



Steve Troxler
Commissioner

**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Vernon Cox
Director

THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AgWRAP Review Committee: Teleconference/Webinar
Thursday, November 2, 2017: 9:30 am

Draft Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Chester Lowder, Mitch Peele, Tom Ellis, Autumn Romanski, Julie Henshaw, Cindy Safrit, and Mitchell Miller

- I. Welcome and introductions- Julie Henshaw opened the meeting and introductions were made. New hire, Autumn Romanski was introduced as the new AgWRAP Coordinator. Autumn will be assisting with AgWRAP development and implementation.
- II. The committee reviewed recommendations for batch one of regional applications for new ponds and pond repair/retrofits. It was discussed that approximately \$550,000 dollars are available for the batch one allocation and approximately 50 % -60 % of the funds will be held back for the batch two regional applications allocation.
 - Discussed funds would be limited to one application per cooperator, and one application per county.
 - Discussed funds would be distributed throughout the state.
 - Discussed one third of the allocation would be distributed to the Eastern Region, one third of the allocation to the Western Region, and one third of the allocation to the Central Region.
 - Priority Ranking changes were discussed for implementation. Specifically, water balance/ water demand met, District letter of support, and consideration of needs versus wants.
 - Cooperator may want a pond, but only need a well. The Districts need to exercise the ability to determine when a well is appropriate instead of a pond.
 - Discussed funds were to be distributed to the highest ranked applicants as ranked by the the District, Division, and Ag WRAP Review Committee.
- III. The recommendations for Batch one regional applications for new pond and pond repair/ retrofits will be submitted to the Commission at the next SWCC meeting, on November 15, 2017.

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- IV. Julie Henshaw provided an update on the July Soil and Water Conservation Commission Actions:
 - 1) Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP)
 - 2) Average Cost List, and
 - 3) District Financial Assistance Allocation
- V. Julie Henshaw provided a status update on the rule making process and a review of NCAC 59 D.0105 Financial Allocations, the AgWRAP Allocation Rule.
- VI. Policy recommendations provided by Julie Henshaw. A new policy specifying time frame for stabilizing and/or spreading spoil for pond related practices was discussed.
- VII. Other topics discussed included technical assistance funding and paying for District performance.
- VIII. The meeting concluded with items from the Committee and open discussion.