



**Steve Troxler**  
Commissioner

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

**Patricia K. Harris**  
Director

**THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**AgWRAP Review Committee**

**June 28, 2012: 1:00pm-4:00pm**

<https://denr.ncgovconnect.com/arc/>

**(919)420-1374**

Attendees: Greg Hughes, Vernon Cox, Dick Fowler, Tom Hill, Tom Ellis, Julie Henshaw, Natalie Woolard, Cindy Safrit, Daphne Cartner, Dewitt Hardee, David Williams, Kelly Whitaker, Marvin Cavanaugh, Chester Lowder

I. Welcome and introductions

II. PY2013 State Appropriation: \$500,000

a. Allocation strategy recommendations (district vs. state allocations and amounts)

The committee would like to present some different ideas for the Commission to consider regarding how to allocate the limited, nonrecurring funds for the program for next year. This recommendation is based on district feedback from districts who received small allocations. There are several options that need Commission feedback:

- Maintain allocation strategy as used for PY2012 since it is the biennium budget
- Conduct a state request for applications – similar to the pond process used this year. This could include all available BMPs or only include specific BMPs.
- Allocate funds per NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation District area. Options for the area allocation include: Consider the PY2012 allocation strategy and total the amount per area, equal allocations for all districts in each area, equal allocations for all districts in each area that requested funding.
- Allocate funds per NRCS area. Options for the area allocation include: Consider the PY2012 allocation strategy and total the amount per area, equal allocations for all districts in each area, equal allocations for all districts in each area that requested funding.

This area funding methodology would require an area approval process for applications instead of using the typical district application approval process. While the amount of funding provided to each area for recommendation making purposes would be the sum of the individual district allocations, the area would make recommendations on how to approve applications to the Commission. The Commission will approve the final allocations to the districts based on Area recommendations due their authority.

If an area or state application process is pursued, additional work would need to be done to help areas as they move through this process (committee structure, approval process, ranking criteria, etc), and/or develop state ranking criteria, etc.

b. Allocation parameter recommendations:

Consider using the same parameters as adopted for PY2012 since it was adopted in January 2012.

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- III. DRAFT PY2013 Average Cost List  
Consider using the same list as adopted for PY2012 since it was adopted in January 2012, and there is limited funding this year.
- IV. NC Ag Advancement Consortium proposal  
The group reviewed the response for feedback from NC Farm Bureau, and asked to see the final version of the survey before it is distributed.
- V. Conservation irrigation conservation and micro-irrigation BMPs
  - a. Job approval authority: Natalie Woolard shared a map of the individuals with certifications that would be applicable for AgWRAP irrigation BMPs JAA. Their locations were highlighted by zip code, and despite the somewhat small number of certified individuals, they should be able to cover the needs of the current program throughout the state.
  - b. NRCS Standard exceptions  
The division's technical services staff is working with NRCS on these items, and will bring a recommendation forward at a future meeting.
- IV. Sediment removal planning: training status  
A field training was held on June 19<sup>th</sup> in Wilson County. Wilson Soil and Water Conservation District delivered this training. District staff shared scenarios, and learned from each other. Another field training session will be scheduled in the piedmont and will be noticed on the district listserv. Several district staff attending the Wilson session will be requesting JAA at the next SWCC meeting.
- V. Aquaculture BMPs  
Based on the recommendation of the TRC, all pond BMPs will be revisited and a separate water reuse BMP will be proposed. Workgroup members will review whether aquaculture production and green industry recommendations should be in a separate BMP or can remain in existing BMPs in AgWRAP.
- VI. Set next meeting date  
Doodle poll July 25, 27, 30