

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 6

September 5, 2025

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

Brandon Bowman

Bill Shillito

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Will Faulkner, NRCS Catawba

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:05 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 1, 2025, board meeting. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Minutes approved.

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

- StRAP - We received three bids for the current project. The bids were \$109,330.00, \$108,000.00 and \$62,230.00 with the contract being awarded to the lowest bidder, Zulu Marine Services. They have until October 1st to begin and December 31st to have it completed.
- We attended the Ag. Advisory Board meeting on August 14th.
- Assisted Cooperative Extension with some set-up for the fair.

- Assisted Iredell SWCD with contract forms.
- Attended monthly drone training.
- Gave a presentation at ASR Grain on cover crops and soil samples.
- Visited a potential StRAP site.

NCACSP

- Contract 18-24-03-03 has completed the well and is working on the water lines.

AGWRAP

- Met with a potential applicant.

CCAP

No updates

Leia Hamlyn presented the Education and Outreach report.

- Fifth Grade Environmental Awareness Field Days are scheduled for September 18, September 25 and October 2 at Southside Park in Newton. Seven schools plan to attend. Presenters are lined up.
- The contest theme for 2025-2026 is "We All Live in a Watershed."

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 - \$404,000

CSP 2025: Team 5- 13 applications
4 applications funded for - \$156,000

- Taking new Application for both CSP and EQIP until 11/7/25

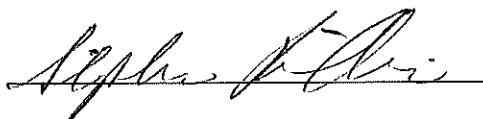
Fieldwork: Team members working on several projects, as well as assisting SWCD personnel, evaluations for FY25 EQIP, CSP, & NCACSP applications to begin this month.

National Civil Rights Review: Morganton FO along with 19 other field offices has been chosen to be audited by HQ. This will be done over the phone and online. Evan Crawley has agreed to talk on behalf of the SWCD Board.

Elise McLaughlin gave the Division Report. The Area 2 Fall Meeting will be held October 9, with Caldwell County hosting. Raising dues will be under consideration with a proposal for Area Dues to increase from \$250 to \$300 per year and Registration Fees to rise from \$30 to \$40. There is a seat on the Commission up for re-election. New replacement to be nominated at the Fall Meeting. Training opportunities are coming up across the state. Meeting on Cost Share updates will be held February 4 in Yadkinville. William Shillito will serve as the Area 2 representative on the Legislative Standing Committee. Stephen Killian is the new Area Chair for next year's Spring and Fall meetings. Catawba will be the host county. The Annual Meeting will be held January 4-6 in Cherokee. The National Meeting will be held February 14-19 in San Antonio. Next year

William Shillito made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

 Stephen Killian, Board Chair