



BUNCOMBE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT JUNE 9, 2022 BOARD MEETING

49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806

Board Members Present

Gary Higgins, Chairman; Tyler Ross, Vice Chairman; and David Snelson, Secretary

Others Present

Amanda Buchanan, NRCS; Michael Frue, County Legal; Jennifer Harrison, District Director; John Ottinger, NRCS; Anthony Dowdle, Soil Conservationist; Ariel Zipp, Program Manager; Avni Naik, Jennifer Knight, Rose Wall, Alan Walker, Gregory Tucker, Catie Banks, Zane Moore, Sadie Moore, Piper Sales, Sydney Selmensberger, and Jessica Hughes, Administrative Assistant.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Conflict of Interest Statement

Gary Higgins asked those in the meeting to review the conflict of interest statement, "In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board."

Approval of Agenda

Please see exhibit A.

David Snelson made a motion to approve the June 9, 2022 agenda, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Please see exhibit B.

Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the June 9, 2022 minutes, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.



Envirothon Winners

The envirothon team Lab Rats attended the meeting to share their experience at State and thank the Board for their encouragement and support.

Gary Higgins made a motion to donate \$500 to Nesbitt Discovery Academy to help with Envirothon supplies, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Western Stream Initiative Letter of Support

Alan Walker with Western Stream Initiative presented a letter of support for the Ashworth Creek stream bank stabilization. See exhibit C for full resolution.

Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the resolution for Ashworth Creek restoration, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

David Snelson made a motion to approve the conflict of interest policy for the Ashworth Creek project, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Supervisory Reports

There were no supervisor reports at this time.

Directors Report

Harrison shared a new soil conservationist position will go before the Commissioner at the June 21st meeting and will likely be passed. It is assumed the new person will start in September. Harrison shared the projects that were submitted for EWP and StRAP funding. After a brief discussion the staff and board decided it would be best to hold a separate meeting to discuss which projects will receive funding as there is not enough funding for all projects to move forward.

NCACSP and AgWRAP Report

Anthony Dowdle submitted one application and contract for Board approval.

Tyler Ross made a motion to enter closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 to discuss confidential NCACSP and AgWRAP contracts on 12:03am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

David Snelson made a motion to exit closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 at 12:17am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

David Snelson made a motion to approve the applications below:

Gerald Strickland 11-2022-006-05 \$31,224.00

Scott Brown 11-2022-008-05 \$2,005.00

Stevie Rymer 11-2022-009-05 \$12,804.00

Mitch Plemmons 11-2022-801-05 \$3,594.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the contracts below:

Gerald Strickland 11-2022-006-05 \$31,224.00

Scott Brown 11-2022-008-05 \$2,005.00



Stevie Rymer 11-2022-009-05 \$12,804.00

Mitch Plemmons 11-2022-801-05 \$3,594.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the Tropical Storm Fred ranking list, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the 2020 extension requests, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.

NRCS Report

Amanda Buchanan presented an update for NRCS, please exhibit D for full report.

Farmland Preservation Report

Ariel Zijp was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report for the record. Please see exhibit E.

Announcements

With no further business Tyler Ross motioned to adjourn at 12:37am.

Secretary

Date

