

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 1

January 7, 2022

Supervisors Present:

Susan Devine

Laura Parnell (via phone)

Julia Elmore

David Caldwell

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Jim Propst, NRCS Team 5 Supervisor

Rick McSwain, Area Coordinator

Susie Devine read the following statement then called the business meeting to order at 9:03 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.*

David Caldwell made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 2, 2021 board meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

**Randy Willis and Blake Henley** gave the Catawba District Operations Report:

### **District Operations and Technical Assistance:**

- Local work group meeting NRCS.
- Completed Bandys Fire Department water points certification.
- Defensive and van driving training.
- Assisted Caldwell SWCD with a survey for a stream crossing.
- Gave a copy of the history of the district to Catawba Historical Society.
- Budget process has started
- YMCA- waiting on Division engineers for survey
- Mick Berry Announced his retirement plans

### **NCACSP**

- Contract 18-22-01-01 has been delivered the specs.
- Met with a potential applicate for PY 23.
- Contract 18-20-08-03 has started the dripline on the chicken houses.

### AGWRAP

- Julia Elmore made a motion to approve Contract 18-22-801-01 in the amount of \$7,498.00. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Contract 18-21-802-01 has been completed. RFP in the amount of \$5,168.00.
- Contract 18-21-801-01 has picked up copy of his specs.

### CCAP

- We should be hearing about if our CCAP application was approved or not. We increased the cost of the total project by 18%.

**Leia Hamlyn** gave the Education and Outreach Report:

### Education & Outreach

- Contest deadline is January 21, 2022.
- We have received four entries for our new Poetry Contest division from adults. Some students are also expected to participate.
- Speech Contest is set for January 29, 2022.
- Registration for Envirothon is February 1, 2022.

### Upcoming Dates

- Annual Meeting will be held January 9-11 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, RTP
- Basic Training for SWCD Supervisors – February 8 in Fletcher, NC

**Jim Propst** gave the Catawba Report and the NRCS Team 5 Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report:

### Catawba

#### FY22 EQIP:

As of now, we are working with applicants to update their eligibility before the January 14, 2022 deadline. Which requires them to update their farm records.

During the process of them updating their records, field visits have been completed to help with the planning process to meet the applicants resource concerns.

#### Fieldwork/Projects:

- (2) Pasture Systems (1) Livestock watering facility (tanks and pipeline)
- (2) High Tunnels (landowners are pricing around at the moment)
- (1) Litter Storage Facility (waiting for initial start date of contractor)
- (1) Well & Pump installation

### **Upcoming Meetings/Training: Via Computer**

- Virtual Silvopasture Training with ENTSC Staff - January 27th, 2022

### **Training/Meetings:**

- Dec. 2 - NRCS Agency | Watershed Programs Training - Eastern Region
- Dec. 13 - VMT Receipt Training
- Dec. 15 - Overall Staff Meeting, Team 5 NRCS meeting
- Dec. 17 - USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Webinar

### **Team 5 Supervisory Soil Conservationist's Report** **January 2022**

**Team 5 Fieldwork/Projects:** Team 5 continues to provide field assistance to landowners. Ongoing field projects: (5) Poultry Waste Storage Structures, (3) Pasture Systems.

- Completed all CRP Status Reviews
- Addressed all Expiring contracts with a modification or payment

### **FY 22 EQIP Deadline for eligibility – Jan 14, 2022.**

- Will be evaluating sites & gathering data
- Work on some planning aspects
- New versions of EQIP, similar to CSP
- Some counties within NC are part of Climate Change EQIP – does not include Team 5

### **Upcoming Meetings/Training:**

- All Current NRCS Indoor meetings may be scheduled as long as employee is fully vaccinated and wears mask until further notice. Outdoor Meetings of < 50 people now allowed with mask & social distance.

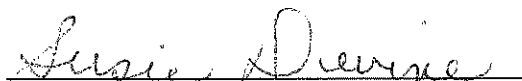
### **Training/Meetings:**

<b>Dec. 9</b>	EQIP Rollout Training – Virtual
<b>Dec. 14</b>	McDowell SWCD Meeting Iredell SWCD Meeting
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Team 5 Overall Staff Meeting – Catawba SWCD Office
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Alexander SWCD Meeting
<b>Jan. 4</b>	Caldwell SWCD Meeting
<b>Jan. 7</b>	Catawba SWCD Meeting

**Rick McSwain** gave the Division Report: The Area 2 Spring Meeting will be held March 10, 2022. It will be hosted by Allegheny County. The Annual Meeting will be held January 9-11 at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, RTP. There will be money for the Stream Debris Removal. Cost share training on February 24.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Julia Elmore seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:49 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

  
Susie Devine, Board Chair