

TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

April 14, 2016

NCDA&CS Agronomic Services Division

Agronomic Lab Library

4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC

Teleconference phone number: (919) 420-1375

To join the Connect Pro meeting: <https://ncag.adobeconnect.com/trc/>

TRC Business Meeting – Kelly Hedgepeth, Chair

9:30 am

DRAFT AGENDA

Welcome

Update from last TRC meeting

Reports

1. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Policy update (HPAI) Julie Henshaw

Action Items

1. Consideration of changes to New and Expanded Operations Policy Catawba SWCD
2. Considerations of changes to Cost List Changes for FY2017 Ken Parks
3. Considerations of changes to Stream Protection Well BMP Policy Division Staff

Discussion items

1. Work group reports
 - a. Precision Farming – David Williams
 - b. Pasture BMPs – Matt Flint/Ken Parks
 - c. Compost Workgroup – Lisa Fine/Chester Lowder
 - ~~d. Conservation Effects Workgroup – Kelly Hedgepeth~~ Lisa Fine
 - e. Enhanced Water Management Workgroup – Kelly Hedgepeth
 - f. Animal Waste Policy Workgroup-David Harrison
 - g. Cost List Updates- Ken Parks
2. Member/guest comments

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

POLICY ADDRESSING NEW AND EXPANDED OPERATIONS

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are allocated monies based on the identified level of agricultural-related nonpoint source pollution problems, the respective district's BMP installation goals as demonstrated in the district annual strategy plan, and the district's record of performance to affect BMP installation by cooperating farms (15A NCAC [59D06E.0103](#)). Districts are responsible for targeting technical and financial assistance to facilitate BMP implementation on the identified critical areas (15A NCAC [59D06E.0108](#)).

The position of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission is that Districts are given authority under the North Carolina Administrative Rules (15A NCAC) to approve contracts on previously established operations that are causing a water quality problem (sediments, nutrients, chemicals, *et al.*) as a result of current activities related to agricultural activities. Previously established operations are those that are established 3 or more years prior to the date of application for cost share assistance. For livestock operations, the three year period begins when animal types being addressed are onsite. For cropland, the three year begins when the first crop is planted (seed in the ground).

Districts are prohibited from approving:

- Contracts on agricultural operations that are not established, and therefore, are not causing a water quality problem.
- Contracts on animal operations that have been abandoned for 4 or more years prior to repopulation with animals.
- Contracts on new or expanded operations. New or expanded operations are those that were established less than 3 years prior to the application date or have increased in size less than 3 years prior to the application date.
- Contracts for operations which are relocating for reasons other than site restrictions, such as (but not limited to) the operator's loss of the lease for the land on which the operation exists or for land needed in order to properly address animal waste treatment and storage needs.

Expanded operations include, but are not limited to, the following examples:

- Increase in the number of animal units and structures, or change in animal type.
- Cleared acreage for crop production. Cost share may be available for cleared cropland that was in production for 3 years prior to the date of cost share application if it remains in agriculture crop production.

For animal operations which expand less than 3 years prior to the date of cost share application, the cost share contract amount must be limited to the animal waste design,

| Agriculture Cost Share Program

treatment and storage capacity necessary to provide animal waste treatment and storage at the pre-expansion level.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commission recognizes the possible need to provide assistance to not-yet established and newly established operations. Districts are authorized to provide technical assistance to applicants of new operations to help ensure the proper design and installation of practice that protect water quality. If the dDistrict determines that cost share assistance is needed to address a water quality problem on agricultural land that was established less than 3 years prior to the date of cost share assistance application or on an operation that has expanded, the application can be presented to the cCommission. The cCommission reserves the authority to approve contracts on new or expanded operations on a case-by-case basis.

Operations that met standards that were in effect at the time of the start-up or expansion, but are now out of compliance or will be out of compliance with a new law, regulation, standard or permit condition or is not in compliance with a policy or official guidance are eligible for cost share assistance regardless of when the operation was established or expanded. These contracts will be approved by the dDivision on a case-by-case basis. The dDistrict submitting the contract for approval must fully justify the water quality need and provide a clear citation to the specific cause for the operation now being out of compliance or out of conformity.

(adopted 13, 1992; revised March 23, 1994; revised September 16, 1998; revised September 18, 2002; revised March 10, 2004; revised August 10, 2005; revised May 2010, revised May 2016)

AVERAGE COST ISSUES

Pipe:

Surface Inlet Blind Tee (6 in.): The Harnett SWCD requested to add the surface inlet blind tee to be used with an inlet pipe. The average costs for the three NRCS areas are shown in the following table.

	Proposed cost All Areas
Surface Inlet Blind Tee (6 in.)	\$22.24 each
Surface Inlet Blind Tee (8 in.)	\$37.14
Surface Inlet Blind Tee (10 in.)	\$54.12

Stone - Gravel:

Stone - RipRap:

Sam Warren, ATAC in NRCS Area 3 has requested that the stone gravel and rip rap be increased. Propose using Tons instead of Cu Yd because that is how it is billed. (using conversion of 1 cu yd = 1.35 tons) The average and the ranges are described below:

	Current Area 3 Cost	Current Area 3 cost	Proposed Area 3 Cost
Gravel – Stone Ton		\$31.00	\$37.04
Gravel – RipRap	\$ 41.25 Cu.Yd.	\$ 55.69 Tons	\$62.65 Tons

Earth Fill:

Faceplate:

The Pender SWCD has requested to increase the earth fill cost and faceplate costs.

	Current Area 3 Cost	Proposed Area 3 Cost
Earth Fill - hauled	\$7.70 Cu.Yd.	\$9.64 Cu.Yd.
Faceplate - installed	\$107.25	\$265.00

Stream Protection Well

Definition/Purpose

A Well means constructing a drilled, driven or dug well to supply water from an underground source as part of a stream protection system. (DIP)

Policies

1. Installation of the well must include wellhead protection.
2. Average cost for pumps for wells include all costs associated with installation and is based on actual cost.
3. Pumps, Solar Pumps, Wells & Windmills must have a qualifying statement that they will be used for agricultural use only. The cost for the pump includes all costs associated with pump installation, including the cost of getting electricity to the pump.
4. The solar powered pump installation is limited to sites where, there are site constraints or it is cost prohibitive to provide electricity to the pump. The pump cost includes a submersible pump, photovoltaic panels, control box, support structure, pump cable, drop pipe, and fittings to make up plumbing at the pump.
5. Cooperators are responsible for obtaining and complying with all required permits and local requirements as applicable.
6. Permits are a cost-shareable component for this practice in counties where agricultural wells are not exempt from permit fees. A copy of the permit, receipt of the permit fee, and any supporting water quality reports associated with the permit are required to be kept in the district's contract file.
7. Repairs of an existing well that is part of a new stream protection system is cost sharable, including pump if needed. ~~and must be completed by a certified well contractor.~~ *The well repair must be completed by a NC certified well contractor.*
8. ~~New wells and pump installation must be completed by a well contractor certified by the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission. A NC certified well contractor is allowed to sign as Job Approval Authority within their approved level of certification.~~
9. *Job approval authority signature is required from either NRCS or SWCD staff with appropriate NRCS JAA, a Professional Engineer, technical specialist with I designation or a Certified Irrigation Contractor to ensure adequate pumping requirements. All private designs must still be reviewed by DSWC technical staff. Wells for Livestock Watering Site Evaluation Sheet shall be used as a minimum requirement for planning and design documentation.*
10. Replacement of a previously cost shared pump cannot receive additional cost share.
11. Where the certified well contractor determines alternative casing is required by 15A NCAC Subchapter 02C Well Construction Standards the additional cost is eligible for cost share assistance.

12. Life of the BMP is ten (10) years.

Specifications

North Carolina NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Specification # 642 (Water Well), #533 (Pumping Plant)

(Revised November 2010, Revised September 2014, Revised May 2016)