

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 5

August 1, 2025

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

David Caldwell

Brandon Bowman

Bill Shillito

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Will Faulkner, NRCS Catawba

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Koen Killian, RCW student

Caitlin McElhone, RCW student

Sean McElhone, parent of RCW student

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:04 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. William Shillito seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Agenda approved.

William Shillito made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2025, board meeting. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

Education and Outreach

Leia Hamlyn introduced students Caitlin McElhone and Koen Killian. The students talked about their experiences at the Resource Conservation Workshop and shared what they learned and was meaningful to them. Caitlin presented a power point with pictures of the events attended each day. Both students reported that it was a valuable experience.

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

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- We met our 2025 Budget Outcomes with the following results
 - 90% of initial site visits within 10 business day -100%
 - 12 outreach/education presentations- 15
 - 95% of cost share funds encumbered- 99%
- StRAP project is out for bids and we have a pre-bid meeting on August 11.
- Gave a presentation to 17 local ag teachers about drones and crop production.
- Mini Course presentation on July 22.
- Farmland preservation workshop.
- Assisted Nash County with contract mapping.

NCACSP

- ACSP allocation in the amount of \$56,111.00.

AGWRAP

- AGWRAP allocation in the amount of \$9,500.00

CCAP

No updates at this time.

Upcoming Dates

- CET to be held August 11-14.

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

FY 2025 EQIP/CSP:

EQIP 2025: Team 5- 60 applications
14 funded so far in Team - \$425,000

CSP 2025: Team 5- 13 applications
2 applications preapproved for ~\$65,000

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

Compliance: NRCS will be conducting their own FSA Compliance Reviews this year. The last few years NRCS has used an agreement with Technical Service Providers to conduct them. Team 5 has approximately 30 reviews that will have to be done by beginning of August. We have completed the field portion and finishing paperwork.

Local Work Group: Was held on July 22nd by McDowell in Morganton. Ranking and questions remained similar with one slight change.

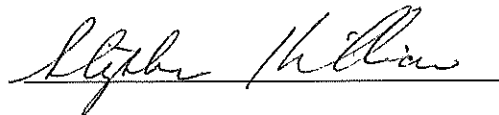
Present FY 2024 vs FY2025 for Programs

Randy Willis and Blake Henley gave the highlights from the Division Report. Area 2 Fall Meeting will be held October 9, with Caldwell County hosting. There is a seat on the Commission up for re-election. New replacement to be nominated at the Fall Meeting.

William Shillito gave a report on SURGE Week, which he attended from July 28 through August 1, in Newland, NC. This event provided an opportunity to train, respond, and prepare for future storms and continue to help western North Carolina recover from Hurricane Helene.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

 Stephen Killian, Board Chair