

MINUTES

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC 28607

September 24, 2025

Present:

Denny Norris, Chair
Nate Coppenbarger
Bill Moretz
Jennifer Hanifan
Elise McLaughlin

Michelle Kasey
Brian Bonville
Brandon Turlington
Samantha Dame
Visitor: Mastin Barry

1. Denny Norris called meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

2. Denny Norris opened the meeting in prayer.

3. Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder:

In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any board member have any conflicts of interest or appearances of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearances of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved.

4. 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.

5. Approval of the minutes

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve the minutes. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd Motion. Jennifer Hanifan asked that minutes be approved with changes to skip a line for Motions to stand alone in the minutes. Minutes approved with Changes.

6. Approval of the agenda

Bill Moretz made a motion to approve agenda with additions. Jennifer Hanifan 2nd the motion. Agenda approved.

7. District Report: Brian Bonville

New Applications: None

Contracts needing approval: None

Contract Updates:

A. ACSP:

95-2023-001 Scott and Dawn Jensen – Scott Jensen came into office on 9/23/25. He is finished with project. He didn't install the drinkers according to the engineer's stipulations. He installed cement troughs instead of ball drinkers. According to engineers, he may not get cost share on drinkers.

95-2023-003 Ronnie Joe Brown – Livestock Exclusion system with well. Cooperator has contacted well driller. No other updates.

95-2024-003 Charles Norris – Cooperator has contacted well driller. No other updates. Bonny to call cooperator.

95-2024-006 Valley View Land Company – Ag Road Repair. Monitoring construction.

95-2024-007 Al Zimmerman – Wetland restoration system. Bonville to Send contractor list to cooperator.

95-2025-001 Will Kulczyk – Ag Road Repair. Monitoring construction.

95-2025-002 Holland Whitesides – Cooperator has approved engineer design. Bonville to meet with cooperator and engineer 9/30/25.

95-2025-003 Larry Kitchens – Cultural resource review has been submitted. Waiting on engineer design.

95-2025-004 Diane Deal – Monitoring construction. No update.

95-2023-004 Greene – Waiting on receipts to submit RFQ. No update.

B. AgWrap updates:

95-2025-802 Daniel Brown – JAA has been signed. Board needs to sign NC-11.

C. CAP updates:

95-2022-502 Blue Ridge Conservancy – Riparian Buffer/Stream
State engineers have surveyed site. They will follow up with preliminary

design.

95-2024-501 New River Conservancy (at Green Valley Park). Permits completed. Construction start date 9/25/25.

95-2025-501 Kellwoods 1 Townhomes POA – Waiting on engineer design review.

D. StRAP:

2022 Funds – Tentative approval to roll 2022 funds into 2024 funds.

2024 Funds – Brian Bonville met with project cooperators, New River Conservancy and Temple of the High Country on 9/9/25. Projected start Date early Spring.

E. EWP Updates:

EWP Sites have been submitted and over 25 field visits have been completed in September. 48 sites have Field Data Reports. Samantha Dame stated that the County will be posting soon. They plan on advertising For bids on their website and in the newspaper.

8. Brian Bonville:

Attended the Cover Crop Class given by Blue Ridge Women in Ag
Attended the Soil Health and Management for Sustainability Department at App State, Ag Operations Class.

Bonville received a request from Blue Ridge Chapter of the NC Wildlife Club To give a presentation on soil and water health and how it helps our wildlife. Brandon Turrington stated that lots of young people were interested in Conservation careers.

- 9. NRCS Samantha Dame** – NRCS has three stream repair contracts which equates to \$400,000 for the County. October 1 is the start of the Fiscal year. EQUIP deadline sometime in November. It covers stream repair and pasture Repair. Denny Norris asked if it covers spraying for invasives in pastures. Samantha Dame replied that it covers some invasive species.

- 10. RC&D Report** – No report. Denny Norris asked Kasey to contact Jonathan Hartsell and ask for an update for the meetings going forward. Elise McLaughlin stated that Mr. Hartsell will be at the Fall Meeting.

11. Division Report – Elise McLaughlin

The November Commission meeting will be held in Huntersville, NC.

The Fall Meeting registration is due by 9/26/25.

McLaughlin stated that the criteria for a Block Grant are being reviewed and that the reimbursement percentages were being discussed at the State Level. Rates of reimbursement will be set depending on interest.

12. Admin Report: Michelle Kasey

a. 5th Grade Environmental Field Days were a success at new location.

b. Helped with Ashe County Environmental Field Days.

c. Contest Theme: We All Live in a Watershed

Need volunteers for Speech Contest Night December 10th from 5-7pm

Kasey asked Board if we want to serve refreshments since it's during dinner? After discussion, it was agreed that refreshments would be served.

d. Fall Meeting Registration. Kasey asked which Supervisors would be attending the Fall meeting. The deadline for registration is 9/26/25.

e. Farm Family award – Farm City Banquet is November 13th. After Board discussion, it was agreed that Shipley Farms would receive the award for 2025 since they were selected in 2024 and it was cancelled due to the hurricane. Elise McLaughlin

f. Replacement for Chris Hughes

Denny Norris stated that Jim Hamilton, Extension Director, suggested that David Tucker would be a good person to fulfill the remainder of Chris Hughes term. Denny Norris spoke to Tucker and he has agreed to do it if The Board is in agreement.

Bill Moretz made a motion for David Tucker to serve out Chris Hughes' Term. Nate Coppenbarger 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Denny Norris asked Michelle Kasey to call David Tucker and let him know. He also asked that Kasey begin the paperwork for Tucker.

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- g. New Employee – Denny Norris spoke with the County manager about the salary options for a temporary Technical employee that the State will fund. The County manager said that 30% of the salary would be benefits unless we do a contract employee or do a part-time employee which would be 32 hours or less with no benefits. Denny Norris stated that he would like to use the same job description that was used for the Technician position that Brian Bonville holds except for the salary, type of employee and the amount of time of employment. He stated that he would like to do advertising as soon as possible with no salary in the ad. Advertising will wait until after the Master Agreement has been received.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Next meeting will be October 22, 2025.

Minutes submitted by: Michelle Kasey



Denny Norris, Chair

Signed

10-22-25

Dated

