

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 2

April 4, 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

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.

Bill Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2025, 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

- StRAP- We met with three different landowners to look at their stream debris issues as well as provided technical assistance to a non-profit who has received grant funding to address stream debris in a neighborhood on Lyle Creek.
- Staff along with Steve, Julia and Brandon attended the Area 2 spring meeting in Lenoir.

- Our Budget has been submitted, and Randy has had his meeting with County Management with no issues or concerns.
- We are meeting with a representative from the historical association at the YMCA to discuss the grant process and the stream restoration process. We may be applying for a grant to address a streambank issue they are having. More to come.
- Randy attended a grants training provided by the county finance office.
- Attended the monthly drone training meetings.
- Assisted Iredell Soil & Water with a grass waterway design.
- Visited a landowner about his streambanks eroding.
- ARC Updates.
- Present Use Update

NCACSP

- Met with a potential ACSP applicant.
- Contract 18-25-03-03 and 18-25-04-01 have been approved by the division.
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept Contract 18-25-05-03 application. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Brandon Bowman made a motion to accept Contract 18-25-06-01 application. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

AGWRAP

- Contract 18-25-801-01 has been completed.

CCAP

- No updates currently.

Leia Hamlyn presented the Education and Outreach Report:

- Catawba Education Contest night was held February 25.
- Area 2 Spring Meeting held March 13. Posters were judged at the meeting.
- Area 2 Contest Night was held here on March 20. Speech contest judged that night. Other students recognized for achievements.
- NW Envirothon was held March 26 (Middle School) and 27 (High School) in N. Wilkesboro. Three high school teams placed in top seven and will advance to the State Envirothon on May 2.
- RCW application deadline has been extended. So far, one excellent candidate has applied. Bill Shillito made a motion to select the candidate as the primary student to send to RCW. If another candidate applies by the deadline, their attendance will be contingent upon availability of additional allotted slots at the RCW. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

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 assisting with EWP. All counties affected by hurricane requested assistance. Mr. Beard has approved the request and sent letters back to county management. Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) are being done but waiting on concurrence with Corps/FEMA.

FY 2025 EQIP/CSP:

EQIP 2025: Team 5-60 applications

CSP 2025: Team 5-13 applications

Ranking Deadline is 4/11

Review Deadline is 4/25

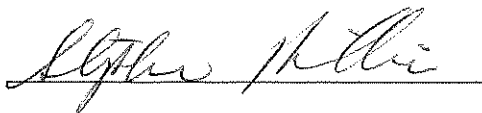
Obligation Deadline is 5/30

Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, evaluations for FY25 EQIP, CSP, & NCACSP applications to begin this month.

Elise McLaughlin presented the Division Report, highlighting the following:
Scholarship opportunities are available for potential RCW students from underserved communities. Registration has been extended to April 20. NC Envirothon to be held May 2-3 in Burlington.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bill Shillito seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.



Stephen Killian, Board Chair