

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Cost Share Committee

January 30, 2013: 8:30am

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

Draft Agenda

Information items

1. Commission actions

Action items

1. Approval of December 2012 meeting minutes (note correction in last sentence under action item 2 – spot check policy instead of strategy plan policy)
2. Review of technical assistance survey description, timeline and online survey

Please review the introductory language and draft timeline below. At the next meeting, this will be the first item on our agenda, so that information can be shared with districts at their spring meetings.

Cost share program rules are being reviewed and revisions will be developed for rulemaking in the next year. Prior to drafting any revisions to existing rules, the commission would like your feedback through this survey. This will provide good information at the start of this process. We look forward to working with you on this rule revision.

Timelines:

- Present survey and need for district responses at the 2013 spring meetings – in division or commission report – whichever is given.
- Districts complete surveys by May 15th – this will provide time for districts to meet to discuss survey responses even in the busy planting season.
- The commission will receive updates on the number of responses received at their meetings during the comment period (March and May commission meetings).
- Responses will be compiled, and the Cost Share Committee will meet in July to discuss responses and prepare draft rule revisions. Recommendations will be presented at the following commission meeting.
- The commission will initiate the rule making process following their approval of draft revisions.
- In addition, the survey announcement and reminders will be distributed on the district listserv and in the regional coordinators monthly reports.
 - Ask for time at one of their upcoming staff meetings to work staff to provide follow up and stress the importance of district responses in this process.

Survey webpage:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?formkey=dHF6NWxRYnR4aktZQnVMWW9qbmhrQ2c6MQ#gid=0>

The information provided in this survey will help the Commission's Cost Share Committee draft revisions to the Agriculture Cost Share Technical Assistance Rule, 02 NCAC 59D .0106. This rule can be found online at: <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac.asp?folderName=\Title 02 - Agriculture and Consumer Services\Chapter 59 - Soil and Water Conservation Commission>.

A summary of how TA funds are prioritized is below: N. C. Agriculture Cost Share technical assistance funds may be used for each full time equivalent (FTE) technical position with the district matching at least 50 percent of the total. Priorities for funding positions shall be assigned based as follows:

(1) Subject to availability of funds and local match, provide support for one FTE technical position for every district. Priority for funding positions beyond one FTE per district shall be based on the following parameters:

- (A) Whether the position is presently funded by program technical assistance funds.
- (B) The number of program dollars encumbered to contracts in the highest three of the previous four completed program years
- (C) The number of program dollars actually expended for installed BMPs in the highest three years of the most recent four-year period for which the allowed time for implementing contracted BMPs has expired as reported in the NC Agriculture Cost Share Database.

Additional questions for the survey

- Do you support using the PCEP OC's proficiency template for technical employees?
3. Final review of draft program accountability policy revisions for consideration:
 - a. Cost share program match – drafted
 - b. Prohibition of post-approval of contracts - committee approved recommendations August 2012
 - c. Refunded funds from cost share program contracts - drafted
 - d. Renovation of an expired BMP - drafted
 - e. Revision – drafted**
 - f. Special requests - financial – revised, only name changes – so does not need to be presented to commission
 - g. Supplements - drafted**
 - h. Cost share contracts on government owned properties – committee approved recommendations August 2012
 - i. Spot checks – drafted**
 4. Set next meeting date