

March 30, 2016

Minutes

Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District

971 West King Street, Boone NC

March 30, 2016 Meeting # 9

Present

Denny Norris- Chair

Janie Poe

Angela Gragg

David Tucker- NRCS

Al Childers

Rob Baldwin- Area Coordinator

Andrew Cox – Ashe SWCD

Becky Wallace- NRCS

Mark Forbes- Avery SWCD

Denny Norris opened the meeting.

Denny asks if anyone needs to recuse. No response.

Minutes were accepted as presented.

District report- Angela Gragg- review of progress on contracts

Paul Gragg # 95-2015-001- Mark Forbes let the Board know Mr. Gragg is the next one on his list to visit. Mark will be out of town at training next week and will get with producer the following week.

Holly Whitesides # 95-2015-003- We received a letter from Daphne Cartner that the Micro-Irrigation System design meets policy and specifications. David Graham is a Technical Specialist with I designation. The well should be sufficient for both the animals and the irrigation per Daphne Cartner.

Al Childers made a motion to approve the RFP for \$388 for contract# 95-2015-003 Holly Whitesides. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor. (Note: Research on CS2 showed that RFP was approved by Board and submitted on 12-18-2015. RFP was pended by Division).

Al Childers made a motion to approve a supplement for 750 ft of pipe pending the \$388 payment of original contract 95-2015-003. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Holly Whitesides- Angela Gragg explained the pump situation to the Board. A new contract will have to be done and Holly Whitesides has submitted a new application.

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Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the AgWRAP application for Holly Whitesides. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve AgWRAP contract # 95-2016-801 for Holly Whitesides in the amount of \$2,615 for the well pump. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve an RFP for contract# 95-2016-801(Holly Whitesides) for \$2,615 pending Division's approval of the contract. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Al Zimmerman # 95-2015-006- David Tucker is going to get in touch with producer.

Billy Kennedy #95-2015-008- Waiting on him to complete his fencing. The contract still lacks a spring design, so As- Builts will be done when fencing is completed. Mark Forbes spoke with producer and has documented pictures. Producer is aware he cannot get reimbursed until fencing is completed. He still has a few Christmas trees to remove, but he has until June 2017 to complete this BMP.

Robert Shipley # 95-2016-004- David Tucker is going to submit CR request to Mr. Arrante. Contract folder is complete waiting on CR completion to start work.

Charles Norris- Andrew Cox and David Tucker met with producer and went over the program with Mr. Norris. He called in and wanted the Soil & Water Board to know how pleased he was with their visit. Janie Poe and Andrew Cox mentioned using TVA funds for this contract. Mr. Norris asked if Angela could design his feed pad. Andrew Cox noted that Justin Webb can survey feed pad site. He is out of the Asheville office.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve contract # 95-2016-002- Charles Norris for \$34,211 pending review and approval by Engineer. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Paul Gragg # 95-2016-003 (Billie Jo Mains farm) on site meeting and CR request are needed. May need a Conservation plan.

Andy Bryant # 95-2016-001 (Against the Grain) – Discussed BMPs

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve contract #95-2016-001 for Against the Grain with the funds left. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Jeff Brown – Andrew Cox and David Tucker met with producer and went over the program and let Mr. Brown know he could not start on BMP until the contract is approved by the Division in Raleigh.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve contract 95-2016-006 for Jeff Brown in the amount of \$1,200 for ground cover. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

We cannot completely fund Against the Grain without doing a supplement to the contract with the next allocation in the fall. We have enough to fund this contract for Jeff Brown and use the remaining to fund Against the Grain. The Board agreed this was the best way to utilize the funds.

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Angela Gragg talked to the Board about not funding contracts at 90% for limited resource farmers, or for new and beginning farmers (we do not have EVAD in Watauga County). We as a Board need to have this in our Strategy Plan for the 2017 program year.

Angela Gragg made a motion to incorporate not funding limited resources farmers or new/beginning farmers at 90% level in our 2017 Strategy Plan. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Jimmy South - II Beaver Dam Watershed- Needs to be ranked Andrew Cox and David Tucker will go out and meet with producer and bring a cost estimate to the next Board meeting. He is interested in fencing, drinkers and a heavy use area.

Rodney Presnell – waiting on next allocation of funds

Watauga Board of Education submitted an application for CCAP funds for use at Hardin Park Elementary School. The requested assistance will be used for erosion control and storm water mitigation.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the CCAP application for the Watauga Board of Education (Hardin Park Elementary Project) for \$4, 198. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Al Childers made a motion to approve CCAP contract # 95-2016-501 BOE (Hardin Park Elementary School) for \$4,198. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

The Blue Ridge Conservancy notified Angela via email that W. Scott & Barbara Jones want a conservation plan and are interested in BMPs. Janie Poe will call land owner and have them to complete an application if they are still interested.

Cross Ridge Farm submitted an application for fencing, erosion, additional drinkers etc.

Al Childers made a motion to approve the application for Cross Ridge Farm. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Melinda K. Brown submitted an application for seeding pasture, drinkers, fencing etc.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the application for Melinda K. Brown. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor

Allen Christenbury – Application approved at February meeting. Field visit will be done to make sure applicant meets the program requirements. Mr. Christenbury does not have a 10- year lease; therefore, the landowner's signature would be required on the application.

David Tucker NRCS Report- David presented two conservation plans for approval by the Board. He also stated there would be one more coming.

Al Childers made a motion to approve conservation plans. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Rob Baldwin – Division Report- New employee training will be May 10th & 11th in Raleigh.

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Julie Henshaw will be doing a webinar on strategy plan and spot check forms.

Board discussed strategy plan and naming someone to sign RFPs then reporting it back to the Board at the next meeting.

Al Childers made a motion to name Angela Gragg to sign RFP in our 2017 strategy plan. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Al Childers RC&D Report – Nothing to report

Janie Poe – Administration/Education Report- Envirothon snacks. Pam Steuer sent an email requesting snacks.

Al Childers made a motion to approve Janie Poe to purchase snacks needed for Envirothon. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

Awards night was a success. Janie heard positive comments being made throughout the night.

Angela Gragg and Janie Poe are scheduled for a budget meeting with Deron Geouque and Margaret Pierce on Friday April, 8th at 1pm.

Envirothon Clean up and Envirothon Event- April 5th is clean up day for Envirothon. Janie Poe will purchase the snacks and take them to Wilkes. Thursday April 7th is the Envirothon. We are expecting 350-400 students. Janie Poe asked the Board to approve time and travel for her for both days.

Al Childers made a motion to approve for Janie Poe to travel and attend both days for Envirothon April 4th & April 7th. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

CET will be August 22nd-25th, 2016 in Asheville. Janie Poe asks the Board to approve overnight travel and time for the new hire and her to attend.

Angela Gragg made a motion for Janie Poe and the new hire to attend CET in Asheville with overnight travel. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Janie Poe presented the Board with Administrative Assistant on-line training course she is interested in taking. The training will also include social media training.

Angela Gragg made a motion to approve the on-line training for \$150.00. Al seconded; all were in favor.

Janie Poe asks the Board to approve overnight travel for new hire to attend New Employee Training in Raleigh May 10th & 11th.

Al Childers made a motion to approve overnight travel for new hire to attend New Employee Training contingent on a person being hired. Angela Gragg seconded; all were in favor.

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Angela Gragg made a motion for the new hire to attend Planning Criteria and CPA52 Example Training May 5, 2016 in Morganton contingent on a person being hired. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Al Childers made a motion to pay \$103.46 for a new hydraulic hose for the no- till drill. Angela Gragg seconded all were in favor.

Angela Gragg made a motion to wave the \$60 fee for Mr. Doug Jones due to repairs done on equipment. Al Childers seconded; all were in favor.

Spot Checks will be done immediately following the next Board meeting in April.

BMP Audit will be done at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by: Janie Poe

Denny Norris signed 4/27/16 date

Denny Norris, Chair