

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 1

February 7, 2025

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

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5

Will Faulkner, NRCS Catawba

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Jason Crosby, NRCS

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.

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 November 1, 2024, board meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- We did a presentation at the Catawba Valley Cattlemen's meeting.
- Met with a potential STRAP applicant.
- New computers and county IT (Software Fix!!!)
- Assisted McDowell Soil & Water with drone pictures of a debris flow.
- Catawba / Lincoln County line shift.

NCACSP

- Met with a potential ACSP applicant.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-03-03 in the amount of \$2,025.00. (Note this is a supplemental contract to 18-24-01-03.) Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-25-04-01 in the amount of \$13,126.00. Bill Shillito seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Working on a rock lined channel design for an upcoming contract.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-25-801-01 has been delivered the specs.

CCAP

No updates at this time.

Leia Hamlyn presented the Education and Outreach Report:

- The Contest Theme for 2024-2025 is Wetlands Are Wonderful. Entry deadline is Jan. 24, 2025.
- Good response for Poetry, Essay and Poster Contests. Did not have any speech entries.
- Online application is open for Resource Conservation Workshop.

Upcoming Dates

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

Jim Propst and Will Faulkner presented the Team 5 NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report and the Catawba NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report. Jim Propst will be retiring in March. Update given on flooding at Henry Fork and damage to sewer line.

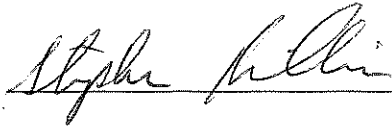
Elise McLaughlin presented the Division Report, highlighting the following:

- Two basic training opportunities will be held in February in Marshall and Burlington.
- Master Agreement Training will be held on February 19.
- Conference held February 20 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center. Josh Teague – NCFG 2025 Winter Conference, Breaking Paradigms: Our Path to Profitable Regenerative Grazing.
- Division Cost Share Update Meeting to be held in Statesville on February 25.

- The Area 2 Spring Meeting will be held March 13 in Lenoir. The theme will be "Restoring Soil Fertility in NC: Exploring the Potential of Biochar."
- NW Envirothon to be held March 26-27 at the McGee Center in N. Wilkesboro.
- Fundamentals of Conservation Planning workshop with a focus on crops, will be held May 12-16 in Mt. Olive.
- Resource Conservation Workshop, Raleigh, June 15-20
- CET to be held in Cherokee, August 11-14.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Shillito seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair