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Commissioner

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

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Director

THE NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
AgWRAP Review Committee: Teleconference/Webinar
Tuesday, December 15, 2015: 1:30pm
<https://ncag.adobeconnect.com/arc/>
(919)420-1375

Draft Minutes

Attendees: Dick Philips, Terri Ruch, Chester Lowder, Robert Evans, Julie Henshaw, Jeff Young, Cindy Safrit

- I. Welcome and introductions
Julie Henshaw opened the meeting and introductions were made.

- II. November Soil and Water Conservation Commission Actions
The committee reviewed the actions that were taken at the November 18, 2015 Soil and Water Conservation Commission:
 - Approved district allocations for Agricultural Water Resources Program best management practices. **All BMPs are eligible and allocations are available in CS².**
 - Revised the [Agricultural Water Collection and Reuse System](#) AgWRAP BMP to remove reference to cost, as costs are included in the Average Cost List.
 - Revised the [Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit](#) AgWRAP BMP to clarify that expansions are eligible and that for an individual pond cooperators are eligible to receive cost share assistance for either the repair/retrofit BMP OR the sediment removal BMP, but not both.
 - Revised the [Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal](#) AgWRAP BMP to clarify that for an individual pond cooperators are eligible to receive cost share assistance for either the repair/retrofit BMP OR the sediment removal BMP, but not both.

- III. Regional application recommendations
The committee reviewed the summary document describing the applications received this batching cycle, and concurred with the application review team's recommendations to request approval of 15 applications at the January 3, 2016 Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting.

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- IV. Minimum thresholds for program participation
Attendees discussed the idea of considering minimum thresholds to participate in AgWRAP. At this time the committee intends to continue discussing and will be monitoring the issue to see if any recommendations may be needed in the future.
- V. Regional application for Water Collection and Reuse System
The new regional application for the Water Collection and Reuse System was review with the committee. The application form is available at:
http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/regional_applications.html
- VI. Well workgroup: joint with ACSP
A well workgroup has been formed to discuss some issues related to well BMPs. Some of the topics that this workgroup will be discussing include conservation planning and siting, job approval authority, and irrigation system information. Any policy recommendations will be presented to both the AgWRAP Review Committee and the Technical Review Committee of the Agriculture Cost Share Program for consideration.
- VII. New BMPs for consideration
- Water withdrawal BMP
- A district inquired to see if a water withdrawal could be a component of the water collection and reuse system BMP. After discussion, the committee recommends that the district write up what they would like to see in the program for consideration for next fiscal year or as a district BMP. Julie will share the information that is needed and invite the district to attend a future meeting.
- VIII. FY2015 Annual Report
The FY2015 Annual Report is under development and will be presented at the January 3, 2016 Commission meeting. This report is required by General Statute 139-60 and is submitted to the Environmental Review Commission. The report will be available on the AgWRAP Tools and Resources website after the Commission meeting:
<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/Tools.html>