

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number 7

November 7, 2025

Supervisors Present:

Steve Killian

Julia Elmore

Brandon Bowman

Bill Shillito

David Caldwell

Others Present:

Randy Willis, Soil Conservation Supervisor

Blake Henley, Soil Conservation Technician

Leia Hamlyn, Education Coordinator

Elise McLaughlin, Area 2 Regional Coordinator

Steve Killian read the following statements then called the business meeting to order at 9:04 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. Julia Elmore 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.

District Operations and Technical Assistance

- StRAP – We have completed the project on the Henry Fork River. ZULU Marine Services removed 50+ dump trailer loads of debris from 2,150' of stream at a cost of \$62,230

- StRAP- We have received approval from the Division to be reimbursed for a UTV/SxS and trailer and the purchase orders have been issued to the vendors.
- ARC- the contractors are ahead of schedule with the demolition portion of the project.
- Attended the ribbon cutting at the YMCA for the new building addition. Stream restoration is functioning as it was designed, and they have not had any flooding issues.
- Assisted 2 landowners with soil sample information.
- Met with a landowner about surface water in her yard.
- Assisted 2 landowners with pond issues
- Gave a presentation to Sherrills Ford Elementary (6th grade) about soil samples.
- Attended Career Day at Startown Elementary and Balls Creek Elementary.
- Assisted Iredell SWCD with contracts.
- Assisted Extension with a corn yield contest.
- Attended the Area 2 Fall Meeting.
- Gave a presentation at Rotary Club of Catawba Valley Meeting.
- David Caldwell made a motion to approve the Flash Grazing Policy which states "At no point during the ten (10) year maintenance period of the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program shall flash grazing be allowed. This pertains to the grazing of stream banks, wetlands or any other area where cost share funds have been used to exclude livestock." Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Schedule 40 PVC Policy was discussed and should be voted on at the next meeting.

NCACSP

- Julia Elmore made a motion to accept the application for Contract 18-26-01-01. Brandon Bowman seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Contract 18-25-05-03 is starting on the rock lined channel.
- Contract 18-25-04-01 has been delivered their contract specs.
- Working with other applicants about getting contract estimates.

AGWRAP

- Met with a potential applicant for Agwrap.
- David Caldwell made a motion to accept the application for Contract 18-26-801-03. William Shillito seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Brandon Bowman made a motion to approve Contract 18-26-801-03 in the amount of \$9,481.00. David Caldwell seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

CCAP

No updates at this time

Education & Outreach

Leia Hamlyn presented the Education and Outreach report.

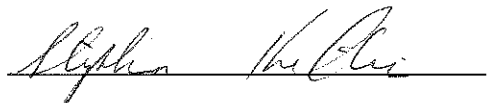
- Fifth Grade Environmental Awareness Field Days were held on September 18, September 25 and October 2 at Southside Park in Newton. Seven schools attended with 573 participants!
- The contest theme for 2025-2026 is "We All Live in a Watershed."

NRCS – There was no report at this time due to the current government shutdown.

Elise McLaughlin gave the Division Report. She reviewed the reports on education, outreach and Biochar from the Fall meeting. There will be a training in Wilkes on November 18 on wells. The Annual meeting will be held January 4-6, 2026, in Cherokee. Updates given on StRAP and Hurricane Helene impacts. Elise gave a presentation on the NC Cost Share Programs Contract Process and covered the Quick Guidance—Cost Share For District Board Supervisors.

David Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. William Shillito seconded. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Minutes taken by Leia Hamlyn.

 Stephen Killian, Board Chair