applications will be accepted until 1/10/25 due to Hurricane Helene. CSP applications ended 11/1/24

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, evaluations for FY25 EQIP, CSP, & NCACSP applications to begin this month. All payments that are requesting payment in calendar year of 2024 must be paid by mid-December.

Elise McLaughlin presented the Division Report, highlighting the following: EWP training in Boone in January. The Spring Meeting is March 13 in Caldwell. The Annual Meeting is in January (pre-registration deadline is December 10).

Brandon Bowman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

 Stephen Killian, Board Chair