NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA
DRAFT

WORK SESSION
Hilton Charlotte University Place
Walden Room
8629 JM Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262
January 8, 2017
9:30 a.m.

BUSINESS SESSION
Hilton Charlotte University Place
University Ballrooms C, D, and E
8629 JM Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262
January 8, 2017
3:00 p.m.

DRAFT

I. CALL TO ORDER

The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of any meeting the Chair reminds all the members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state so at this time.

II. PRELIMINARY – Business Meeting

Welcome — Chairman John Langdon

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda — Chairman John Langdon
2. Reading of Statements of Economic Interest Evaluations — Mr. Phillip Reynolds
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes — Chairman John Langdon
   A. November 16, 2016 Business Session Meeting Minutes
   B. November 15, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
4. Division Report — Ms. Pat Harris
5. Association Report — Mr. Ben Knox
6. NRCS Report — Mr. Tim Beard

7. Consent Agenda
   A. Supervisor Appointments — Mr. Eric Pare
   B. Supervisor Contracts — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
   C. Job Approval Authority — Ms. Natalie Woolard
   D. Technical Specialist Designation — Ms. Natalie Woolard

8. Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 — Ms. Pat Harris

9. FY2016 Commission Programs Annual Reports
   A. Agriculture Cost Share Program — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
   B. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program — Mr. Eric Galamb
   C. Community Conservation Assistance Program — Mr. Tom Hill
   D. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program — Ms. Julie Henshaw

10. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program — Ms. Julie Henshaw
    A. Regional application recommendations

11. District Issues — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
    A. Washington County Post Approval — Washington SWCD
    B. Pitt County Post Approval — Pitt SWCD

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA
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II. PRELIMINARY – Work Session

Welcome — Chairman John Langdon

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda (item 1) — Chairman John Langdon
2. Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 (item 8) — Ms. Pat Harris
3. District Issues (item 11) — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
   A. Washington County Post Approval — Washington SWCD
   B. Pitt County Post Approval — Pitt SWCD
4. Consent Agenda (item 7)
   A. Supervisor Appointments — Mr. Eric Pare
   B. Supervisor Contracts — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
   C. Job Approval Authority — Ms. Natalie Woolard
   D. Technical Specialist Designation — Ms. Natalie Woolard
5. FY2016 Commission Programs Annual Reports (item 9)

A. Agriculture Cost Share Program — Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
B. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program — Mr. Eric Galamb
C. Community Conservation Assistance Program — Mr. Tom Hill
D. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program — Ms. Julie Henshaw

6. Reading of Statements of Economic Interest Evaluation (item 2) — Mr. Phillip Reynolds

7. Approval of Meeting Minutes (item 3) — Chairman John Langdon
   A. November 16, 2016 Business Session Meeting Minutes
   B. November 15, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes

8. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (item 10) — Ms. Julie Henshaw
   A. Regional application recommendations

9. Division Report (item 4) — Ms. Pat Harris

10. Association Report (item 5) — Mr. Ben Knox

11. NRCS Report (item 6) — Mr. Tim Beard

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2017

Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel
University Rooms C, D, and E
8629 JM Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262

Commission Members		
John Langdon	Julie Henshaw	Dru Harrison
Wayne Collier	Natalie Woolard	Richard Smith
Chris Hogan	Helen Wiklund	Marybeth Watkins
Charles Hughes	Ralston James	John Finch
Ben Knox	Eric Galamb	Jeff Joyner
Manly West	Tom Hill	Tammy Deese
Bill Yarborough	Kristina Fischer	John Ottinger
Commission Counsel	Rob Baldwin	Barry Stevens
Phillip Reynolds via phone	Kelly Hedgepeth	James Mason
	Davis Ferguson	Kila Thompson
Guests	Eric Pare	Michelle Lovejoy
Pat Harris	Randy Cabe	Bryan Evans
David Williams	Michael Willis	Denny Norris
Tommy Houser	Hicks Pollard	Patty Dellinger
Louise Hart	Keith Larick	Sue Hayes
Tyler Ross	Ryan Huffman	Chester Lowder
Brandon Young	Jonathan Wallin	Tim Beard
Andrew Cox	Drew Brannon	Duane Vanhook
Jerry Raynor	Ricky Rhyne	Nancy Carter

Chairman John Langdon called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were declared. Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. Commissioner Collier moved to approve the amended agenda and Commissioner Knox seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Reading of Statements of Economic Interest Evaluation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Harris. The Division received a letter from the NC State Ethics Commission for Commissioner Hughes dated December 9, 2016. By statute, portions of the letter must be read into the minutes and available upon request.

   For the December 9, 2016 Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. Charles W. Hughes III for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

   Our office is in receipt of Mr. Charles W. Hughes III's 2015 and 2016 Statement of Economic Interest as an appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission ("the Commission"). We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act.

   We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.

   The State Government Ethics Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, including conflict of interest standards. N.C.G.S. §138A-31 prohibits public servants from using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of a member of their extended family or a business with which they are associated. N.C.G.S. §138A-36(a) prohibits public servants from participating in certain official actions from which the public servant, his or her client(s), a member of the public servant's extended family, or a business or non-profit with which the public servant or a member of the public servant's immediate family is associated may receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit.

   Mr. Hughes was nominated by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to fill the role of the Coastal Regional Representative on the Commission. He is the owner of Charles Hughes Construction. In addition, he and his spouse own threshold amounts of interest in multiple real estate-related LLCs. As such. Mr. Hughes has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues regarding Charles Hughes Construction or any entity in which he has financial interest come before the Commission for official action.

   Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 138A-15(c), when an actual or potential conflict of interest is cited by the Commission under N.C.G.S. 138A-24(e) with regard to a public servant sitting on a board, the conflict shall be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and duly brought to the attention of the membership by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the State Government Ethics Act.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked if there were any comments on the minutes.

   3A. **November 16, 2016, Business Session:** Commissioner West noted that the minutes had an error in the sequence of the motions regarding the approval of the agenda. He had shared with staff the correct sequence, and copies of the revised minutes were provided to the Commissioners. Commissioner West moved to approve the revised minutes, and Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

   3B. **November 15, 2016, Work Session:** Commissioner Collier moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Harris to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- U.S. and North Carolina are HPAI free
- Division vacancies: Eastern engineer position, Western survey position, CREP environmental specialist position
- Rules 59E and 59G; re-adopting the Animal Waste Management and Technical Specialist
- Classified Cost Share Rules out for review
- Conservation Action Team (CAT) and Cost Share Training Listening Sessions scheduled across the state in the 2017
- Conservation Action Team (CAT) web page is public
- Watershed damage caused by Hurricane Matthew estimates at $27,357,568

Chairman Langdon paused to recognize the most-busiest supervisor of the year, Commissioner Knox, and thanked him for the good job he has done this year for putting the Annual Meeting together and appreciate his support.

5. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knox, President of the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to present. Commissioner Knox thanked the Division staff and Bryan Evans for their help with the Annual Meeting.

- Standing Committee Chairs met on December 7
- Gator raffle tickets are available; money split between Association and DEA. A portion goes towards scholarships
- Association working with the Supervisor Training Committee
- NACD Meeting in Denver at the end of January
- Conservation Action Team (CAT) held Listening Sessions last month
- Association met with Commissioner Troxler and discussed current needs and introduced the Association's new Executive Director, Bryan Evans

A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

6. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard, State Conservationist, to present. Mr. Beard was late due to inclement weather and was last to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- NRCS continues to work under their CR (Continuing Resolution) until April
- The Agency had a self-imposed hiring freeze and it will be lifted effective January 9
- Greg Walker will host a break-out session on Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and discuss changes to the program
    - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) signup ends February 3
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) awarded 3 proposals in NC
- NRCS is trying to produce a better product, be a better partner, and provide better service to internal/external customers
- NRCS has eliminated and added some positions, i.e., new State Planning Specialist, new State Compliance Specialist (prior to now our Agronomist handled this), and a new State Resource Conservationist

Chairman Langdon thanked the Division, NRCS, FSA, other agencies in the state.

7. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion.

Commissioner West moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Kevin Mauney, Gaston SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Roger Hurst for 2016-2020
- Jonathan Schwartz, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Jason Cathey for 2016-2020
- Carl Briley, Pitt SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Thurston James for 2014-2018 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. James

7B. Supervisor Contracts:

- Seven contracts; totaling $67,238

7C. Job Approval Authority:

- Four district employees are seeking Job Approval Authority and have successfully completed the requirements
    - Mike Dupree, Durham SWCD, for Grassed Swale
    - Heather Dutra, Durham SWCD, for Backyard Rain Garden
    - Jessica Pope, Wake SWCD, for Critical Area Planting
    - Jason Byrd, Rockingham SWCD, for Pond Site Assessment and Water Needs Assessment

7D. Technical Specialist Designation:

- David Tucker, District Conservationist, for Nutrient Management
- Jeremy Roston, Resource Conservationist, for Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management and Wettable Acres

8. **Disaster Recovery Act of 2016:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Harris who presented the report and recommendations, which is attached as an official part of the minutes. The attachment also includes descriptions of the Commission's action regarding each recommendation.

- Tropical Storm Hermine hit on September 1; Tropical Storm Julia hit on September 13
- Hurricane Matthew hit on October 8 which caused approximately $1.5B in damages
- General Assembly called a special session in mid-December due to these storms
    - Legislature passed the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 (Session Law 2016-124) to address Hurricane Matthew and Tropical Storms Hermine and Julia as well as the western wildfires

- President Obama declared a 49-county disaster area under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288)
- General Assembly appropriated $12.2M to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation
- Eligibility and funding prioritization along with the selection process and considerations have been discussed for the following:
    - Stream repair and debris removal
    - Non-field farm road repair
    - Farm pond repair
- General program considerations were discussed at the Conservation Action Team's Listening Sessions and audience provided important feedback
- A list of Recommended Commission Actions for Implementation of the Disaster Recovery Act of 2016

Chairman Langdon commended the Division, the staff, other agencies, and districts for aligning ourselves in the state to make these applications for repairs for these damages and help the landowners so there is no more loss of soil and water resources at this hard time.

Mr. Reynolds suggested some clarifications for Recommendation #3 regarding delegation of authority. According to Mr. Reynolds, denials for post approvals can only be made at the Commission level. When delegating authority, it will be on a case-by-case basis for final determination. Commissioner West and Commissioner Yarborough stated these funds are specifically for disaster recovery.

Commissioner West suggested Recommendations #5 and #8 should be eliminated which allows for conversion to pond agricultural use without penalty, which is for getting farmers back up and running. Commissioner West stated we do not want to do anything to jeopardize not using the funds as they are properly meant to be used.

9. FY2016 Commission Programs Annual Reports: A copy of all the reports is attached as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Agriculture Cost Share Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

- Commission allocated over $5M for PY16 ACSP BMP Funding
- Over $2M was appropriated for PY16 for Funding of Technical Assistance
- Highlighted the cumulative ACSP benefits and program accomplishments

9B. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program: Ms. Hedgepeth introduced Mr. Eric Galamb

- Eligible CREP river basins are east of the Yadkin Pee Dee River Basin including the Yadkin
- Map indicates the locations of the projects and the red dots indicate the projects from this past year; the program is 16 years old
- As of September 2016, there are 266 permanent easements totaling 7,683 acres and 905 easements at a 30-year term totaling 18,982 acres
- Approximately 848 stream miles protected through long-term conservation easements

- Easement distribution; no significant change from last year
- Highlighted the total program enrollment at 33,635.1 acres, program effectiveness, marketing initiatives and the total Federal and State expenditures with every State dollar leverages $2.14 Federal

9C. Community Conservation Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill

- PY2016 for CCAP BMP Funding
  - $2.22M requested; an increase of 36%
  - $161,401 in canceled/expired contracts; a decrease of 20%
  - $266,831 in total allocation; a decrease of 13%
- Map of contracts for FY2016
- Highlighted the Program Accomplishments and Cumulative Benefits
  - Numbers in red are BMPs installed in FY2016
  - Numbers in black; no installation in FY2016
- Program is 9 years old

9D. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw

- Commission adopted a Detailed Implementation Plan with four goals
- Highlighted AgWRAP for FY2016 BMP Funding
  - All 84 districts that requested funding received an allocation
  - Map of contracted practices
  - Highlighted the Cumulative Review for BMPs
  - Implement Job Approval Authority Process for BMPs
  - Conduct Training for Districts
- Summary of Current Goals for all Cost Share Programs

Chairman Langdon thanked Ms. Henshaw for her passion and taking care of these programs. Chairman Langdon stated the Commission is sensitive and will move towards a regional allocation process. Mr. Hill thanked the Advisory Committee for their hard work going through the allocation process and providing their recommendations to the Commission. Mr. Hill stated we received positive feedback. The limited funding and the competitive regional process is the way to go with that program. The Division is seeing some potential contracts coming in with the deadline being February 3 for funds to be allocated in March. Mr. Hill added, when grant funds were available, the Division applied and received those funds for projects that had significant impact. By receiving those additional grant funds, it has had significant impact and much success. Chairman Langdon stated the Commission is encouraged that in this new year, the economy appears to be building steam. It may not turn around as fast as possible, but sees it coming in a few years to be more satisfactory.

10. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program:** This item was removed from the agenda and will be presented at the March Commission Meeting.

11. **District Issues:** Commissioner Collier stated the district supervisors are not here and offered a motion to move these issues to be presented at the March Commission Meeting, and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

    11A. Washington County Post Approval:
    11B. Pitt County Post Approval:

Public Comments: Commissioner West shared his thoughts by stating the following, "This meeting marks the end of my serving on the Commission as your President and Past President representative. I have served on this Commission for a total of 9 years. During that time, I have enjoyed the relationship and the friendships that I have developed and I hope that I have served you well. I like to think that I have had some impact on the direction of the Association and Soil and Water, but I know I did not do it alone, we did it as a team. Hopefully, we all had the best interest of the citizens and landowners of N.C. at heart. We did not always agree, but we came away from the meetings with a respect for each other and the opinions that we each had.

I have debated with myself for over a month with what I am about to say, because the irreversible damage of the Commission's November meeting is already done, but I believe I must make the following comments. These comments are my opinion and may or may not be the opinion of anyone else on the Commission.

The Commission is charged with providing guidance and oversight to the local districts concerning the Ag Cost Share Programs and other issues. But that can create a problem. How does the Commission carry out its responsibility of oversight, when the local districts are considered to be autonomous?

That word autonomous was used a lot in the days and weeks before the November meeting. The dictionary describes autonomous as being self-governed, local-led, but the definition goes on to say to a "significant degree" and "under normal conditions." Based on that definition, I believe the Commission cannot turn a blind eye when locally-led districts become disengaged, non-functional, or misled. It is not the job of the Commission to rubber-stamp everything that is presented to them from the districts, it is the Commission's job to do what is in the best interest of all those concerned. The Commission must show support for the actions of those that are doing what they should and enact consequences for those that are doing what they shouldn't!

At our November Commission meeting, this Commission did not exercise the powers given to it under G.S. 139, and it allowed outside influence to send what I believe was the wrong message to the districts, the Association, and the Division. The Commission is tasked with making decisions that are in the best interest of all. I have always tried to treat people like I would like to be treated. I don't believe, we as a Commission did that and we failed miserably in the task of making a decision with integrity and that was in the best interest of all.

The Commission must send a message of support to those districts and supervisors that are doing a good job and a message that the Commission is watching and will step in when there is a need to take action. The Commission should be strong in their oversight of each district so none of them feel they are out there by themselves. The Commission must maintain an untarnished reputation of honesty and fairness or it will lose its effectiveness.

I believe we are living in a world of selfishness, where the good of all is not a priority. This selfishness leads to revenge and inappropriate actions and that is something Soil and Water has never stood for and not something we want to stand for. I feel there was an agenda and possibly there is still an agenda and dirty politics got involved. In November, the Commission got down in the mud and this Commission should be better than that! The Commission cannot allow personal or political agendas to cloud sound decisions. The Commission made a decision that I fear will have a significant impact on the districts and the Association and one that I believe they will regret.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me the opportunity to make my comments."

Commissioner Yarborough responded by stating, he served on many boards and commissions and served on most of those that were politically appointed. Commissioner Yarborough does not understand what the difference was, if we were to assume, since 1938, the districts were to operate on a local level through their own systems. Why as a Commission would we accept that we could politically appoint anyone to that local district unless there was an opportunity for some kind of immorality or illegality. The very fact that we use politics when we need to is such a minor point. It was not politically motivated in Commissioner Yarborough's opinion. As he stated, this is his last meeting, too. This Commission should not be allowed to make appointments, if we have that ability to appoint, we have lost this ability to be the board we are today. Commissioner Yarborough believes this firmly.

Chairman Langdon stated this is an exciting time and sad time. We are losing some very good talent, but we have new people coming in to develop this Commission. The issues have been emotional and the decisions were not easy. Chairman Langdon stated this is Commissioner West's last day, and he will be missed. Chairman Langdon would like to thank Mrs. West and their son for sharing Commissioner West with the Commission and also for standing up and serving as Association President and the sacrifice during that time. The Commission recognizes and appreciated your efforts. Chairman Langdon presented Commissioner West with a plaque.

Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Yarborough and called him his Chief of Staff and will miss his wisdom and advice. Commissioner Yarborough has been good for this state, his district, for Chairman Langdon, and the Commission. Chairman Langdon appreciates his knowledge, passion, and commitment. Chairman Langdon presented Commissioner Yarborough with a plaque.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Patricia K. Harris

Patricia K. Harris
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Helen Wiklund

Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 15, 2017.

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2017

Hilton Charlotte University Place Hotel
Walden Room
8629 JM Keynes Drive
Charlotte, NC 28262

Commission Members	Guests	
Wayne Collier	Pat Harris	John Finch
Chris Hogan	David Williams	Eric Galamb
Charles Hughes	Kelly Hedgepeth	Julie Henshaw via phone
Ben Knox	Natalie Woolard	
Manly West	Helen Wiklund	
Bill Yarborough	Tom Hill	
	Louise Hart	
Commission Counsel	Michelle Lovejoy	
Phillip Reynolds via phone	Bill Hart	
	Eric Pare	

Vice Chairman Ben Knox opened with a prayer and called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Vice Chairman Knox inquired whether any Commission members need to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were declared. Vice Chairman Knox welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. **Approval of Agenda (Item #1):** Vice Chairman Knox asked for approval of the agenda. Director Harris stated Item 11 (District Issues) has been removed, since travel has been suspended by the district due to inclement weather and Item 10 (AgWRAP Regional Application Recommendations) has been removed and will be presented at the March Commission Meeting. At the beginning of the Business Meeting, an announcement will be made regarding the amended agenda.

2. **Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 (Item #8):** Vice Chairman Knox recognized Director Harris. Director Harris discussed Tropical Storms Hermine and Julia and Hurricane Matthew that hit North Carolina as well as the wildfires and the recovery efforts. The flooding damage reported by Hurricane Matthew is at $1.5B for the state. The NC General Assembly called a special session in mid-December and the Legislature will fund in upward of $200M to help people recover from the storm impacts. President Obama declared 49 counties a major disaster for Hurricane Matthew under the Stafford Act Public Law 93-288. The Legislature has allotted

$12.2M to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, which has nearly doubled the Division's budget. A summary of the Recommended Commission Actions for Implementation of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program is attached. A copy of the presentation is included as an official part of the minutes.

3. **District Issues (Item #11):** This item has been removed from the agenda.

   3A. Washington County Post Approval:
   3B. Pitt County Post Approval:

4. **Consent Agenda (Item #7):** Vice Chairman Knox recognized Mr. Eric Pare, Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth, and Ms. Natalie Woolard to discuss items 7A-D.

   4A. Supervisor Appointments:

   - Kevin Mauney, Gaston SWCD, appointed term filling the expired term of Roger Hurst for 2016-2020
   - Jonathan Schwartz, Mecklenburg SWCD, appointed term filling the expired term of Jason Cathey for 2016-2020
   - Carl Briley, Pitt SWCD, elected term filling the unexpired term of Thurston James for 2014-2018 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. James

   4B. Supervisor Contracts:

   - Seven contracts; totaling $67,238

   4C. Job Approval Authority:

   - Five recommendations for four district employees seeking Job Approval Authority and have successfully completed the requirements
     - Mike Dupree, Durham SWCD, for Grassed Swale
     - Heather Dutra, Durham SWCD, for Backyard Rain Garden
     - Jessica Pope, Wake SWCD, for Critical Area Planting
     - Jason Byrd, Rockingham SWCD, for Pond Site Assessment and Water Needs Assessment

   4D. Technical Specialist Designation:

   - David Tucker, District Conservationist, for Nutrient Management
   - Jeremy Roston, Resource Conservationist, for Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management and Wettable Acres

5. **FY2016 Commission Programs Annual Reports (Item #9):**

   5A. Agriculture Cost Share Program: Vice Chairman Knox recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth. Ms. Hedgepeth stated she will present the full annual report at the Business Meeting

this afternoon. The CREP Annual Report is not included in the Commissioner's packets, but it will be presented at the Business Meeting.

5B. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:** Mr. Eric Galamb will present at the Business Meeting this afternoon.

5C. **Community Conservation Assistance Program:** Mr. Tom Hill will present at the Business Meeting this afternoon.

5D. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program:** Ms. Julie Henshaw will present at the Business Meeting this afternoon.

6. **Reading of Statements of Economic Interest Evaluation (Item #2):** Vice Chairman Knox recognized Mr. Phillip Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated the Division received one evaluation and Director Harris has a copy of the letter for Commissioner Hughes. Director Harris will read it into the minutes at the Business Meeting this afternoon.

7. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Item #3):** Vice Chairman Knox asked if there were any comments on the minutes.

   7A. November 16, 2016, Business Session – Commissioner West provided an update to Agenda Item 3 and the minutes will be updated and the Attachments will be added. The minutes will be adopted as corrected.

   7B. November 15, 2016, Work Session – No comments

8. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (Item #10):** This item has been removed from the agenda and will be presented at the March Commission Meeting.

   8A. **Regional Application Recommendations:**

9. **Division Report (Item #4):** Vice Chairman Knox recognized Director Harris. Director Harris stated she will present the Division Report at the Business Meeting this afternoon.

10. **Association Report (Item #5):** Vice Chairman Knox will present the Association Report during the Business Meeting this afternoon.

11. **NRCS Report (Item #6):** NRCS State Conservationist, Tim Beard, will present the NRCS Report during the Business Meeting this afternoon.

Public Comments:

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Patricia K. Harris

Patricia K. Harris
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Helen Wiklund

Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 15, 2017.

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2016

NC State Fairgrounds
Martin Building – Gate 9
1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members		
John Langdon	Natalie Woolard	Michelle Raquet
Wayne Collier	Helen Wiklund	Lisa Fine
Chris Hogan	Ralston James	Tim Beard
Charles Hughes	Tom Hill	Maegan Trimnal
Ben Knox	Kristina Fischer	Ken Parks
Manly West	Sandra Weitzel	Gerda Rhodes
Bill Yarborough	Kelly Hedgepeth	Michael Willis
	Davis Ferguson	Chester Lowder
Commission Counsel	David Harrison	Lynn Whitehurst
Phillip Reynolds	Rob Baldwin	Jason D. Byrd
	Louise Hart	Rodney Wright
Guests	Joey Hester	
Pat Harris	Bryan Evans	
David Williams	Tom Ellis	
Julie Henshaw	Keith Larick	

Chairman John Langdon opened the meeting with prayer and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were declared. Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon discussed the changes on the agenda. Commissioner West moved to pull from the Consent Agenda Item 8A, Martin District Supervisor appointment, and Item 9Bv #8, Martin District Supervisor appointment, and to consider the two Martin District appointments as a separate Item 9E. Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion. Chairman Langdon called for discussion. Commissioner West stated the Commission needed to discuss the appointment of the Martin supervisor appointments issue separately. With Chairman Langdon's approval, Commissioner West read out loud a letter he had received from Franklin Williams, NACD Board Member, earlier in the day. Commissioner West also read out loud his personal statement since he believed he was misquoted at the monthly Martin County Board Meeting. Both letters were made official part of the minutes and are attached as Item 1A. Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Lynn Whitehurst, Martin SWCD district technician to give his perspective of the appointment situation in Martin County. According to Mr. Whitehurst, the

Martin Board has made its wishes known to the Commission, complied with the statutes and believed the Commission would fully institute their decision. The Martin Board thought the two individuals interviewed by Martin Supervisor Jeff Harris would serve well on the Board. The item was on the Martin District August 2016 agenda for discussion, but Mr. Whitehurst does not know if Supervisor Harris was ever notified. Supervisor Harris was out of town at the time of the Board Meeting. Commissioner West stated no Martin District supervisor is in attendance to address the recommendation to not reappoint Supervisor Harris. Commissioner West stated only two votes were tallied during the Board Meeting. According to Mr. Whitehurst there was a quorum, by a majority, since there were three members in attendance and one board member had resigned. Motion failed.

Commissioner Knox moved to approve the original agenda as provided, and Commissioner Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2. **Reading of Statements of Economic Interests Evaluations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Phillip Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated the Division had received two evaluations, dated October 26, 2016, from the NC State Ethics Commission, one for Chairman Langdon and one for Commissioner Knox. By statute, portions of the letters must be read into the minutes and available for inspection upon request.

   For the October 26, 2016 Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. John M. Langdon for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

   Our office is in receipt of Mr. John M. Langdon's 2015 Statement of Economic Interest and 2016 No Change Form as an appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission ("the Commission"). We have reviewed them for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act.

   We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.

   The State Government Ethics Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, including conflict of interest standards. N.C.G.S. §138A-31 prohibits public servants from using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of a member of their extended family or a business with which they are associated. N.C.G.S. §138A-36(a) prohibits public servants from participating in certain official actions from which the public servant, his or her client(s), a member of the public servant's extended family, or a business or non-profit with which the public servant or a member of the public servant's immediate family is associated may receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit.

   Mr. Langdon fills the role of a Member at Large on the Commission. He is the Chairman of the Johnston County Soil and Water District and self-employed as a farmer. As such, he has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving his district or farm come before the Commission.

   Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 138A-15(c), when an actual or potential conflict of interest is cited by the Commission under N.C.G.S. 138A-24(e) with regard to a public servant sitting on a board, the conflict shall be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and duly brought to the attention of the membership by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the State Government Ethics Act.

For the October 26, 2016 Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. John B. Knox for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

> *Our office is in receipt of Mr. John B. Knox's 2016 Statement of Economic Interest as an appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission ("the Commission"). We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act.*
>
> *We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.*
>
> *The State Government Ethics Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, including conflict of interest standards. N.C.G.S. §138A-31 prohibits public servants from using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of a member of their extended family or a business with which they are associated. N.C.G.S. §138A-36(a) prohibits public servants from participating in certain official actions from which the public servant, his or her client(s), a member of the public servant's extended family, or a business or non-profit with which the public servant or a member of the public servant's immediate family is associated may receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit.*
>
> *Mr. Knox fills the role of President of the Association of the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts on the Commission. He disclosed that he is employed as a Senior Agronomist with Soil & Plant Technology and that he receives income from Quick Sol NC LLC, a soil amendment company. He also disclosed he has an interest in Knox Grain Farms. As such, he has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving Soil & Plant Technology, Quick Sol NC LLC, or Knox Grain Farms come before the Commission for official action.*
>
> *Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 138A-15(c), when an actual or potential conflict of interest is cited by the Commission under N.C.G.S. 138A-24(e) with regard to a public servant sitting on a board, the conflict shall be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and duly brought to the attention of the membership by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the State Government Ethics Act.*

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked if there were any comments on the minutes. No comments.

   3A. September 21, 2016, Business Session: Commissioner Collier moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

   3B. September 20, 2016, Work Session: Commissioner Hogan moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Knox seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Harris to present item 4. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

   - Introduced Maegan Trimnal, Administrative Officer for DSWC, and discussed the DSWC vacancies

- Reviewed Hurricane Matthew and the impact and recovery efforts in the eastern counties
    - Director Harris participated on the AgEOC (Agriculture Emergency Operations Center) and fielded over 180 calls

5. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knox to present item 5. Commissioner Knox, President of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, presented the report. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- Association will mail letters to Congress to encourage funding for EWP and ECP
- Introduced Mr. Bryan Evans, the new Executive Director for the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- An announcement, at the Annual Meeting, will be made to present two Association candidates for 2nd Vice President and two Commission candidates
    - Brian Harwell, Association candidate, Iredell SWCD, Area 8
    - Miles Payne, Association candidate, Alexander SWCD, Area 2
    - Tommy Houser, Commission candidate, Lincoln SWCD, Area 8
    - Michael Willis, Commission candidate, Caldwell SWCD, Area 2
- Finance Committee is hard at work and has hired an accounting firm
- Recognized Julie Groce, former Executive Director
    - Commissioner Knox was pleased to work with her and sad to see her go
    - Julie created a better web site that is user friendly
    - Association has a lot to thank her for—she did an outstanding job
- Mr. Bryan Evans is excited to work with the Commission and the Association and carry the Association forward after 30 years of service with Pitt County
- Chairman Langdon is looking forward to working with Mr. Evans

6. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard, State Conservationist, to present item 6. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- Summarized EQIP for FY2016 and FY2017 EQIP with sign-up ending November 18, 2016
- Seven employees received training across the state in the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which is the largest conservation program in the U.S.
- NRCS has semi-imposed a hiring freeze, if it requires relocation
- Announced upcoming EQIP roll-out training and Toolkit training
- NRCS employees have worked with the districts hit by Hurricane Matthew
    - NRCS is working to get sponsors, since NRCS has no ECP funds available, but NRCS will provide Technical Assistance
- National Office in Washington inquired about policy waivers for EWP
- National Office inquired about the drought situation in the western counties
    - NRCS will dedicate their EQIP funds for the drought to the western counties
    - NRCS will ask the National Office for additional funding for the drought

7. **Nutrient Sensitive Waters Annual Agriculture Progress Reports (Item 7):** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joey Hester to present item 7. Mr. Hester presented a report describing the 2016 Annual Progress Report for Crop Year 2015 regarding agriculture's ongoing collective compliance affecting the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins and the Jordan Lake and Falls Lake Watersheds. His report also included a summary of Nitrogen Loss Reduction, BMP Implementation, Nutrient-Reducing BMPs, Fertilization Management, Cropping Changes,

Nutrient Trading, and the loss of funding. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer, Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth, and Ms. Natalie Woolard discussed items 8A-C.

Commissioner Collier moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Knox seconded the motion. Commissioner West stated again the Commission is making a mistake as the Consent Agenda currently stands. Motion carried with four in favor and two opposed.

8A. Supervisor Appointments for Unexpired Terms:

- Stephen C. Lilley, Jr., Martin SWCD, for the appointed term filling the unexpired term of Eugene W. Mellette for 2014-2018
- William Y. Comninaki, Richmond SWCD, filling the unexpired term of Pat D. Dial for 2014-2018
- William Thompson, Richmond SWCD, filling the unexpired term of Jared Gainey for 2014-2018
- Edward B. Staton, Union SWCD, filling the unexpired term of R. Scott Baucom for 2014-2018

8B. Supervisor Contracts:

- Eight contracts; totaling $36,764

8C. Job Approval Authority:

- Scott Melvin, DSWC employee, requested to obtain JAA for Pond Site Assessment and Water Needs Assessment

Chairman Langdon announced a break at 11:09 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:23 a.m.

9. **Supervisor Appointment & Reappointments (Item #9):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present items 9A-D.

9A. Conditional Reappointment from November 2015 (Information Item): Ms. Fischer discussed item 9A and presented an update regarding Chatham SWCD Supervisor Edward McLaurin. Mr. McLaurin's attendance has been monitored for the past year, and he has achieved two-thirds attendance at local board meetings during the monitored time period. Mr. McLaurin's status has changed from conditional to fully appointed for the remainder of this term.

9B. Appointments & Reappoints for 2016-2010 Terms: Ms. Fischer discussed the following:

9Bi. Recommendations for reappointments where training and attendance criteria have been met

Commissioner Collier moved to approve the reappointments and Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ms. Fischer added that Mecklenburg and Edgecombe Counties have not submitted recommendations for reappointment. For Mecklenburg, it is their intention that Mr. Jason Lee Cathey's seat will go vacant on December 5, 2016 and the Commission will be presented with a recommendation at a future Commission Meeting. For Edgecombe, they have had staffing changes, and it is their intention to reappoint Mr. Joseph Suggs. Edgecombe's Board will meet tomorrow on November 17, 2016 and expects to nominate Mr. Suggs for reappointment, but without Commission action, the seat will go vacant on December 5, 2016.

Commissioner Knox moved to reappoint Edgecombe County Supervisor, Joseph Suggs, and Commissioner Yarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9Bii. Recommendations for reappointments where nominee has not attended SOG training – Jones and Richmond districts

- Mike Haddock, Jones SWCD
- Jim Chandler, Richmond SWCD

Commissioner Collier moved to approve the reappointments, conditioned upon their attendance at 2017 SOG. If the Division confirms their participation, they will be fully appointed. If these supervisors do not meet the condition, the recommendations for reappointment will be discussed at the March Commission Meeting. Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9Biii. Recommendations for reappointments where nominee has not attended 2/3 of regularly scheduled district board meetings – Forsyth and Vance districts

- Edward C. Wall, Forsyth SWCD; attended 23 out of 42 meetings; 54.76%
- J. G. Clayton, Vance SWCD; attended 21 out of 37 meetings; 56.76%

Commissioner Knox moved to approve the reappointments, conditioned upon their improved attendance from December 2016 – November 2017. If they meet the increased attendance requirements, they will be considered fully appointed through December 2020. If either individual does not attend at least 2/3 of the meetings, they will be brought back to the Commission no later than November 2017. Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The Division will prepare correspondence to these individuals based on the conditions of the reappointments.

9Biv. Recommendations for appointment where training requirement has been met – Alexander, Jackson, and Union districts

- Miles Payne, Alexander SWCD, elected seat
- Nikki Young, Jackson SWCD, appointed seat
- Allan Baucom, Union SWCD, elected seat

Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve the reappointments of these individuals without the training conditions, and Commissioner Collier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9Bv. Recommendations for new appointments with training conditions – for appointments for 2016-2020 terms - ten local SWCD

Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve the appointments, conditioned upon their attendance at 2017 SOG. Commissioner Collier seconded the motion and the motion carried with four in favor and two opposed.

The Division will prepare correspondence to these individuals based on the conditions of their appointments.

9C. Alexander Appointment for Unexpired Term: Ms. Fischer discussed item 9C and presented the Recommendation for Appointment of Alexander Supervisor Kathy Bunton to fill the unexpired term of Myles Payne for an appointed position. The district requests that Ms. Bunton's term begins the first Monday in December in 2016.

Commissioner Knox moved to approve the appointment of Supervisor Kathy Bunton and Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9D. Election Report for 2016-2020 Terms: Ms. Fischer handed out the preliminary Election Report results from November 8, 2016, for local Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors. For Randolph SWCD, the race was too close to call. In two districts, Avery and Washington SWCDs, no candidates filed.

After much discussion about Supervisor Appointments and Reappointments, Chairman Langdon stated it is your responsibility as supervisors to be fair and honest and not bring shame to your district, yourself, the Association, the Commission.

10. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Rule Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams. Mr. Williams discussed the Revisions for CREP Rule Re-adoption with changes for Rule 02 NCAC 59F.0106 Noncompliance with CREP Agreement. This Rule was identified with substantive interest and the Commission adopted it with changes at the July meeting. The changes were published in the State Register and received comments during the public comment period asking for clarification if the Rule addressed issues with a particular practice or compliance with the conservation agreement for CREP. The language for final adoption will go to the Rules Review Commission to correct the noncompliance with the CREP agreement.

Commissioner Hogan moved to approve the Rule Revisions, and Commissioner West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

11. **Cost Share Rules – Final Agency Determination:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. Ms. Henshaw presented G.S. 150B-21.3A Report for 02 NCAC 59D for ACSP with no public comments received and G.S. 150B-21.3A Report for 02 NCAC 59H for CCAP with no public comments received. The Commission determined the Rules were necessary with substantive public interest for all the Rules. The Commission needs to approve the final agency determination to classify all the Rules as necessary with substantive public interest.

Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve the classification, and Commissioner Hughes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

12. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present item 12.

12A. Regional Application Recommendations: Ms. Henshaw discussed item 12A and presented a list of 18 regional applications from ten counties. She recommended approval of these applications using AgWRAP and TVA funds.

Commissioner Collier moved to approve the Regional Application Recommendations, and Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13. Community Conservation Assistance Program (Item 13): Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present items 13A and 13B.

13A. FY2017 Detailed Implementation Plan: The changes to the CCAP rules became effective November 1, 2016. The recommended Plan gives the Commission the flexibility to allocate funds for three separate purposes: BMP Implementation, Technical and Administrative Assistance, and Education and Outreach. The allocations for each purpose can go to districts, regions, or statewide.

For Fiscal Year 2017, the recommendation is to allocate funds for BMP Implementation at the regional level, with $10,000 allocated to the statewide level for supplement contracts. The Commission has already allocated some funds for technical assistance at the district level for New Hanover and Dare SWCDs.

Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve the Plan and Commissioner West seconded the motion. Motion carried.

13B. FY2017 Average Cost List: Mr. Hill discussed the CCAP Average Cost List. It has remained the same from the FY2016 Average Cost List with one major exception that the suggestion from the Advisory Committee to begin funding of engineering practices for a cap of $5,000 for professional engineering costs. This $5,000 was recommended to be within the $15,000 cap. The $5,000 is necessary to get the projects on the ground.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the FY2017 Average Cost List, and Commissioner Knox seconded the motion. Motion carried.

14. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth. Ms. Hedgepeth introduced a letter written by Ty Fleming, Tyrrell SWCD Technician, acting on behalf of Washington County SWCD. Ms. Hedgepeth stated the contract amount is $1,836 and these were Ag Input Management (AIM) funds. Ms. Hedgepeth also introduced Ms. Gerda Rhodes, Board Chair of Washington County SWCD. Ms. Rhodes shared a letter with the Commission regarding the post approval contract. The Board approved the contract in December 2015 by e-mail with the technician calling each board member to discuss the issue, since the Board does not meet in person in December. Washington SWCD was awaiting Division approval, when the technician became ill. The contract slipped through the cracks, and the producer was led to believe he could install the structures. Mr. Reynolds questioned Ms. Rhodes about each board member being contacted through e-mail. The Board took action by a round-robin vote without notice to the public in approving a contract. Mr. Reynolds advised Ms. Rhodes to read the Open Meeting Law. The Board action would not be compliant with the Open Meetings Law. The Commission cannot approve a contract that is not properly approved by the local board.

Commissioner Yarborough suggested to postpone this issue so the Board can approve it properly in December and bring it forward to the Commission at the January Meeting. No action was taken.

15. **Supervisor Training Committee Interim Report & Recommendations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Vice Chairman Knox to present item 15. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Knox and Deputy Director David Williams reported on the Committee's progress, as follows:

- Goal is to establish a training program for all district supervisors
- Reviewed avenues for training, potential training topics, and proposed draft timeline
- Discussed the next steps
- Presented feedback received from supervisors at the 7 area meetings that preceded the Commission meeting.
    - Supervisors prefer to receive training at local board meetings and area and state meetings.
    - Most supervisors indicated that it would not be difficult to obtain 6 hours/year of training
    - Time for training is the biggest obstacle to obtain credits
- Supervisor Training Committee requesting Commission's conceptual approval
- Area 2 has a resolution with regards to supervisor training—hours are not assigned yet
    - Hours for spot check, annual meeting, spring/fall meetings, UNC-SOG
- System needs to track the training (mandatory vs. non-mandatory training)

Commissioner Knox moved to approve the Supervisor Training Committee's Recommendations and Commissioner Hogan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon called Mr. Whitehurst to the podium and thanked Mr. Whitehurst for coming to Raleigh. Chairman Langdon stated he is not personally holding Mr. Whitehurst responsible for the actions of the Martin County Board; it is about business and doing what is right. Chairman Langdon would like the Martin County Board to be mindful of and improve their communication skills and behave in a healthy way. Chairman Langdon added the Commission's intentions are to help all the districts be successful and not pick on one but strengthen each community and each district.

Chairman Langdon asked each Commissioner where they traveled from to attend the Work Session and Business Meeting. Chairman Langdon appreciates the sacrifices the Commissioners face and all that the members do to take care of business.

Public Comments: Commissioner Knox with Supervisor Mike Willis presented a plaque to Commissioner Yarborough in appreciation for six years of exemplary service and representation on the NCSWCC presented by Area 2 of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – October 25, 2016.

Commissioner West made a comment that the districts watch what the Commission does and hopes the Commission has not sent a message to the districts that hard work, long hours, and money spent is for naught. Commissioner West added, "I hope we have not thrown the baby out with the bath water. Everyone has opinions which makes us a more rounded Commission."

Commissioner Yarborough added the Commission has the right to appoint anyone as a resident of that county and that message must go out to the districts.

Adjournment: Chairman Langdon declared the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Patricia K. Harris, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on January 8, 2017.

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
COMMISSION WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2016

NC State Fairgrounds
Martin Building – Gate 9
1025 Blue Ridge Road, Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members		
John Langdon	Julie Henshaw	Bryan Evans
Wayne Collier	Natalie Woolard	Michelle Lovejoy
Chris Hogan	Helen Wiklund	Tom Ellis
Charles Hughes	Ralston James	Richard Reich
Ben Knox	Ken Parks	
Manly West	Tom Hill	
Bill Yarborough via phone	Kristina Fischer	
	Lisa Fine	
Commission Counsel	Kelly Hedgepeth	
Phillip Reynolds	David Harrison	
	Davis Ferguson	
Guests	Rob Baldwin	
Pat Harris	Eric Galamb	
David Williams	Jeff Harris	

Chairman John Langdon opened with prayer and called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. None were declared. Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (Item #12):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present.

1A. Regional Application Recommendations: Ms. Henshaw discussed item 12A and presented the AgWRAP Regional Application Recommendations. The Division's Internal Review Team discussed the applications and suggested to move forward with the recommendations. These applications were also reviewed with the AgWRAP Review Committee and concurred with the recommendations. The Division is also asking for funding of six ponds and to use the TVA AgWRAP funds, since contracts in 2014 were canceled. It would allow us to pick up these projects and use the TVA funds.

2. **Supervisor Appointment & Reappointments (Item #9):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present items 9A-D.

2A. Conditional Reappointment from November 2015 (Item 9A): Ms. Fischer discussed item 9A and presented an update regarding Chatham SWCD Supervisor Edward McLaurin. Supervisor McLaurin's attendance has been monitored for the past year, and he has achieved two-thirds attendance at local board meetings during the monitored time period since December 2015. His appointment has changed from conditional to fully appointed.

2B. Appointments & Reappointments for 2016-2020 Terms (Item 9B): Ms. Fischer discussed the following:

i. Recommendations for reappointments where training and attendance criteria have been met

- Seventy-seven nominees for reappointment; all are at or above the 2/3 attendance mark
- Mecklenburg SWCD seat will go vacant
- Edgecombe's Board will meet Thursday night to request the reappointment of Supervisor Mr. Joseph A. Suggs

ii. Recommendations for reappointments where nominee has not attended training (conditional appointment)

- Jones SWCD Supervisor Mr. Mike Haddock has attended 100% of the meetings but not School of Government (SOG)
- Richmond SWCD Supervisor Mr. Jim Chandler has attended 100% of the meetings but not School of Government (SOG)

iii. Recommendations for reappointments where nominee has not attended 2/3 of regularly scheduled district board meetings (conditional appointment)

- Forsyth SWCD Supervisor Mr. Edward C. Wall
- Vance SWCD Supervisor Mr. J. G. Clayton

iv. Recommendations for appointment where training requirement has been met

- Alexander SWCD Supervisor Mr. Myles Payne
- Jackson SWCD Supervisor Ms. Nikki Young
- Union SWCD Supervisor Allan Baucom

v. Recommendations for new appointments with training conditions (conditional upon attending training in February 2017)

- Ten recommendations for appointment for 2016-2020 term

- Commissioner West recommends to remove the Martin SWCD appointment from Item 9Bv so it can be discussed and acted upon separately at the Business Meeting tomorrow
- Commissioner West recommends to remove Item 8A from the Consent Agenda so it can be acted upon separately at the Business Meeting tomorrow

2C. Alexander Appointment for Unexpired Term (Item 9C): Ms. Fischer discussed item 9C and presented the Recommendation for Appointment of Supervisor Kathy Bunton to fill the unexpired term of Myles Payne.

Commissioner Knox recommends we approve Mr. Payne as a candidate for second Vice President. His recommendation is in Item 9Biv, which is an appointed position.

2D. Election Report for 2016-2020 Terms (Item 9D): Ms. Fischer handed out preliminary election results.

Chairman Langdon suggested the Commission discuss Item 9Bv and share their thoughts at this time.

Commissioner West opened the discussion with regards to the letter in Item 8A from the Martin SWCD Chairman Richard D. Cannon. Commissioner West wanted to clear up a comment that has him quoted as saying, "you do know the Commission has the final decision on this matter." Commissioner West did not write down his thought prior to speaking at the Martin Board Meeting on August 1, 2016, and he did not know he was going to be quoted. The quote sounds like a threat and Commissioner West's intent was not threatening. Commissioner West was asked to speak on behalf of Martin Supervisor Jeff Harris and reconsider the Board's decision with regards to filling Mr. Harris's expiring seat on December 5, 2016. Commissioner West did not betray the Commission. He went as a district supervisor not a Commissioner to the meeting. Commissioner West stated this is not his character.

Chairman Langdon stated we need to be fair to ourselves, the Commission, to Martin County, the candidates, and to Mr. Jeff Harris, which is a challenge.

The Commission Members continued the open discussion with many opinions and concerns about Martin District's recommended appointment to the expiring Jeff Harris seat.

Commissioner West asked, if the Commission can reappoint Mr. Harris into his current position, send these two nominations back to the district, and ask Martin County for their recommendations on these two candidates for the unexpired term? Mr. Reynolds stated under G.S. 139-7, the Commission does have the authority to appoint a supervisor and there are two different situations in the Statute.

Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Harris to comment. Mr. Harris stated the letter from Martin County is not correct.

According to Mr. Harris, it was agreed that Mr. Harris and a local district technician would interview three candidates. Mr. Harris notified Chairman Cannon and stated he ruled out one candidate and gave a first and second choice recommendation to Chairman Cannon. Mr. Harris was not afforded the opportunity for re-election. Mr. Harris has asked for an explanation why he was not nominated for reappointment to the Board, and the Martin District Board refused to give a reason.

Chairman Langdon announced a break at 7:47 p.m., reconvening at 7:56 p.m.

3. **Supervisor Training Committee Interim Report & Recommendations (Item 15):** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knox and Deputy Director Williams to present item 15. Mr. Williams stated the updated handouts provided, at the beginning of the meeting include information that has been collected from the districts at the Area Meetings, since three meetings had not occurred at the time of the mailing. Seven out of eight Area Meetings have taken place now. Commissioner Knox stated all the feedback has been good. The Committee is requesting action from the Commission to give it direction to move forward with the programming aspects for the tracking database.

4. **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Rule Revisions (Item 10):** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams. Mr. Williams discussed the re-adoption with changes for Rule 02 NCAC 59F.0106 Noncompliance with CREP Agreement. The public comment period has closed, and we received one comment with regards to clarification on the intent on non-compliance on specific compliance or the easement so we added clarity to the rule. One item that is not a comment is the intent of the rule based on the title is not a Dispute Resolution. The intent is to express the intent of the Commission for compliance, which is the objective. We recommend these changes to be approved and go to the Rules Review Commission for approval.

5. **Cost Share Rules – Final Agency Determination (Item 11):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. Ms. Henshaw presented G.S. 150B-21.3A Report for 02 NCAC 59D for ACSP with no public comments received and G.S. 150B-21.3A Report for 02 NCAC 59H for CCAP with no public comments received. We are on track with no changes to classify the rules as necessary with substantive public interest.

6. **Community Conservation Assistance Program (Item 13):** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present items 13A & B.

6A. FY2017 Detailed Implementation Plan (Item 13A): Mr. Hill presented the recommendation to allocate resources through three purposes: BMP Implementation, Technical and Administrative Assistance, and Education and Outreach. The allocations for each purpose can go to districts, regions, or statewide.

For Fiscal Year 2017, the recommendation is to allocate funds for BMP Implementation at the regional level, with $10,000 allocated to the statewide level for supplement contracts. The Commission has already allocated $25,320 for technical assistance at the district level for New Hanover and Dare SWCDs.

6B. FY2017 Average Cost List (Item 13B): Mr. Hill stated there are no changes in the cost of the BMPs but there is a request for funding of engineering practices similar to AgWRAP with a Cost Share Cap of $5,000. The recommendation is to maintain the $15,000 cap.

7. **District Issues (Item 14):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present item 14A. Ms. Hedgepeth introduced a letter written by Tyrrell SWCD technician, Ty Fleming, acting on behalf of Washington County SWCD. Ms. Hedgepeth will provide a copy of the letter from

Ms. Gerda Rhodes, Board Chair of Washington SWCD, to the Commission tomorrow. The letter from Mr. Fleming does not state why Washington SWCD is asking for post contract approval for water control structures. The letter from Ms. Rhodes states, the Washington SWCD technician failed to follow through with proper communication with the producer to explain that work could not be done until it was approved by the Commission. The contract value is $1,836.

8. **Consent Agenda (Item 8):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer, Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth, and Ms. Natalie Woolard discussed items 8A-C.

8A. Supervisor Appointments for Unexpired Terms:

- Stephen C. Lilley, Jr., Martin SWCD, appointed term filling the unexpired term of Eugene W. Mellette for 2014-2018
- William Y. Comninaki, Richmond SWCD, appointed term filling the unexpired term of Pat D. Dial for 2014-2018
- William Thompson, Richmond SWCD, elected seat filling the unexpired term of Jared Gainey for 2014-2018
- Edward B. Staton, Union SWCD, elected seat filling the unexpired term of R. Scott Baucom for 2014-2018

8B. Supervisor Contracts:

- Eight contracts; totaling $36,764 (see blue sheet)

8C. Job Approval Authority:

- Scott Melvin, DSWC employee, requested to obtain JAA for Pond Site Assessment and Water Needs Assessment. He has demonstrated technical proficiency.

9. **Nutrient Sensitive Waters Annual Agriculture Progress Reports (Item 7):** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present for Mr. Joey Hester. Ms. Henshaw listed watersheds that have nutrient sensitive waters designation. Agriculture is meeting or exceeding all of our targets at this time.

10. **Reading of Statements of Economic Interests Evaluations (Item 2):** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Phillip Reynolds. He will read the evaluation reports from the State Ethics Commission tomorrow.

11. **Approval of Meeting Minutes (Item 3):** Chairman Langdon asked if there were any comments on the minutes. No comments.

11A. September 21, 2016, Business Session
11B. September 20, 2016, Work Session

12. **Division Report (Item 4):** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Harris to present item 4.

- JAA removals from the database

- Conservation Action Team (CAT) regarding conservation planning and Job Approval Authority (JAA)
- Rules 59E and 59G received many comments and will provide a set of recommendations at the January Commission Meeting
- Hurricane Matthew
    - Surveyed districts in the FEMA impact areas for practices not covered under the Emergency Watershed Program

Chairman Langdon asked Director Harris to comment on the Commission's letters sent to the Congressional leaders in October. Director Harris stated letters were sent in support of EWPP and there is more effort going on to get that support with our Congressional delegation. Tim Beard, from NRCS, will be in attendance tomorrow and can discuss the report. Mr. Beard is working on the EWPP side.

13. **Association Report (Item 5):** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knox to present item 5. Commissioner Knox, President of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, will present the report tomorrow.

14. **NRCS Report (Item 6):** NRCS State Conservationist, Tim Beard, will be in attendance tomorrow to present the report.

15. **Approval of Agenda (Item 1):** Chairman Langdon stated the agenda will be approved at the Business Meeting tomorrow. Mr. Reynolds stated to remove any individual item at that time, since the agenda is being reset.

Public Comments:

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Patricia K. Harris

Patricia K. Harris
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Helen Wiklund

Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on January 8, 2017

ATTACHMENT 4

North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission

DIVISION REPORT

January 8, 2017

ATTACHMENT 4

Division Vacancies

- CREP Environmental Specialist –
- Eastern engineer position vacant effective June 24 – 5th posting
- Western survey position -

DIVISION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

NORTH CAROLINA

ATTACHMENT 4

Division of Soil & Water Conservation – Length of Service

- xxxx

ATTACHMENT 4

North Carolina is currently free from HPAI

CURRENT STATUS

North Carolina is free from HPAI

The U.S. is free from HPAI

BIOSECURITY LEVEL

All N.C. poultry farms should be following STRICT biosecurity protocols

ATTACHMENT 4

Non Point Source Section Update

- Program Reviews:
  - 7 program reviews finalized since May 2016 update
  - Forsyth, Alleghany, Davie, Union, Madison, Hyde and Davidson
- 2014 Extensions
  - Since the July commission meeting, 3 extensions have been paid out

  (Cherokee, Randolph and Moore County ponds)
  - 4 AgWRAP pond extensions along with 12 other extensions remain
  - NPS staff will continue to monitor

Commission JAA Removals

(individuals who are no longer employed as district employees)

- Mike Bennett - Retired
- Linda Birdsong - Retired
- Anthony Hester - NRCS
- Kevin Moore - Retired
- Shaun Moore
- Bryon McMurray
- Vonnie Wescott
- Larry Williams

CET

CONSERVATION
Employee Training

2016 Conservation Employee Training
August 22-25
Asheville, NC

Attendance Numbers

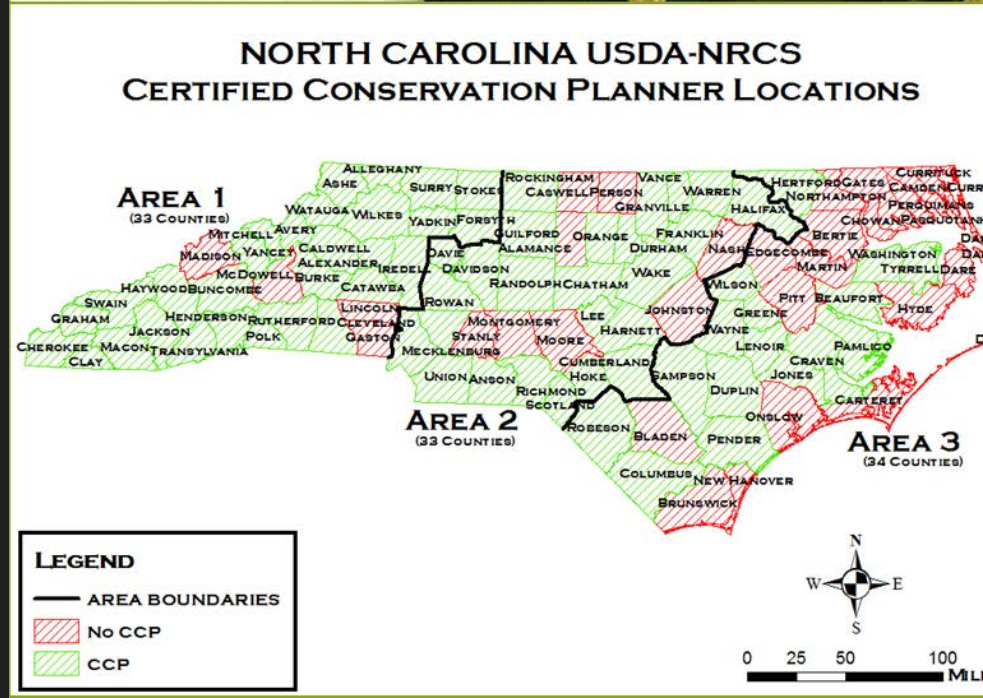
(*based on registrations*)

- 149 district employees
- 15 division employees
- 13 NRCS employees
- 1 partner

ATTACHMENT 4

Conservation Action Team (CAT)

- Mission: to address challenges and establish a consistent process for all partnership staff to obtain Job Approval Authority (JAA) and become Certified Conservation Planners (CCP) in order to improve delivery of technical services at field level
- Membership – Key supervisors and leadership from NRCS, DSWC, NCASWCD and DEA
- Challenges continue in areas of training, JAA & CCP tracking and coordination, transparent and clear process, opportunities to gain experience, etc.
- Listening Sessions – Dec.-Jan.; 6 sessions
  - NRCS Area 2 – Jan. 17 and 25



ATTACHMENT 4

NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER

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Subchapter 59H

Community Conservation Assistance Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution

- Commission approved proposed changes at its May 17, 2016 meeting
- Allows the Commission to specify the proportion of funds allocated to district, regional and statewide pools through its annual Detailed Implementation Plan
- Rules Review Commission approved final changes with some technical corrections on Oct. 20, 2016

ATTACHMENT 4

NORTH CAROLINA REGISTER

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Subchapter 59E

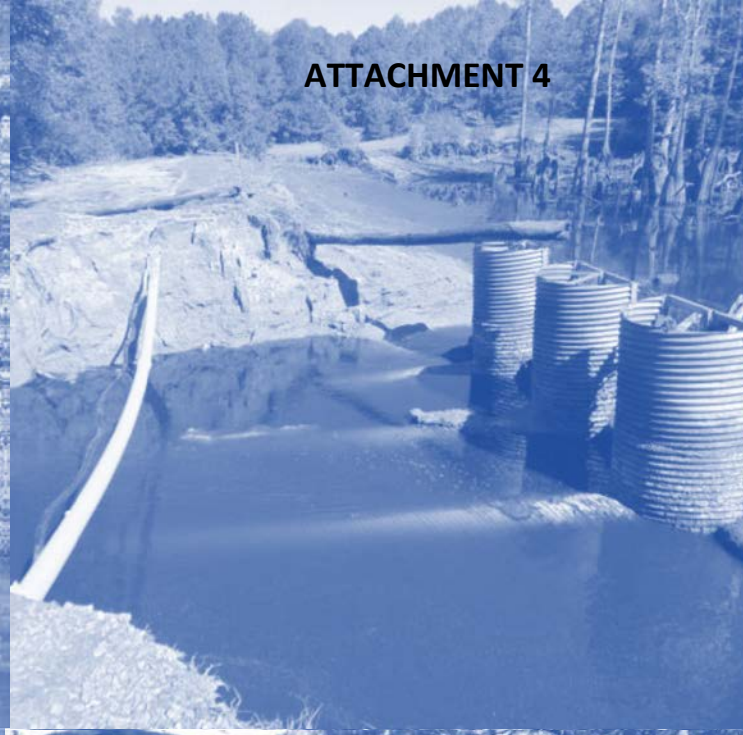
Procedures & Guidelines to Implement Nondischarge Rule for Animal Waste Management Systems

Subchapter 59G

Approval of Technical Specialists & BMPs for Water Quality Protection

- Commission approved proposed changes at its July 20, 2016 meeting
- 60 day public comment ended Oct. 31, 2016
- Dept. received numerous comments
- Formed a committee of pertinent agencies who assist with implementation of these rules for feedback to the comments
- Anticipate summary and recommended rule revisions to be presented at Jan. 8, 2017 meeting

ATTACHMENT 4



ATTACHMENT 4

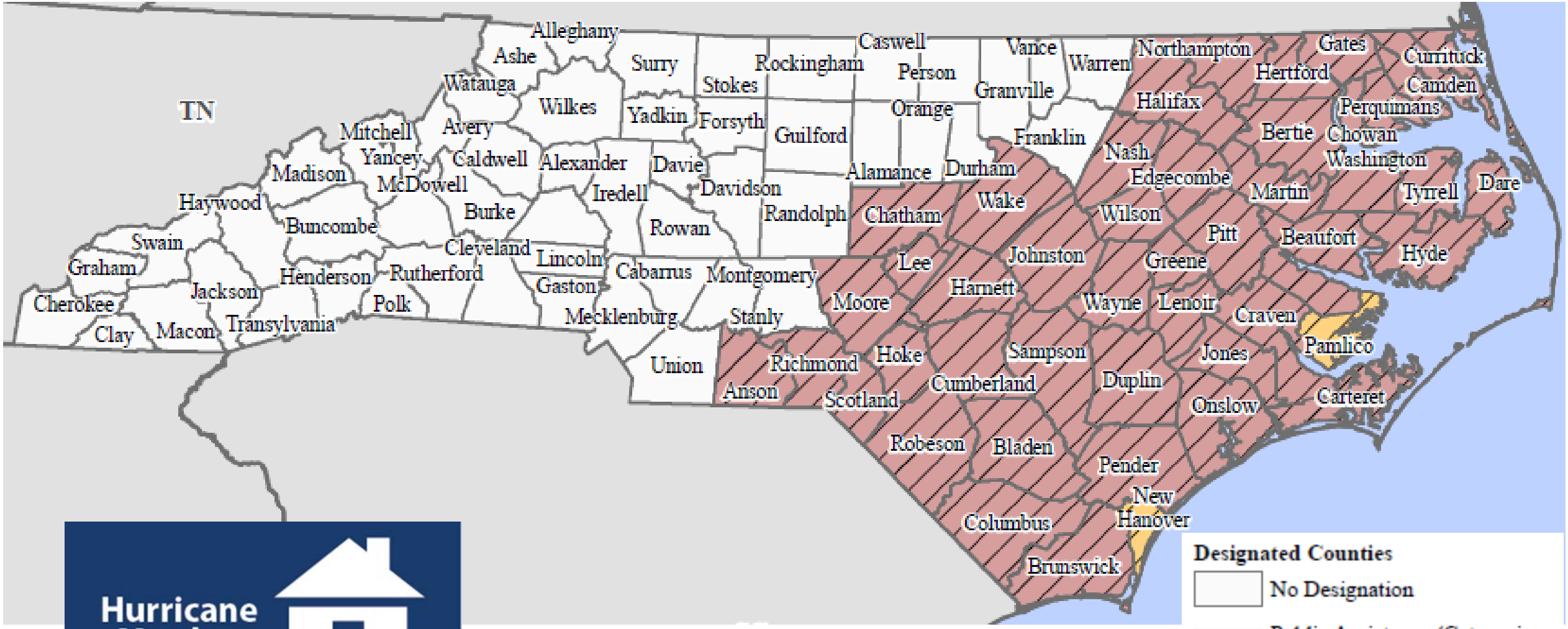
SL 2016 – Disaster Recovery Act of 2016

- Not intended to make individuals whole after a loss….intended to assist the affected areas in recovering from damage caused by Hurricane Matthew, the western fires, and Tropical Storms Julia and Hermine
- $12,200,000 to DSWC for
  - stream debris removal
  - non-field farm road repairs
  - AgWRAP supplemental funding to support disaster-related farm pond and dam repairs
- Funds do not revert….until the General Assembly directs reversion of unexpended funds
- Monthly reporting requirements
- Additional limitation – funds expended does not adversely affect a person or entity's eligibility for federal funds; avoid using State funds to cover costs that will/likely be covered by federal funds

ATTACHMENT 4

FEMA-4285-DR, North Carolina Disaster Declaration as of 11/04/2016

FEMA



Hurricane Matthew Recovery

Financial Needs Assessment For Watershed Damage Caused by Hurricane Matthew

- Surveyed districts in FEMA public assistance eligible counties; Nov. 9-10
- Requested estimates for watershed recovery measures that may not be eligible for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) because the impairment does not pose an immediate threat to life or property
- Cost estimate for the following:
  a) remove debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges;
  b) reshape and protect eroded banks;
  c) correct damaged drainage facilities;
  d) establish cover on critically eroding lands;
  e) repair conservation practices; and
  f) repair/replace “other” watershed infrastructure projects/structures

Financial Needs Assessment For Watershed Damage Caused by Hurricane Matthew

28 out of 47 FEMA public assistance eligible counties, through local soil and water conservation districts, provided watershed recovery measures estimates at *$27,357,568*

Association Report to the Commission

January 8, 2017

2017 Annual Meeting – Charlotte

This year's meeting agenda is packed with great speakers and opportunities for District Supervisors to gather valuable information concerning conservation and strengthening their Districts. As the election season has ended, there will be new faces this year and the Association encourages prior attendees to offer assistance to these first timers.

The Vendor spaces are full again this year. We will have our loyal sponsors in the exhibit hall. Please take time to go by and visit with our vendors. The Association thanks the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for assisting with this part of the meeting.

Standing Committees

The Association standing committees met on December 7 at the NC Farm Bureau office in Raleigh, NC. The meeting was well attended and the committees worked on their Policies, Positions, and Action Items for the 2017 Annual Meeting.

2017 Gator Raffle

The Gator Raffle will continue through the Annual Meeting and the Gator will be on display at the meeting. Ticket sales will continue until the official drawing, which will be held at that meeting. The Gator Raffle is an important fund raiser for our State and Employees Associations.

Supervisor Training

The Association has been working with the Supervisor Training committee to establish guidance for the 6 credits of annual Supervisor training. Tracking, training criteria, roll-out timeline and workshop approvals are some of the topics being discussed for the development of a proposal to the Commission. President Ben Knox and Deputy Director David Williams made presentations at the 8 Area meetings to provide information on the topic and receive feedback.

2017 NACD Annual Meeting

The 2017 NACD Annual meeting will be held in Denver, CO. Incoming State Association President, Chris Hogan will be attending and was awarded the NACD "First Timer" scholarship. He will be receiving the 2016 Top 10 Contributing States award for NC.

Conservation Action Team (CAT) Listening Sessions

The CAT listening sessions scheduled for the mountain, piedmont and coastal plain regions of the state kicked off in the mountain region on December 1st and 2nd. The first meeting was held in Waynesville, followed by Morganton. These sessions are designed to provide information about obtaining NRCS Job Approval Authority and Certified Conservation Planner designations and address District concerns about these processes. The other 2 regional sessions will be held after the first of the year. The Association has assisted with session planning and presentations.

Meeting with Commissioner Troxler

President Ben Knox and Executive Director Bryan Evans met with Commissioner Troxler, Zane Hedgecock and Dr. Richard Reich on December 7 to introduce our new executive director. The Commissioner discussed current needs and assistance being sought following the damage from Hurricane Matthew and the wildfires. The Association expressed its appreciation and support of this effort and would encourage districts to support this as well.

January 2017

Message from the State Conservationist

As we begin a new year, I want to assure our employees, partners and customers that our staff is working hard to build upon our strong conservation program delivery model, and growing an even stronger model for conservation planning and technical assistance. I want to thank our cooperative conservation partnership for your commitment and success. If you have any questions about NRCS and our goals for 2017, please feel free to contact me or any member of our State Leadership Team.

Timothy Beard
NRCS State Conservationist

Highlights

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Update

The USDA-NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program is the largest conservation program in the United States with 70 million acres of productive agricultural and forest land enrolled in CSP. The purpose of CSP is to encourage producers to address priority resource concerns and improve their conservation performance by installing and adopting additional conservation activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities on eligible land. Through CSP, thousands of farmers and ranchers have made the choice to voluntarily enroll in the program because it helps them enhance natural resources and improve their business operation. These conservation efforts on private lands benefit all of us through improved water and air quality, increased soil health, and improved wildlife habitat, to name just a few.

Through feedback from across the country NRCS has worked hard to make improvements to CSP. Changes that producers can expect to see when the program is offered in FY17 include greater flexibility in scheduling conservation activities. There are more enhancements offered, and conservation practices have been added if needed on farming operations. The evaluation tools are more transparent and flexible which will allow producers to better plan and compare results of their conservation efforts on their land. This expanded conservation activity list offers North Carolina farmers and ranchers more options to address natural resource challenges. The new approaches to CSP will allow field planners more flexibility with managing CSP contracts with changing operations in volatile commodity markets.

Landowners interested in applying for CSP have until February 3, 2017, to apply at their local NRCS field office. For more information on CSP, please visit our website at www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS Field Office.

RCPP North Carolina Update

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) puts conservation partners in the driver's seat. This partner-driven, locally-led approach to conservation was created by the 2014 Farm Bill. It offers new opportunities for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to harness innovation, welcome new partners to the conservation mission, and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation. In three years, NRCS has invested $500 million in 199 high-impact projects, bringing together more than 2,000 conservation partners who have invested an additional $900 million.

By 2018, NRCS and partners will have invested at least $2.4 billion. Conservation partners represent a wide variety of groups, including Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, private industry, water districts, universities and many others.

North Carolina had two National RCPP projects and one State RCPP project selected for funding.

Forever Farms: Easements at the Eminence

Proposed NRCS Investment: $8,000,000 (National)
Lead Partner: Blue Ridge Forever
Number of Initial Partners: 14
Participating States: North Carolina (Lead State)

Project Description: The Southern Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina contain the headwater sources of drinking water for millions of people throughout the Southeastern United States, in nine river basins emanating on either side of the Eastern Continental Divide. Large mountain farms are particularly scarce

For more information about this publication, please contact Stuart Lee at :Stuart.Lee@nc.usda.gov.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

RCPP Continued ---

because they are prone to fragmentation and development upon landowner succession, yet they are critically important for clean water and climate resiliency as they typically encompass diverse topography and significant alluvial floodplains. Through the project, Blue Ridge Forever and local partners will assist landowners with voluntary agricultural conservation easements to ensure these farms remain in agriculture.

Western North Carolina Stream and Water Quality Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: $7,000,000 (National)
Lead Partner: Resource Institute, Inc.
Number of Initial Partners: 3
Participating States: North Carolina (Lead State)
Project Description: The Western North Carolina Stream and Water Quality Initiative team will identify, implement and monitor projects that will restore, enhance and reestablish streams and wetlands that have been degraded by agricultural land use throughout Western North Carolina. Partners will provide local landowners with financial and technical assistance to develop and implement cost effective solutions to improve at risk ecosystems. By improving function and increasing the amount of protected lands, riparian buffers and wetlands, the project will reduce the overall load of non-point source agricultural pollutants entering waterbodies in the region. This outcome will benefit resource users in the watershed and help producers reduce or avoid the need for regulation of agricultural land use.

Western North Carolina Stream and Water Quality Initiative

Proposed NRCS Investment: $1,000,000 (State))
Lead Partner: Resource Institute, Inc.
Number of Initial Partners: 3
Participating Counties: Ashe, Mitchell, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey
Project Description: The project focuses on five counties in Western North Carolina to address aquatic habitat, water resources, economic development and communications with producers. At the state level, the Initiative aims to restore and protect the state's stream and wetland ecosystems within degraded watersheds focusing on the five identified counties, which are both economically and environmentally at risk. This area has high instances of sensitive, threatened endangered species.

Ecological Sciences in North Carolina – Moving Forward

North Carolina NRCS Ecological Sciences (ECS) has been in the process of developing a new vision and organizational structure to support the current and future conservation technical assistance technology needs for the state. The new vision is the implementation of a conservation delivery program that is centered on the 9-steps of conservation planning. The Ecological Sciences staff will provide technical assistance to field staff through developing and delivering training that supports conservation planning delivery and ensure that field office employees have access to the most current scientifically supported methods utilized to address natural resources concerns identified through the planning process. Our new ECS staffing structure provides for a team that consists of: State Resource Conservationist, State Biologist, State Planning Specialist, State Compliance Specialist, State Nutrient Management Specialist, Cartographic Technician, State Agronomist, State Conservation Business Tools Coordinator and an Archeologist that is shared between North Carolina and South Carolina. For more information on NRCS ECS in North Carolina, please contact Rafael Vega at Rafael.Vega@nc.usda.gov.

Conservation Client Gateway

Conservation Client Gateway is a secure online web application that gives landowners and land managers, operating as individuals, the ability to track their payments, report completed practices, request conservation assistance, and electronically sign documents anytime, anywhere. You can access Conservation Client Gateway from our NRCS State website at www.nc.nrcs.usda.gov For more information, please contact your local NRCS Field Office today!

ATTACHMENT 7A

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/swc/

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 16-20

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and submit online on your district's SharePoint page; keep original for your file

The supervisors of the Gaston Soil and Water Conservation District of Gaston County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing ~~12/20/2016~~ 1/2016 and ending ~~12/20/2017~~ 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Roger Hurst

Name of nominee: Kevin Mauney
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 927 Alexis Lucia Rd. Alexis 28006 (P.O. Box 88)
Email address of nominee: krockridge@bellsouth.net
Home phone: 704-263-4662
Mobile phone: 704-813-1212
Business phone:
Occupation: Horticulture
Age: 54
Education: High School Graduate
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Farmer
Other pertinent information:

Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable:
Is nominee willing to attend a training session at the UNC School of Government within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination. I also certify that this recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

X [signature] 12-20-2016
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
Printed name: Robert Cloninger

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.

X [signature] 12-20-16
Individual recommended for appointment Date
Printed name: Kevin Mauney

ATTACHMENT 7A

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/swc/

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 16-20

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and submit online on your district's SharePoint page; keep original for your file

The supervisors of the MECKLENBURG Soil and Water Conservation District of MECKLENBURG County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing 2016 and ending 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of JASON CATHEY.

Name of nominee: JONATHAN SCHWARTZ
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 4601 WALKER ROAD, CHARLOTTE, NC 28211
Email address of nominee: j_schwartz@mindspring.com
Home phone: N/A
Mobile phone: 919-815-6162
Business phone: 704-988-7150
Occupation: Sr. FIXED INCOME CREDIT ANALYST
Age: 28
Education: BACHELORS OF SCIENCE BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE ; BACHELORS OF SCIENCE, ACCOUNTING
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: HEAD OF FIXED INCOME RESEARCH ON INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP AT TIAA
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: PREVIOUSLY CREDIT ANALYST AT BANK OF AMERICA AND FINANCIAL ANALYST AT BANK OF AMERICA AND LIBERTY MUTUAL
Other pertinent information: HOBBY OF LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING

Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable: N/A
Is nominee willing to attend a training session at the UNC School of Government within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination. I also certify that this recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

x Nancy H. Carter — 12/20/16
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) — Date
Printed name: Nancy G. Carter

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.

x [signature] — 12/20/16
Individual recommended for appointment — Date
Printed name: JONATHAN SCHWARTZ

ATTACHMENT 7A

DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
919.733.2302 • www.ncagr.gov/swc/

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
Current Term: 14 - 18

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

Complete and submit online on your district's SharePoint page; keep original for your file

The supervisors of the Pitt Soil and Water Conservation District of Pitt County, North Carolina have recommended the individual listed below for APPOINTMENT as a district supervisor in accordance with N.C.G.S. 139-7 for a term of office commencing ~~December 7, 2016~~ JAN 2017 and ending December 3, 2018 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Thurston James 48.

Name of nominee: Carl Briley
Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 2181 Jim Taylor Road, Stokes, NC 27884-9656
Email address of nominee: urwolfpackdaddy@aol.com
Home phone:
Mobile phone: 252.714.8024
Business phone:
Occupation: Farmer
Age: 55
Education:
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:
Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications:
Associate Member of the Pitt Soil and Water Conservation District, President of Fire Association
Other pertinent information:

Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable:
Is nominee willing to attend a training session at the UNC School of Government within the first year after appointment? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the nominee been contacted to determine their willingness to serve? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Has the program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to the nominee? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in local district meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in Area meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑
Is the nominee willing to attend and participate in State meetings? *Check for "Yes"* ☑

Signatures

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment shown on the reverse of this nomination form when selecting the above supervisor candidate for nomination. I also certify that this recommendation has been considered and approved by a majority of the members of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

X _____ December 6, 2016
SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
Printed name: C. Leroy Smith

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.

X _____ December 6, 2016
Individual recommended for appointment Date
Printed name: Carl Briley

ATTACHMENT 7A

Thurston James

December 6, 2016

Pitt Soil and Water Conservation District Board
Pitt County Agricultural Center
403 Government Circle, Suite 4
Greenville, North Carolina 27834

Please be advised that I, Thurston James, do hereby tender my resignation for my elected position effective December 7, 2016.

Thurston James

3158 Bear Grass Rd, Stokes, NC 27884 252-752-5592

ATTACHMENT 7B

NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Alexander	02-2017-003	Bill Chapman	stock trails, heavy use area, fencing, tanks	$38,123	
Cherokee	20-2017-007	Johnny Shields	agricultural road repair/stabilization	$6,199	
Clay	22-2017-803	Salvador Moreno	microirrigation	$7,344	
Craven	25-2017-004	Benjamin Derek Potter	water control structure	$5,335	
Cumberland	26-2017-004	Reuben Cashwell	cover crops	$5,000	
Granville	39-2017-023	Ronnie Burnette	grassed waterway	$887	
Warren	93-2017-021	David M. Hight	grassed waterway	$4,350	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: **7**

Total **$67,238**

12/29/2016

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Alexander Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Animal Trails and Walkways, Heavy Use Area, Fencing Livestock watering facility and piping.

Contract number: 02-2017-003 Contract amount: $ 38,123

Score on priority ranking sheet: 47. Ranked 2nd overall

Cost Share Rate : .75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2nd out of 10

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? NO

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Bill Chapman of Chapman Jersey

Bill Chapman
(District Supervisor's signature)

12/15/16
Date

Approved by:

Myles D. Payne
(District Chairperson's signature)

12-15-2016
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Cherokee Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Ag. Road Repair

Contract number: 20-2017-007 Contract amount: $ 6199

Score on priority ranking sheet: 64

Cost Share Rate : 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered):
1 of 4
Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Johnny Shields

(District Supervisor's signature) 11-4-16 Date

Approved by:

Evelyn A Wood (District Chairperson's signature) 11/4/16 Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the ___Clay_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: AgWrap

Best management practice: micro irrigation

Contract number:22-2017-803 Contract amount: $7,344

Score on priority ranking sheet: 65

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 out of 1

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Salvador Moreno

_____ 12/15/16
(District Supervisor's signature) Date

Approved by:

_____ 12/15/16
(District Chairperson's signature) Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

_____ _____
(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the **Pamlico** Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: NCACSP

Best management practice: Water Control Structure (Flashboard Riser)

Contract number: 25-2017-004 Contract amount: $5,335.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 30 points

Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): ranked 3rd out of 6 projects considered

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No, but see approval explanation below.

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

One other contract was initially equally ranked with this supervisor contract, both scoring 30 points on the ranking sheet. Because of the tie score our tie breaker protocol was implemented which awards priority to the application that was received first. Application for this supervisor contract was received 14 days prior to the other equally ranking application, so it was given priority for funding. No action was taken on the other equally ranking contract because all remaining "CS" funds were encumbered with the approval of this supervisor contract.

Supervisor name: Benjamin Derek Potter

(District Supervisor's signature) 10-31-16 Date

Approved by:

Destrich Kilpatrick
(District Chairperson's signature) 11-16-16 Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B NC-CSPs-1B
(11/2012)
original

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the ___Cumberland_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: NCACSP

Best management practice: Cover Crops

Contract number: 26-2017-004 Contract amount: $5,000.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 50

Cost Share Rate : 100% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason: Incentive BMP

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2nd out of 2 presented

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Reuben Cashwell

Reuben Cashwell 11-4-16
(District Supervisor's signature) Date

Approved by:

Clifton McNeill Jr. 11-4-16
(District Chairperson's signature) Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

_____ _____
(SWCC Chairperson's signature) Date
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 7B

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the __Granville_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Grassed Waterway

Contract number: 39-2017-023 Contract amount: $887

Score on priority ranking sheet: 150

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1st out of 2

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? no

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Ronnie Burnette

Ronnie D. Burnette
(District Supervisor's signature)

11-17-16
Date

Approved by:

Randall M. Guthrie
(District Chairperson's signature)

11-21-16
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

_____
(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

_____
Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

ATTACHMENT 7B
NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the __Warren_____Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Grassed Waterways

Contract number: 93-2017-021 Contract amount: $4350

Score on priority ranking sheet: 140

Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 of 1

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: David M. Hight

David M Hight
(District Supervisor's signature)

12-13-2016
Date

Approved by:

Leonard J Kelvin
(District Chairperson's signature)

12-13-16
Date

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract.

(SWCC Chairperson's signature)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 7C

SWCC Job Approval Authority Recommendations

January 8, 2017

The following individuals have requested to obtain Commission Job Approval Authority for the respective categories.

1. Grassed Swale
   Mike Dupree – Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

2. Backyard Rain Garden
   Heather Dutra – Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

3. Critical Area Planting
   Jessica Pope – Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

4. Pond Site Assessment
   Jason Byrd – Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District

5. Water Needs Assessment
   Jason Byrd – Rockingham Soil and Water Conservation District

The above individuals have successfully completed the requirements and has acquired confirmation of demonstrated technical proficiency from a Division Engineer, therefore I recommend that the job approval authority requests be approved.

MAILING ADDRESS
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Telephone: 919-733-2302
Fax Number: 919-733-3559

LOCATION
Archdale Building
512 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 504
Raleigh, NC 27604

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ATTACHMENT 7D

Technical Specialist Designation Recommendations

January 8, 2017

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission has authority to designate water quality technical specialists based upon specific criteria and procedures (02 NCAC 59G). This authority extends to individuals who have been assigned approval authority by USDA NRCS, NC Cooperative Extension, Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the Division. District staff is assigned the approval authority by the USDA NRCS. This process allows for each agency personnel to ensure an employee not only has completed the training requirements, but has also demonstrated proficiency prior to obtaining a technical specialist designation.

1. NRCS has requested that the following employee receive the Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management designation.

   David Tucker – District Conservationist; Jefferson Field Office
   Successfully completed required training in the 2002-2003 timeframe and received NRCS job approval authority for nutrient management.

2. NRCS has requested that the following employee receive the Waste Utilization/Nutrient Management and Wettable Acres designation.

   Jeremy Roston – Resource Conservationist
   Successfully completed required training in 2005 and the Wettable Acre training in 2013. Mr. Roston has also received NRCS job approval authority for nutrient management.

Not requesting Commission's approval for designation previously was an oversight and misunderstanding of the designation process. Both individuals have met the requirements and designation approval is recommended.

ATTACHMENT 8

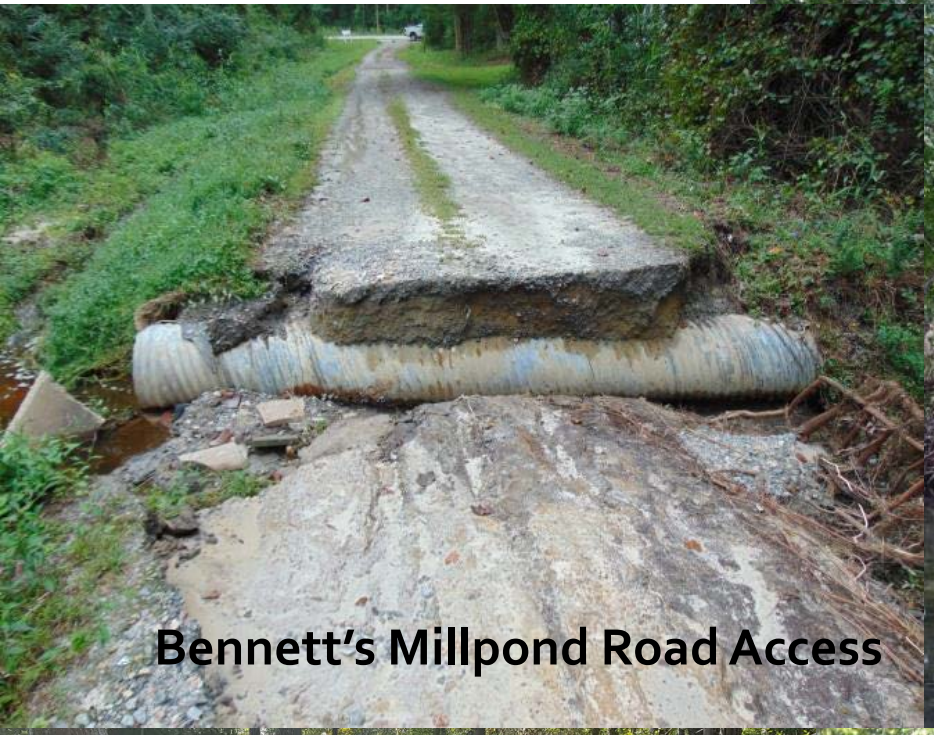
2016 DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM REPORT

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission

January 8, 2017

ATTACHMENT 8

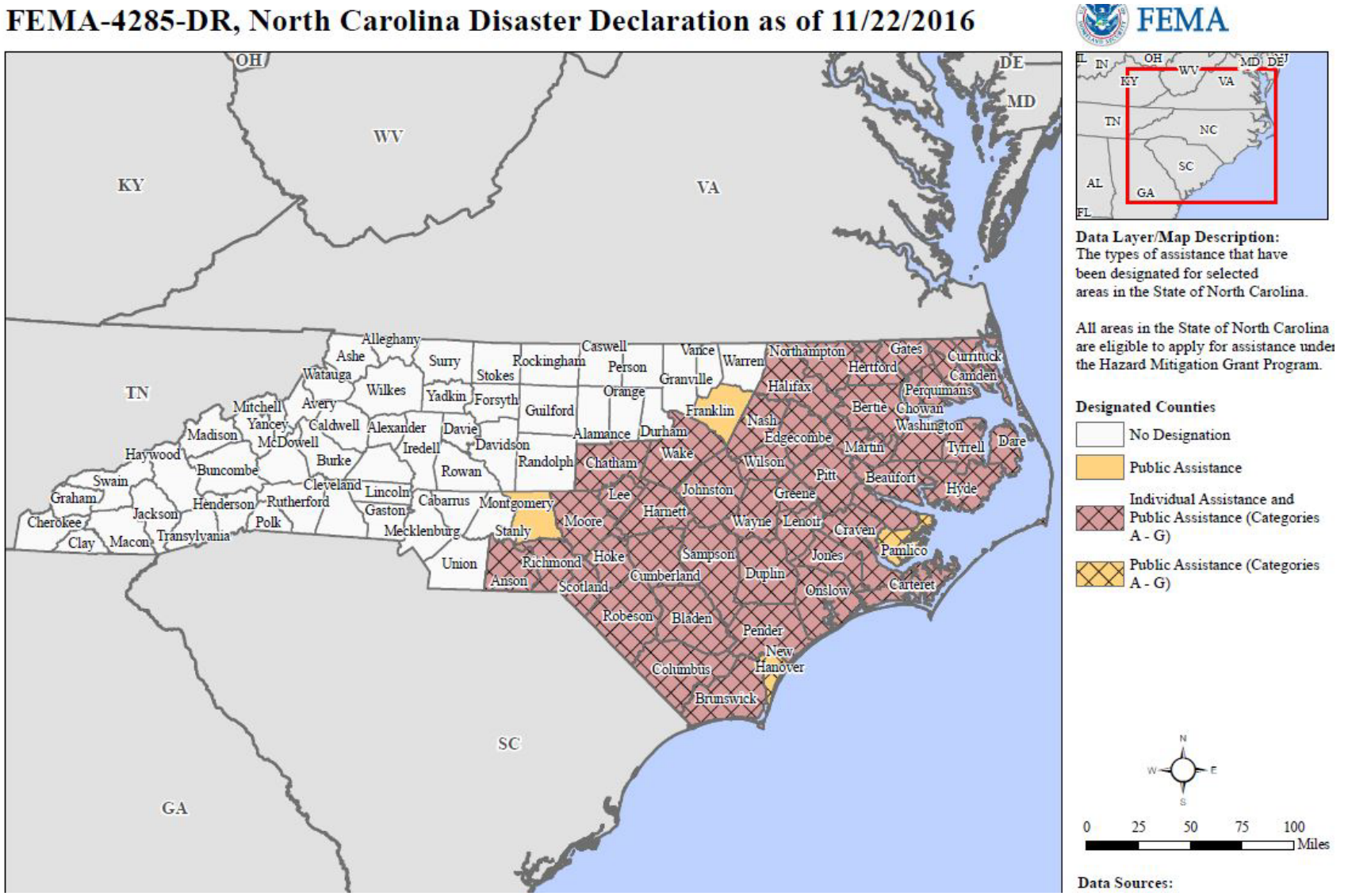
ATTACHMENT 8



Disaster Recovery Act of 2016 (Session Law 2016-124)

- Hurricane Matthew, Tropical Storms Hermine And Julia, and western wildfires
- Not intended to make individuals whole but to assist affected areas in recovering from storm impacts
- Funds do not revert until NC General Assembly directs reversion of unexpended and unencumbered funds
- Ensure funds expended in a manner that does not adversely affect any person or entity's eligibility for (available or anticipated) federal funds
- Intent to fund gaps not covered by federal assistance funds

49 counties declared a major disaster under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288)



2016 FUNDING FOR IMMEDIATE NEEDS

$12.2M to the Division of Soil and Water Conservation

- $10M for stream debris removal
- $1M for non-field farm road repairs
- $1.2M for supplemental funding of the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) to support disaster-related farm pond and dam repairs

Stream Debris Removal

ELIGIBILITY & PRIORITIZATION

1. Stream debris removal (e.g. woody vegetation)
2. Stand alone instream sediment removal (explain)
3. Streambank stabilization (vegetative cover) with or without sediment removal
4. Streambank stabilization (vegetative cover) with culvert replacement

* Securing match & higher percent match will increase priority

* Match may include in kind services (e.g. technical assistance)

* Permitting needs impact priority

* Priority for downstream sediment removal if companion to other eligible practices (e.g. dam repair)

* Beaver dam removal *may* be considered part of stream debris removal if beaver dam compounded damage. Prioritization may also be given for leveraging efforts with other funds (e.g. BMAP) to eliminate beaver.

Stream Debris Removal

PROCESS & CONSIDERATIONS

* All projects require a local sponsor that may or may not be a conservation district

* Local sponsor required to:
    - Complete & submit application
    - Certify damage caused by eligible storm event(s) through self-certification form & may need supporting documentation
    - Oversee project
    - Provide site inspections
    - Provide report to include pre & post pictures
    - Secure contractor as needed
    - Secure permits
    - Secure access & right-a-ways
    - Manage removal material
    - Sign off for request for payment

Non Field Farm Roads

ELIGIBILITY & PRIORITIZATION

* Road must be needed to access agricultural fields and/or production facilities (e.g. poultry houses)

* May fund portions of access roads that are not eligible for FSA Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) funding

* Road and associated components (e.g. culverts, water control) are eligible for funding

* Must meet Ag Cost Share Program eligibility requirements

* Must meet standard (NRCS Access Road Standard 560)

* Priority given to those roads:
    - Farm roads not eligible for federal funding (e.g. horse)
    - That interconnect with field farm roads repaired with ECP funds
    - With access to larger acreage/SSLW
    - Prone to continued flooding and other safety issues

Non Field Farm Roads

PROCESS & CONSIDERATIONS

* Local conservation district

* District work with landowner to fill out ACSP application

* Conservation district to contact & coordinate with local FSA for ECP eligible farm roads

* Certify damage caused by eligible storm event(s) through self-certification form & may need supporting documentation

* Priority for projects that district staff designs/oversees work versus outsourcing

* Proposing policy waiver on required erosion >5T

* Proposing policy waiver that allows conversion to non-ag use without penalty

* No policy change for operation and maintenance requirements

* Proposing relaxing district spot check requirements (included in 5% of contracts)

AgWRAP Supplement for Damaged Ponds & Dams

ELIGIBILITY & PRIORITIZATION

- Meet AgWRAP farm pond definition & eligibility criteria
- State funds to be used for practices & services (e.g. engineering) not funded by federal ECP funds
- Repair must meet NRCS standard
- Priority considerations include:
  - Non-ECP projects will be prioritized higher than ECP-eligible projects
  - In-pond sediment removal will be a lower priority
  - Higher priority to those projects that secure other non-federal match for ECP-eligible projects
  - Higher priority for high hazard structures due to higher potential for loss of life and property

AgWRAP Supplement for Damaged Ponds & Dams

PROCESS & CONSIDERATIONS

* Local conservation district

* District to work with landowner to fill out AgWRAP application

* Conservation district to contact & coordinate with local FSA for ECP eligible farm ponds & dams

* Certify damage caused by eligible storm event(s) through self-certification form & may need supporting documentation

* Priority for project that district staff designs/oversees work versus outsourcing

* Proposing caps raised for practices & engineering

* Proposing policy waiver that allows conversion to non-ag use without penalty

* Proposing relaxing conservation plan requirement

* No policy change for operation and maintenance requirements

* Proposing relaxing district spot check requirements (included in 5% of contracts)

General Program Considerations

* Continue to develop program
* DSWC will work with FSA and forward potential projects as identified
* Will seek NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission approval to proceed, Jan. 8
* Outsourcing engineering and technical assistance (state versus local level)
* Proposing flat administrative fee per project for districts/sponsors/sub-contractor
* May consider liquidated damages
* May delegate authority to division to approve post approvals on a case by case basis

Audience Feedback

How do you feel about a mandatory recall of ACSP and AgWRAP funds?

Based on response, division would recommend a voluntary recall of ACSP and AgWRAP funds not committed to contract on Feb. 1

Would you be willing to help another district by providing technical assistance?

Overall response was district staff is willing to help other districts however the devil is in the details (e.g. worker's comp coverage, county policies)

ATTACHMENT 8

Recommended Commission Actions for Implementation of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program

ATTACHMENT 8

North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Commission Actions for Implementation of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program
January 8, 2017

	Recommended Commission Action for Disaster Recovery Program only	**Justification**	**Motion**
1	Request to proceed with program direction as presented acknowledging program is still under development	Need to address immediate storm damage and to expend and encumber funds in an expedited manner	Commissioner Hughes moved to approve, and Commissioner Collier seconded. Motion carried.
2	Delegate authority to division director to provide oversight and management of program. The division will update the Commission on a regular basis with the Commission reserving right to interject changes in program direction.	To expedite program delivery of a $12.2M program (sizable magnitude)	Commissioner Collier moved to adopt as is, and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.
3	Delegate authority to division director for the Disaster Recovery Program to address post approvals on a case by case basis. The division shall bring any denial for post approval to commission for final determinations.	Individuals had to initiate recovery measures prior to program availability. Note: will need this action to be reviewed by counsel	Commissioner West moved to approve as amended, and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.
4	For non-field farm roads - waive policy #2 requiring that existing road must be eroding >5T or delivering sediment directly to a stream ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #2 states the road must be an existing road eroding in excess of 5T or a segment of a road delivering sediment directly to a stream.	Program objective is to restore access and not prevent erosion	Commissioner Collier moved to approve as written, and Commissioner Knox seconded. Motion carried.
~~5~~	~~For non-field farm roads – waive policy #6 to allow conversion to non-ag use at later date without penalty~~ ~~ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #6 currently states if the land is converted to residential or commercial uses during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.~~	Program objective is to restore access and not protect agricultural use; intent is not to restrict property use	Commissioner West moved to disapprove this recommendation, as the program is intended for agricultural lands. Commissioner Hughes seconded, and the motion carried.
6	For non-field farm roads – relax district spot check requirement #7 (and include in in 5% of contracts) ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #7 currently states the district shall inspect the site at least every two (2) years during the maintenance period.	Prevents undue workload on district; can lower frequency of spot checks since conversion to non-ag use is without penalty (given waiver #5 is granted)	Commissioner Knox moved to approve relaxing the spot checks on non-field farm road, and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.

7	AgWRAP ponds & dams – remove existing caps for the pond repair and engineering, and pay 75% of actual cost (90% for beginning and limited resource farmer or participating in EVAD) *Double existing cap limits with any exception being brought to the Commission for consideration.	Program objective is disaster recovery and funding is intended to restore existing water storage; to prevent further deterioration of the local agricultural economy per SL 2016-124; acknowledge higher costs due to priority on high hazard structures and potential for loss of life and property.	Commissioner Collier moved to double the existing caps for pond repair and for engineering, with any exception to be brought to the Commission, and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.
~~8~~	~~AgWRAP ponds & dams – waive policy #11 that allows conversion to non-ag use without penalty~~ ~~AgWRAP Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit current policy #11 states if the pond is no longer used for agriculture during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.~~	Program objective is to restore existing water storage and not protect agricultural use; intent is not to restrict property use	Commissioner West moved to disapprove this recommendation, as the program is intended for agricultural lands. Commissioner Hughes seconded, and the motion carried.
9	AgWRAP ponds & dams - relax conservation plan requirement to allow conservation plan to be developed within 12 months of contract approval Current program policy in the Detailed Implementation Plan: All approved AgWRAP applications must have a completed conservation plan prior to contract approval or the district requesting design assistance from division engineering staff. The commission is requiring this plan, which is the cooperator's record of decisions, to help districts evaluate water supply resource concerns including inadequate water for livestock, inefficient water use for irrigation and/or inefficient moisture management. Conservation plans will ensure that alternative practices are considered and that the recommended practices address the identified resource concerns to maintain AgWRAP BMPs through their contract life.	Program objective is to restore existing water storage	Commissioner Collier moved to approve, and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.
~~10~~	~~AgWRAP ponds & dams – relax district spot check requirement #12 (and include in 5% of contracts)~~ ~~AgWRAP Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit policy #12 currently states the District shall inspect the site annually during the maintenance period.~~	Prevents undue workload on district; can lower frequency of spot checks since conversion to non-ag use is without penalty (given waiver #8 is granted)	Commissioner Hughes moved to disapprove this recommendation, and Commissioner Yarborough seconded. Motion carried.
11	AgWRAP ponds & dams – for pond repairs that are eligible for ECP funding, recovery funds can be used to pay up to 75%/90% of the non-federal match **not to exceed**	To best leverage state and federal funds per SL 2016-124	Commissioner Collier moved to approve the amended percentage recommendation of 75%/90% for the non-federal match and

	AgWRAP disaster recovery program cap and program authorities		Commissioner Hogan seconded. Motion carried.
12	Delegate authority to division director for the Disaster Recovery Program to approve contracts for installed practices, on a case by case basis, that meet NRCS standards and were performed in immediate response to an eligible storm event, but prior to implementation of this program. All denials will be presented to the Commission for final determination.	For cases where individuals had to take immediate action to stabilize and/or repair damaged property to restore essential farming operations	Commissioner Yarborough moved to approve as amended and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.
13	Current ACSP – for cropland conversion, relax policy #8 to allow trees to be paid at 75%/90% of actual cost with receipts for the remainder of this program year as proposed below: • TREE-plant, hardwood---- 75%/90% of actual based on receipts • TREE-plant, loblolly and shortleaf pine ---- 75%/90% of actual based on receipts • TREE-plant, longleaf pine-----75%/90% of actual based on receipts ACSP Cropland Conversion to Trees policy #8 currently states that except for the conditions below, average costs for tree planting will be used. The average cost will be based on the lowest cost tree species that is suitable for the site. (e.g., if the site is suitable for establishing loblolly pines but the grower wishes to establish hardwoods, the cost share rate will be based on loblolly).	Due to hurricane destroying stock at Goldsboro tree farm, individuals will have to secure stock from other states. The division will continue to monitor situation and may make additional recommendations in July.	Commissioner Hughes moved to approve and Commissioner West seconded. Motion carried.

Components for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

Component	Unit Type	Unit Cost	Maximum Cost Share 75 Percent	Maximum Cost Share 90 Percent	Cost Type
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 25,000.00	$ 30,000.00	Actual
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT - Engineering for embankment pond, low hazard	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 7,500.00	$ 9,000.00	Actual
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT - Engineering for embankment pond, intermediate or high hazard	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 10,000.00	$ 12,000.00	Actual

For actual cost items, the payment is based on 75 or 90 percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established cost share cap. The cost share cap listed is the maximum amount of cost share reimbursement allowed for that component/BMP.

ATTACHMENT 8

North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission
Recommended Commission Actions for Implementation of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program
January 8, 2017

	Recommended Commission Action *Disaster Recovery Program only.	**Justification**
1	Request to proceed with program direction as presented acknowledging program is still under development	Need to address immediate storm damage and to expend and encumber funds in an expedited manner
2	Delegate authority to division director to provide oversight and management of program. The division will update the Commission on a regular basis with the Commission reserving right to interject changes in program direction.	To expedite program delivery of a $12.2M program (sizable magnitude)
3	Delegate authority to division director for the Disaster Recovery Program to address post approvals on a case by case basis. The division shall bring any denial for post approval to commission for final determinations.	Individuals had to initiate recovery measures prior to program availability. Note: will need this action to be reviewed by counsel
4	For non-field farm roads - waive policy #2 requiring that existing road must be eroding >5T or delivering sediment directly to a stream ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #2 states the road must be an existing road eroding in excess of 5T or a segment of a road delivering sediment directly to a stream.	Program objective is to restore access and not prevent erosion
~~5~~	~~For non-field farm roads – waive policy #6 to allow conversion to non-ag use at later date without penalty~~ ~~ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #6 currently states if the land is converted to residential or commercial uses during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.~~	Program objective is to restore access and not protect agricultural use; intent is not to restrict property use
6	For non-field farm roads – relax district spot check requirement #7 (and include in in 5% of contracts) ACSP Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization Policy #7 currently states the district shall inspect the site at least every two (2) years during the maintenance period.	Prevents undue workload on district; can lower frequency of spot checks since conversion to non-ag use is without penalty (given waiver #5 is granted)
7	AgWRAP ponds & dams – remove existing caps for the pond repair and engineering, and pay 75% of actual cost (90% for beginning and limited resource farmer or participating in EVAD) *Double existing cap limits with any exception being brought to the Commission for consideration.	Program objective is disaster recovery and funding is intended to restore existing water storage; to prevent further deterioration of the local agricultural economy per SL 2016-124; acknowledge higher costs due to priority on high hazard structures and potential for loss of life and property.

~~8~~	~~AgWRAP ponds & dams – waive policy #11 that allows conversion to non-ag use without penalty~~ ~~AgWRAP Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit current policy #11 states if the pond is no longer used for agriculture during the maintenance period, the cost share contract shall be considered out of compliance.~~	Program objective is to restore existing water storage and not protect agricultural use; intent is not to restrict property use
9	AgWRAP ponds & dams - relax conservation plan requirement to allow conservation plan to be developed within 12 months of contract approval Current program policy in the Detailed Implementation Plan: All approved AgWRAP applications must have a completed conservation plan prior to contract approval or the district requesting design assistance from division engineering staff. The commission is requiring this plan, which is the cooperator's record of decisions, to help districts evaluate water supply resource concerns including inadequate water for livestock, inefficient water use for irrigation and/or inefficient moisture management. Conservation plans will ensure that alternative practices are considered and that the recommended practices address the identified resource concerns to maintain AgWRAP BMPs through their contract life.	Program objective is to restore existing water storage
~~10~~	~~AgWRAP ponds & dams – relax district spot check requirement #12 (and include in 5% of contracts)~~ ~~AgWRAP Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit policy #12 currently states the District shall inspect the site annually during the maintenance period.~~	Prevents undue workload on district; can lower frequency of spot checks since conversion to non-ag use is without penalty (given waiver #8 is granted)
11	AgWRAP ponds & dams – for pond repairs that are eligible for ECP funding, recovery funds can be used to pay up to 75%/90% of the non-federal match **not to exceed AgWRAP disaster recovery program cap** and program authorities	To best leverage state and federal funds per SL 2016-124
12	Delegate authority to division director for the Disaster Recovery Program to approve contracts for installed practices, on a case by case basis, that meet NRCS standards and were performed in immediate response to an eligible storm event, but prior to implementation of this program. All denials will be presented to the Commission for final determination.	For cases where individuals had to take immediate action to stabilize and/or repair damaged property to restore essential farming operations
13	Current ACSP – for cropland conversion, relax policy #8 to allow trees to be paid at 75%/90% of actual cost with receipts for the remainder of this program year as proposed below: • TREE-plant, hardwood---- 75%/90% of actual based on receipts • TREE-plant, loblolly and shortleaf pine ----75%/90% of actual based on receipts • TREE-plant, longleaf pine-----75%/90% of actual based on receipts	Due to hurricane destroying stock at Goldsboro tree farm, individuals will have to secure stock from other states. The division will continue to monitor situation and may make additional recommendations in July.

	ACSP Cropland Conversion to Trees policy #8 currently states that except for the conditions below, average costs for tree planting will be used. The average cost will be based on the lowest cost tree species that is suitable for the site. (e.g., if the site is suitable for establishing loblolly pines but the grower wishes to establish hardwoods, the cost share rate will be based on loblolly).	

Components for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

Component	Unit Type	Unit Cost	Maximum Cost Share 75 Percent	Maximum Cost Share 90 Percent	Cost Type
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 25,000.00	$ 30,000.00	Actual
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT - Engineering for embankment pond, low hazard	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 7,500.00	$ 9,000.00	Actual
AGRICULTURAL POND REPAIR/RETROFIT - Engineering for embankment pond, intermediate or high hazard	Job	Cost Share percent of actual amount not to exceed	$ 10,000.00	$ 12,000.00	Actual

For actual cost items, the payment is based on 75 or 90 percent of actual cost, not to exceed the established cost share cap. The cost share cap listed is the maximum amount of cost share reimbursement allowed for that component/BMP.

Cost Share Programs 2016 Annual Reports

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission

January 8, 2017

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Nonpoint Source Section

Agriculture Cost Share Program

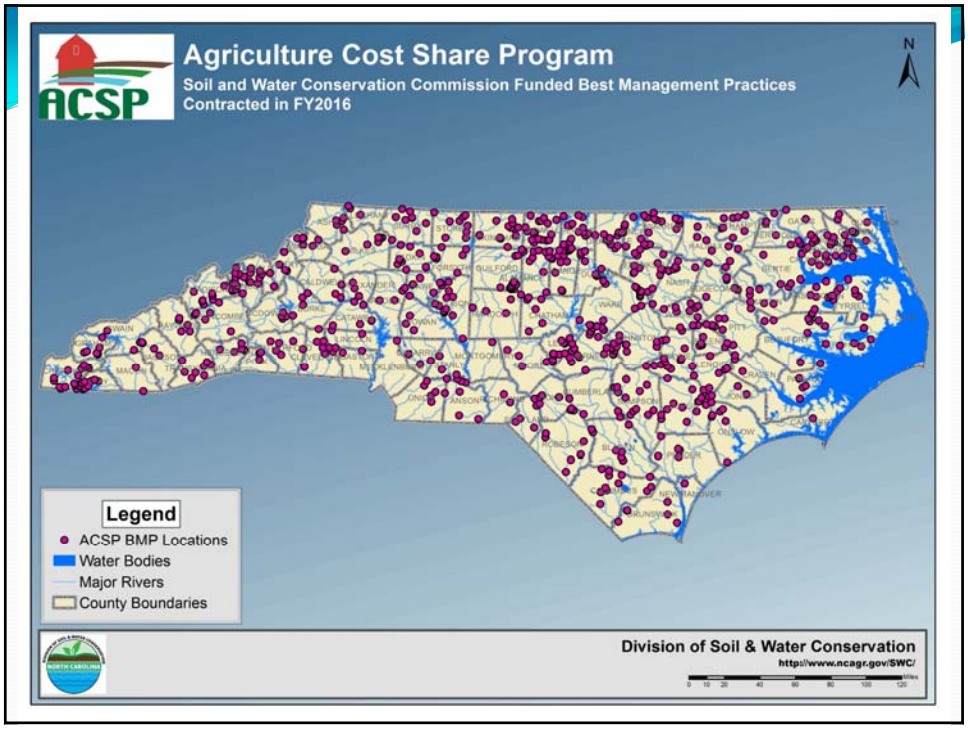
ACSP

ACSP PY2016 BMP Funding

Total appropriated	$ 3,516,998
Cancel/Expired Contracts	$ 1,061,907
TVA funds	$ 500,000
Total Allocated PY201	**$ 5,078,905**

PY2016 Funding for Technical Assistance

Total appropriated	$ 2,448,778
Technical positions (FTE) in 95 SWCDs. Cost share an average of 41% of salaries.	103.6
Operating Expenses (recurring and non-recurring)	$ 1,160



ACSP Cumulative Benefits

1984 - 2016

Total Number of Contracts	59,532
Acres Affected	3.3 million acres
Soil Saved Annually	7.6 million tons
Nitrogen (N) Saved Annually	21 million lbs
Phosphorus (P) Saved Annually	6.5 million lbs
Waste N Managed Annually	~95 million lbs
Waste P Managed Annually	~76 million lbs

ACSP Program Accomplishments

1984 - 2016

Cropland Conversion	205,725 acres
Waste Structures	4,098 structures
Water Control Structures	4,216 structures
Livestock Exclusion Fencing	1,341 miles
Conservation Tillage	663,733 acres
Riparian Buffers	17,012 acres
Chemical Handling/Management	154 structures

NC CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 8, 2016

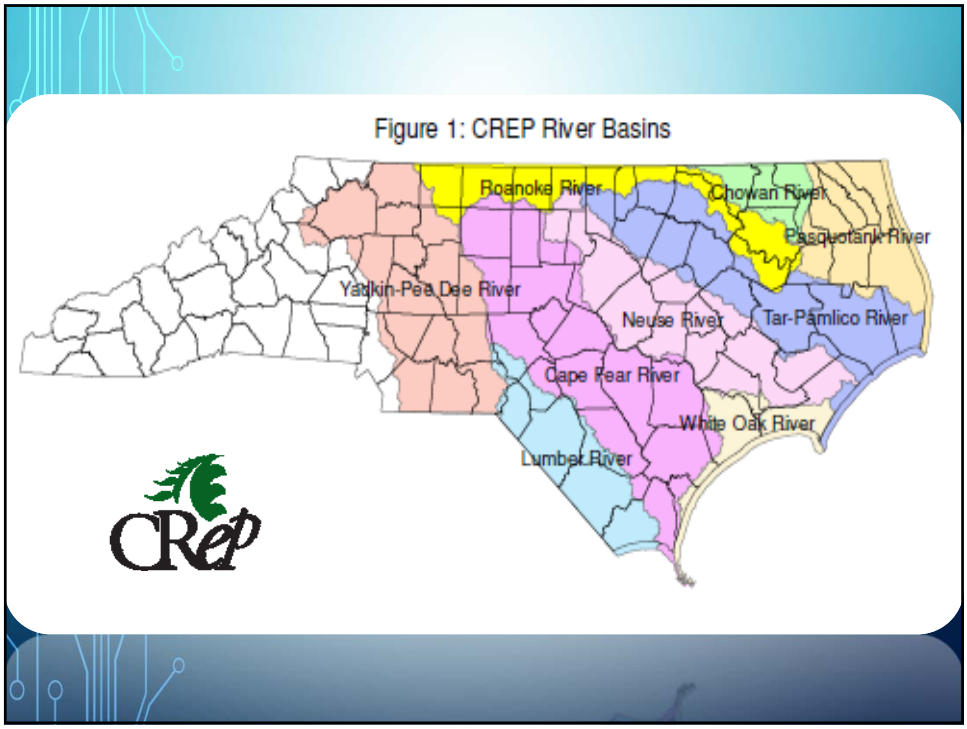
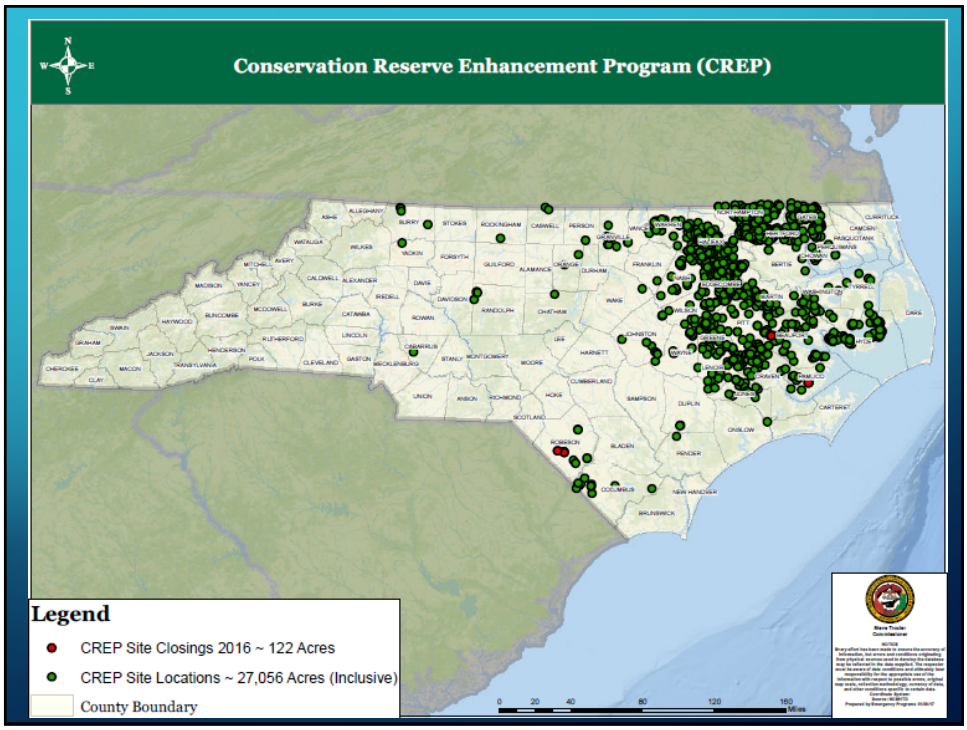


Figure 1: CREP River Basins
Roanoke River
Chowan River
Pasquotank River
Yadkin-Pee Dee River
Neuse River
Tar-Pamlico River
Cape Fear River
White Oak River
Lumber River
CREP


Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
Legend
CREP Site Closings 2016 ~ 122 Acres
CREP Site Locations ~ 27,056 Acres (Inclusive)
County Boundary

CLOSED EASEMENTS AS OF 9/30/16

PERMANENT EASEMENTS - 266 EASEMENTS

- TOTALING 7,683 ACRES

30-YEAR EASEMENTS - 905 EASEMENTS

- TOTALING 18,892 ACRES

Approximately 848 Stream Miles Protected Through Long Term Conservation Easements

EASEMENT DISTRIBUTION

River Basin	Number of Acres	Number of Contracts	Approx. Stream Miles Protected
Cape Fear	104.3	5	3.06
Chowan	5,153.1	325	142.4
Lumber	264.9	23	8.32
Neuse	4,069.9	219	120.2
Pasquotank	365.2	11	11.0
Roanoke	230.3	8	6.33
Tar-Pamlico	16,725.7	567	542.0
White Oak	5.4	1	0.30
Yadkin-PeeDee	138.7	12	14.3

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Eligible Practices	Number of Acres *
CP3 (Shortleaf Pine)	97.2
CP3A (Hardwood & Longleaf Pine)	3,018.5
CP21 (Filter Strip)	1,916.6
CP22 (Riparian Buffer)	26,424.8
CP23 (Wetland Restoration)	2,171.7
CP31 (Bottomland Timber)	6.3
Total Program Enrollment	33,635.1

* one-third of agreement

OVERALL PROGRAM EFFECTIVENESS

Stream Miles Protected	Sediment Reduction (tons)	Nitrogen Reduction (#)	Phosphorus Reduction (#)
1,078	246,437	1,923,745	441,590

CREP MARKETING INITIATIVES

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

POLLINATOR HABITAT

SENTINEL LANDS

CREP TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE EXPENDITURES FY 2009 - 2016

CRP Payments (Life of Contract)	$57,677,082
Federal Cost Share	$3,534,856
State Cost Share	$2,448,968
Stewardship Endowment	$1,833,874
State Expenses for CREP Enrollments	$24,282,403
Total Program Costs	$91,663,821

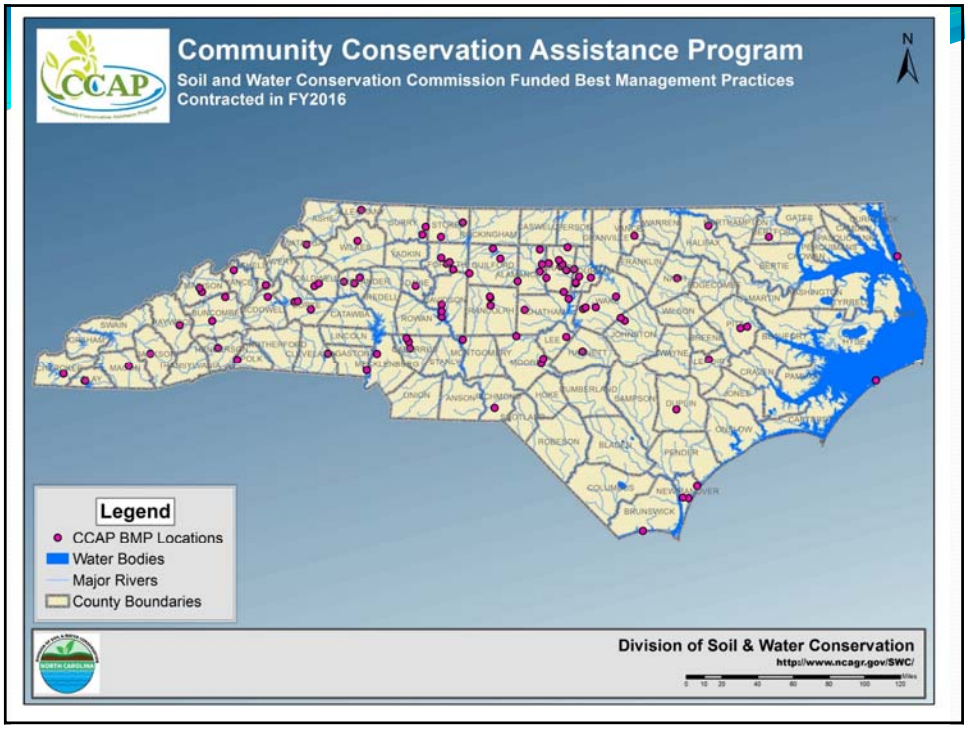
Every State dollar leverages $2.14 Federal

Community Conservation Assistance Program

CCAP
Community Conservation Assistance Program

CCAP PY2016 BMP Funding

Total requested	$ 2.22 million	↑ 36%
State Appropriations	$ 136,937	=
Cancel/Expired Contracts	$ 161,401	↓ 20%
Technical Assistance Funds	$ 24,660	=
5% Contingency	$ 6,847	=
Total Allocated PY2016	**$ 266,831**	**↓ 13%**



CCAP Program Accomplishments

PY2016

Benefit	Value	Units
Acres Affected	201.6	Acre
Gallons of Water Saved	25,350	Gallons
Nitrogen Removed	10.6	Pounds
Number of Buildings Affected	217	Each
Number of People Affected	3,049	Each
Phosphorus Removed	2.1	Pounds
Drainage Area Affected	11,406,812	Sqft
Tons of Soil Saved	520.0	Tons

CCAP Cumulative Benefits

2008 - 2016

CCAP Practice	Measure	Units Performed
Abandoned Well Closure	Units	241
Backyard Rain Garden	Square Feet	27,607
Backyard Wetland	Square Feet	1,738
Bioretention Area	Square Feet	95,766
Cistern	Units	131
Critical Area Planting	Square Feet	1,005,192
District Bmp	Units	5
Diversion	Feet	1,601
Grassed Swale	Square Feet	73,473
Impervious Surface Conversion	Square Feet	29,853
Marsh Sill	Feet	425
Permeable Pavement	Square Feet	7,327
Pet Waste Receptacle	Units	228
Riparian Buffer	Square Feet	498,488
Stormwater Wetland	Square Feet	240,478
Stream Restoration	Feet	2,328
Streambank And Shoreline Protection	Feet	14,358

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

AgWRAP
Agricultural Water
Resources Assistance Program

AgWRAP FY2016 Goals

I. Conduct a competitive regional application process for selected AgWRAP BMPs.

II. Allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for all other BMPs.

III. Implement Job Approval Authority Process for AgWRAP BMPs.

IV. Conduct training for districts.

AgWRAP FY2016 BMP Funding

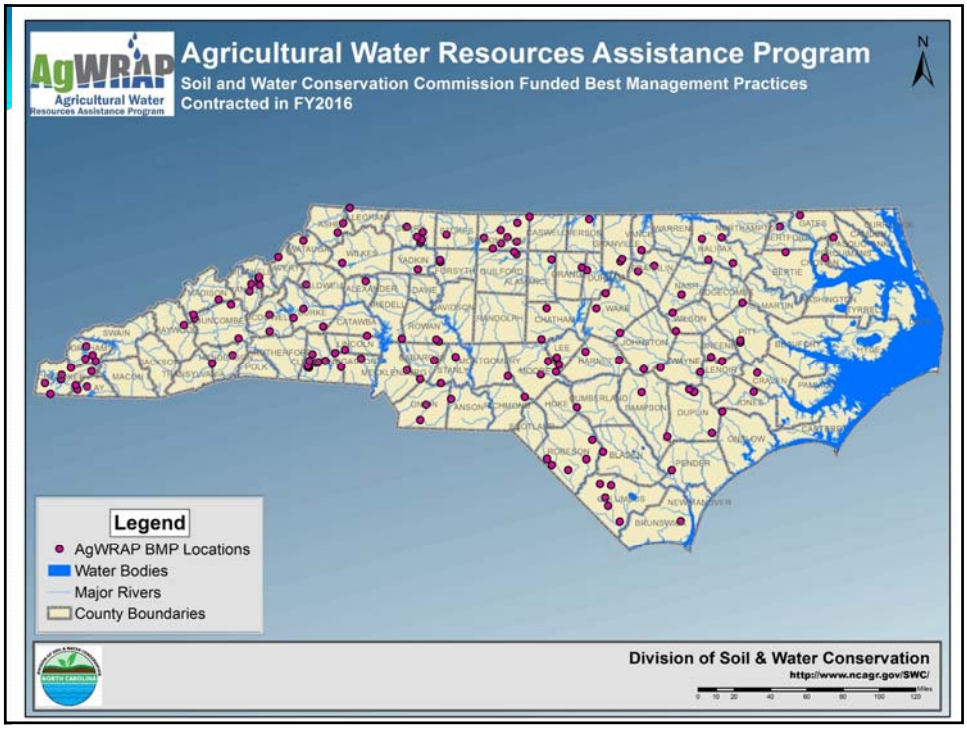
Total Requested	$5,375,615
State Appropriation	$977,500
Technical Assistance, Engineering & Administration	$146,625
Cancelled/completed contracts	$538,264
Total Allocated for BMPs FY2016	**$ 1,369,139**

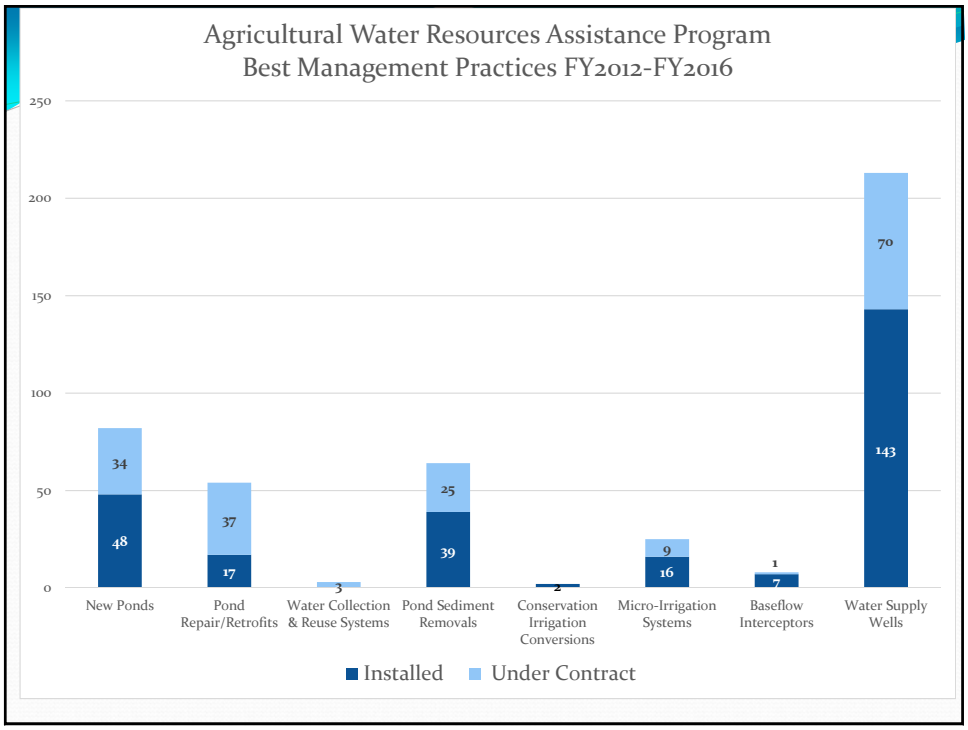
I. Conduct a competitive regional application process for new pond construction and pond repair/retrofits.

Region	New Pond Contracts	Pond Repair/Retrofit Contracts	Water Collection & Reuse Systems	Total Contracts
Western	13	7	1	21
Central	6	9	1	16
Eastern	2	5	0	7
Total	21	21	2	44

II. Allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for all other BMPs.

- All 84 districts requesting AgWRAP funding received an allocation for eligible BMPs.
- Funds allocated to districts from all three regions of the state.
- Contracts approved for conservation practices on operations from many agricultural sectors.


AgWRAP
Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best Management Practices
Contracted in FY2016
N
Legend
AgWRAP BMP Locations
Water Bodies
Major Rivers
County Boundaries
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/


Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
Best Management Practices FY2012-FY2016
250
200
150
100
50
0
34
48
37
17
3
25
39
2
9
16
1
7
70
143
New Ponds
Pond Repair/Retrofits
Water Collection & Reuse Systems
Pond Sediment Removals
Conservation Irrigation Conversions
Micro-Irrigation Systems
Baseflow Interceptors
Water Supply Wells
Installed
Under Contract

III. Implement Job Approval Authority (JAA) Process for AgWRAP BMPs

- 24 conservation partnership employees representing 19 districts have JAA for one or more of the following:
  - Pond site assessment
  - Sediment removal planning and certification
  - Water needs assessments
- A list of recipients with job approval authority is available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/JAA.html

IV. Conduct training for districts

- Continue to provide programmatic training.
  - Regional Cost Share Programs Trainings
  - Listserv updates
  - Up-to-date website
- Direct staff training during review of potential regional application projects and sediment removal plans.

Current Goals

- Continue to meet SWCC Program Review Policy
- Make upgrades to CS^2 to improve usability and reporting
- Work through the rule re-adoption process
- Conduct regional trainings for cost share programs across the state

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REPORT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION AND FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON WATER QUALITY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM PROGRAM YEAR 2016

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) was authorized by the General Assembly in 1983 to improve water quality associated with agriculture in three nutrient sensitive watersheds covering 16 counties. In 1990, the program was expanded to include 96 soil and water conservation districts (districts) covering all 100 counties across the state. In program year 2016, districts requested $20,609,031 to address identified water quality concerns. The General Assembly appropriated $4,052,237 in recurring general funds for BMP installation. Current appropriations do not enable districts to meet demand for financial assistance for installing BMPs to protect water quality in North Carolina.

In 2016, local soil and water conservation districts obligated $4,282,528 of state appropriated cost share funds to 742 new contracts with farmers. In addition, the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) infrastructure was used to implement conservation practices using several other funding sources. In all, districts obligated $5,376,518 to 775 contracts. Appendix A presents the total number and value of 2016 contracts for each county. Between 1984 and 2016 it is estimated that an average of 7 million tons of soil have been saved annually during the life of the program. Also the program has reduced nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agricultural land by 21 million and 6.5 million pounds per year average, respectively.

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) believes the ACSP is being administered cost-effectively and that considerable water quality benefits are being realized for the investment made with state funds. The program aids agricultural operations in making essential water quality improvements. The cost of these water quality practices cannot be passed on to the consumer in the price of the food or fiber product. The ACSP thereby contributes both to water quality and to sustaining a strong state agricultural economy. The commission continues to emphasize prioritizing, targeting, accountability, leveraging, and adaptability in managing these public funds to further improve the water quality benefits intended by the General Assembly. Further information about the program can be found in appendices A-G.

A. Total number and value of PY2016 contracts by county
B. Map of 2016 ACSP Contracted BMPs
C. PY2016 Detailed Implementation Plan
D. BMP effects table
E. PY2016 Spot Check Report
F. Funding and Compliance Process
G. BMP Photos

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BACKGROUND

The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) was authorized by the General Assembly in 1983 to improve water quality associated with agriculture in three nutrient sensitive watersheds covering 16 counties. In 1990, the program was expanded to include 96 soil and water conservation districts (districts) covering all 100 counties across the state.

While the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) has the statutory responsibility to create, implement and supervise the ASCP, it is delivered at the local level by 492 elected and appointed district supervisors who are assisted by their staff and partners in natural resource conservation. These partners include technical and professional employees of the soil and water conservation district or county, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Division of Soil and Water Conservation (division), the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The commission continues to adapt the program to respond to changing needs and technology. There were 71 approved best management practices (BMPs) in the ACSP for program year 2016. BMPs include both short-term and long-term practices. For a BMP to be approved by the commission, a NRCS technical standard addressing the water quality problem must exist, or the commission must adopt standards for the practice. Sufficient cost information must also be available to determine the appropriate cost share amount. Occasionally, BMPs are approved on a limited scale for evaluation purposes. These are referred to as district BMPs. The definitions of approved BMPs for the ACSP are provided in the Detailed Implementation Plan (Appendix C).

For most practices, the amount provided in cost share is based on 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for the practice up to a maximum of $75,000 per cooperating farmer per year. However, some practices are cost shared on 75 percent of actual cost due to the variable nature of the practice. Farmers who qualify as beginning farmers or limited resource farmers, and farmers participating in an enhanced voluntary agricultural district are eligible to receive up to 90 percent cost share up to a maximum of $100,000 per year.

The commission conducts a wholesale review of its cost share average costs every three years, but it makes necessary corrections when presented with information that one of its predetermined costs is inaccurate.

Districts spot check a minimum of 5 percent of randomly selected active contracts each year to ensure that practices are being maintained properly. The division and NRCS also spot check contracts as part of regular reviews of district office implementation of the ACSP. Spot checks for 2016 showed excellent compliance with maintenance requirements by participating farmers. Only 2.1 percent of contracts all contracts checked were out of compliance. When practices are discovered to need additional maintenance, the district is usually able to assist the cooperator to restore the practice to its intended function. The 2016 Spot Check Report can be viewed in Appendix E.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the first ACSP contracts were issued in 1984 through the end of program year 2016, 59,532 contracts have been approved for installing BMPs affecting over 3 million acres. Most BMPs have a life expectancy of ten years, which is how long participating farmers must agree to maintain the practices.

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Early in the program, the major factor used for determining success was tons of soil saved because the program funded predominantly sediment and erosion control practices. It is estimated that best management practices installed through the ACSP since its inception are saving over 7.6 million tons of soil annually. Since the mid-1990s, while continuing its attention on minimizing soil loss and erosion, the program has increased its attention on reducing and managing nutrients from cropland and livestock production. Part of the impetus for this new attention was the promulgation of the 15A NCAC 2H.0200 (now 15A NCAC 2T) animal waste management rules and the nutrient sensitive waters strategies for the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins as well as Jordan and Falls Lakes.

Highlights of additional accomplishments include the following:

- ☐ 205,725 acres of marginal or environmentally sensitive cropland have been converted to trees, grass or wildlife habitat areas.
- ☐ 4,098 waste management practices have been installed to properly store and manage dry and wet animal waste.
- ☐ 970 mortality management systems have been installed to properly manage livestock mortalities to minimize water quality impacts.
- ☐ 4,216 water control structures have been installed improving water management on and reducing nutrient loss from approximately 324,550 acres.
- ☐ 1,341 miles of fencing have been erected, in combination with other practices (e.g., watering sources) to exclude livestock from streams.
- ☐ 663,733 acres of cropland have been converted to no-till or conservation tillage to reduce sediment loss associated with traditional practices.
- ☐ 17,012 acres of forested riparian buffer have been established to reduce nutrient loss from approximately 68,089 acres of cropland.
- ☐ 154 chemical handling and management structures have been installed to provide an environmentally safe means for mixing and storing agricultural chemicals.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Projects Receiving State Funds

Participating farmers have up to three years to complete the work included in ACSP contracts. Therefore, cost share payments made each year may be for contracts written in the current program year or in the two previous program years. For this reason, the fund balance for the program will always exceed the amount appropriated in a given year.

Each contract may include only one BMP or a system of practices that include several BMPs. Cost share payments are made only when installation of a BMP is completed and certified to be in accordance with current NRCS or commission standards.

New Contracts for Program Year 2016

In program year 2016, districts requested $20,609,031 to address identified water quality concerns. The General Assembly appropriated $4,016,998 in recurring general funds for BMP installation. Current appropriations do not enable districts to meet demand for financial assistance for installing BMPs to protect water quality in North Carolina.

In total, the commission allocated $4,951,603 to districts. In addition to the 2016 appropriation, the commission also had available for allocation (1) funds allocated to districts in 2015 with which districts were unable to execute contracts with farmers prior to the end of the program year and (2) funds recovered from completed and expired contracts from program

ATTACHMENT 9A

years 2013 through 2015. Despite the commission's actions to improve efficiency of the ACSP, districts still must turn away two out of every three farmers requesting cost share assistance due to lack of available funding.

Districts obligated $4,282,528 of state appropriated cost share funds to 742 contracts with farmers in program year 2016. In addition, the ACSP infrastructure was used to implement conservation practices using several other funding sources. In all, districts obligated $5,376,518 from all appropriated and grant funds to 775 contracts. Appendix A presents the total number and value of 2016 contracts for each county.

Estimated Water Quality Benefits of ACSP Contracts Initiated in 2016

N.C.G.S 143-215.74(b)(7) requires that each project's benefits to water quality be estimated before funding is awarded. To meet this requirement, the commission chose three indicators of water quality benefits: (1) tons of soil saved, (2) pounds of nitrogen saved or managed, and (3) pounds of phosphorus saved or managed.

Soil savings estimates have been required on all ASCP contracts since the start of the program. Beginning with the 1997 program year, estimates of nitrogen and phosphorus savings were required. The division continues to work with the Division of Water Resources, NRCS, and North Carolina State University to improve and refine the methods used to estimate and account for nutrient reductions.

These estimates have allowed the division to track progress made by agriculture relative to the nutrient reduction requirements in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Jordan Lake and Falls Lake nutrient reduction strategies for agriculture. The ACSP is playing a key role in helping farmers achieve and maintain the nutrient reductions required by these rules.

Local districts determine which projects are eligible for funding in their areas according to a required priority ranking process. The priority ranking is tailored to each district's water quality concerns. The water quality evaluations on each project are carried out at the district level, and the water quality benefit estimates are provided to the division on each contract in the online contracting system.

Between 1984 and 2016 it is estimated that an average of 7 million tons of soil have been saved annually during the life of the program. Also the program has reduced nitrogen and phosphorus losses from agricultural land by 21 million and 6.5 million pounds per year, respectively.

The division does not have a good tool for estimating the benefits for many of important and popular BMPs, such as livestock watering wells and livestock exclusion fencing. Still, these practices are known to improve water quality by reducing livestock dependence upon streams for watering. The Technical Review Committee for the program has formed a conservation effects workgroup to review any new data or potential accounting methods that come available. Another factor impacting benefits is the reduced total number of contracts per year. Fewer contracts are due to the reduced funding for the program and the increase in costs for materials and practices over time.

Some BMPs standing alone will not directly result in sediment or erosion reductions or nitrogen or phosphorus savings, but are used in conjunction with other practices. These BMPs are called "facilitating practices" and are necessary to facilitate and ensure that other practices in the BMP system are effective at reducing nutrient or sediment loading to a water resource. Therefore, their reduction credit is linked to the facilitated practice. An example of a facilitating practice is a water tank, which must be installed for livestock drinking water purposes before fencing can be put up to keep livestock out of a stream.

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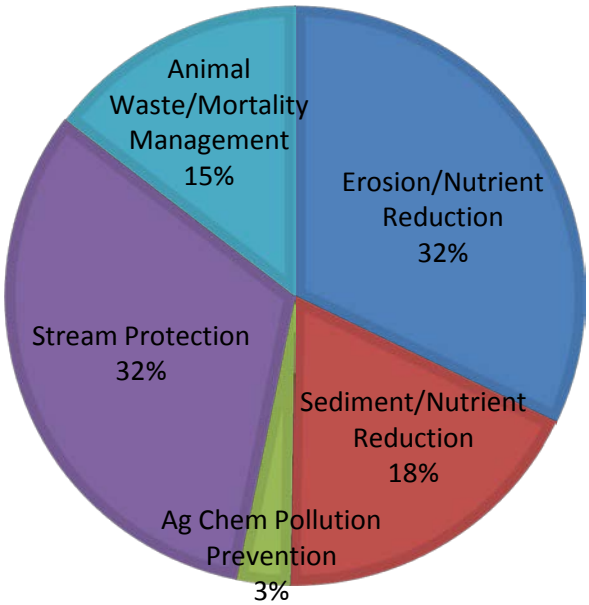
Effectiveness of Each Project to Accomplish Its Primary Purpose

The statutory purpose of the program and each project is to improve water quality by reducing the input of agricultural non-point source pollution into the water courses of the state. Each BMP approved for the ACSP is designed for at least one of five major purposes to protect the water resources of the state:

(1) sediment/nutrient delivery reduction through reduction of applied nutrients, reduction of soil loss, or interception of nutrients from fields;
(2) erosion reduction/nutrient loss reduction in fields through reduction of applied nutrients or prevention of soil detachment;
(3) prevention of agricultural chemical pollution of ground or surface water from improper handling or accidents;
(4) reduction of nutrient loading through proper management of animal waste;
(5) stream protection measures to reduce the delivery of sediment and nutrients by animals and stabilize streambanks to minimize further erosion and sediment contribution.

As shown in Figure 1, 32 percent of the 2016 funds from all funding sources were directed toward erosion and nutrient-reducing BMPs (e.g., conservation tillage, cropland conversion to grass or trees); 18 percent were directed toward sediment and nutrient-reducing BMPs (e.g., riparian buffers, field borders, grassed waterways); 32 percent were directed toward stream protection systems (e.g., livestock exclusion); 15 percent were directed toward animal operations for waste and mortality management BMPs (e.g., poultry litter storage structures, closure of inactive lagoons, livestock feeding/waste storage structures); and 2 percent was directed toward agrichemical pollution prevention measures (e.g. agrichemical handling facilities). Appendix D includes charts showing the approved BMPs in these categories and their relationship to water quality improvement.

Figure 1: 2016 ACSP Contracts by Category, State Appropriations



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Projects for which program funds have been expended are verified by staff to ensure that the practices are installed in accordance with program standards and that is it accomplishing its primary purpose.

TARGETING ACSP FUNDS TO WATERSHEDS OF IMPAIRED WATERS

The commission continues to exercise leadership in allocating ACSP resources to local districts containing impaired waters. This is best illustrated by the fact that the commission targeted $500,000 of funds available in 2016 for the specific purpose of installing BMPs into watersheds listed on the State's 303(d) list of impaired waters or those impacted due to agricultural nonpoint source pollution. Agriculture was identified as a potential source of pollutants to impaired waters in 94 counties. This allocation was limited to 45 districts that completed Impacted/Impaired Streams Initiative surveys to identify specific project locations to address the potential sources of the impairment.

In 2016, about 10 percent of ACSP funds were used to implement BMPs in watersheds of impaired waters. Considering that only 2.4 percent of North Carolina's stream miles are attributed to being impaired by agricultural sources, this demonstrates that the ACSP funds are being significantly targeted toward improving streams that do not fully meet their uses.

Approximately 12.6 percent of funds contracted in program year 2016 were contracted with farmers in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico River Basins to help them achieve and maintain the required 30 percent reduction in agricultural nitrogen losses. Districts in the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Basins will continue to use ACSP to sustain the reductions already achieved and to attain further voluntary reductions in these nutrient sensitive watersheds. ACSP funds are also being used to reduce phosphorus losses from agriculture to help achieve the goal of no net increase in phosphorus loading to the Tar-Pamlico Basin. Participating farmers continue to assess phosphorus losses using the Phosphorus Loss Assessment Tool (PLAT). The Commission also targeted $283,000 of program year 2016 funds to districts to assist with implementation of riparian buffers under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Incorporating Information from the Basinwide Water Quality Plans Published by the Division of Water Resources (DWR)
In 2005, the commission established a policy relating District Strategy Plans to the DWR's Basinwide Water Quality Plans which requires that all strategy plans for ACSP include a section describing waters listed as impaired or with notable water quality problems and concerns as documented in the most recent basinwide water quality plan(s), and for which agriculture is a potential source or stressor. The district should also list any waters of local concern for which agriculture has been identified as a potential source or stressor. This section of the strategy plan should also describe how the district intends to address agricultural nonpoint source problems impacting these waters.

All districts completed this section of the strategy plan and documented the impaired waters in their county and the actions the district plans to take to address the problems impacting these waters.

NEW PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS TO IMPROVE EFFICIENCY AND PROGRAM DELIVERY

ACSP is focused on continually improving the program's cost effectiveness due to recurring budget reductions in state appropriations. The commission moved forward on enhancements for the 2015-2016 program year. These enhancements were designed to improve the efficiency by which program funds are used by agricultural cooperators to install BMPs and to improve the responsiveness of the program to state and local water quality priorities.

Database Development and Implementation
The new NCDA& CS Soil and Water Cost Share Contracting System (CS^2) became fully operational in April 2014 and is now being utilized statewide for all cost share programs. The CS^2 system allows for improved efficiency in contract and payment

ATTACHMENT 9A

functionality as well as an increased level of customer service, system support and reporting. Additional upgrades to the CS^2 system were made in 2016 that will allow for more reporting capabilities and improved functionality.

Program Changes

For program year 2016 the Commission approved the following changes to existing practices:

a. Stream Protection Well- clarified the BMP policy for job approval authority.

COST-EFFECTIVENESS CONSIDERATIONS

The ACSP is a cost-effective program from both a state expenditure perspective and the farmer's perspective. This program has been credited with helping the state to achieve considerable success in protecting and improving water quality. Many farmers could not afford to implement BMPs (many of which are required by regulations) without cost share assistance. Because a farmer must invest at least 25 percent of the cost for BMPs, the farmer has ownership in the practice and is more likely to maintain it. The educational value of local farmers participating in the program is substantial in helping to change local practices.

Leveraging Additional BMP Implementation Funds from Other Sources

In addition to the appropriated funds for the Agriculture Cost Share Program, the division and districts used the Agriculture Cost Share Program infrastructure to encumber over $46,114 in grant funds from other funding sources to conservation contracts with NC agricultural producers and landowners. These funding sources included:

- US EPA Section 319 (grant funds to support implementing water quality best management practices in the Dan River Watershed and Jordan Lake Watershed);
- Environmental Defense Fund and NC Foundation of Soil and Water (grant to support implementing practices that reduce agricultural inputs from tile drainage)

ACSP funds are an essential part of the state match for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), a federal/state partnership. ACSP and other state programs (CWMTF) are providing a total of $54 million over eight years to match $221 million in federal payments to North Carolina landowners participating in CREP.

ACSP funds for BMP implementation and technical assistance also provide the required state match for EPA-319 grants for accelerating BMP implementation in the Dan River and Jordan Lake Watersheds.

Whenever possible, the districts use the ACSP in conjunction with other programs, such as the federal Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), to stretch scarce resources as far as possible. Districts also partner to meet the needs of cooperating producers and landowners.

Leveraging of Local and Federal Resources for Technical Assistance and Local Delivery

The ACSP is delivered locally by 492 elected and appointed volunteer district supervisors and by over 440 local staff of districts and NRCS. District supervisors receive no state salary, yet are responsible for seeing that state funds are spent where they are most needed to improve water quality. District supervisors are required to develop a prioritization ranking system for administering the ACSP in their respective district to maximize the water quality benefits of the program. Applications to each district are evaluated and prioritized according to this system. District supervisors also must inspect at least five percent of all cost share contracts in their district every year to ensure the BMPs are properly maintained.

ATTACHMENT 9A

The ACSP is heavily dependent on the technical resources of the local districts and the NRCS. District and federal employees develop conservation plans, design BMPs, and provide engineering assistance for water quality improvements at no cost to the farmers whose applications are accepted for cost share assistance. The staff also assists farmers and other landowners in implementing water quality projects using other funding sources such as EQIP, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program, and North Carolina's Clean Water Management Trust Fund.

A critical portion of the General Assembly's appropriation for ACSP provides a state match for salaries for many of these district technical employees and for their operating expenses to carry out the cost share program. For 2016, the General Assembly appropriated $2,448,778 in recurring funds for cost sharing technical assistance positions in local districts. County commissions provide more than 50 percent match for salaries and operating expenses, including office space and administrative support for these technical assistance positions. In program year 2016, the cost share technical assistance program cost shared on 103.6 technical positions in 94 districts to assist farmers in designing and installing BMPs. These state technical assistance cost share funds maintain a local conservation infrastructure that is also used to deliver federal cost share funds to NC landowners and land users. In 2016, local districts cooperated with the NRCS to deliver $24.5 million of conservation assistance. Technical assistance funds are critical to sustain local county support and funding for local delivery of the program.

NRCS engineers and conservation specialists are also available to each district. These federal employees carry out a portion of the cost share work support without cost to the state, and they provide additional technical resources and expertise to ensure that cost-shared practices are properly installed and maintained for the expected life of the practice.

In addition, NRCS allows district staff in some districts to use federal vehicles for use on state cost share work. NRCS also provides computers and sophisticated natural resources materials and computer software in field offices, and develops the technical standards for most of the BMPs used in the cost share program. This state program leverages a much greater amount of federal funding for water quality improvements in North Carolina.

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

Appendix F is an overview of the funding and compliance process used for implementing the ACSP.

Five full time division employees administer all commission cost share programs. The staff reviews approximately 800 contracts annually and processes about 1,000 requests for payment each year. The division also trains local personnel, provides daily technical assistance to the districts, maintains the Cost Share Programs Manual online, and conducts oversight through district program reviews to ensure proper record keeping and BMP maintenance for continued water quality protection.

Because the state specifies that the purpose of the program is to assist agricultural operations in addressing an existing water quality problem, the program does not assist new operations to go into business. It is the policy of the commission that new producers or companies constructing new agricultural operations should be aware of the existing environmental requirements and technical standards and should be prepared to meet them without state funding assistance. This is especially important when existing operations are struggling to comply with new requirements that were not in place when they began operating. Therefore, the commission has restricted eligibility for ACSP funds to those operations, which have been in existence for three years prior to the date of cost share application. Operations that were not in existence for three years prior to application date may still be eligible for cost-share if changes in environmental statutes or regulations create new requirements that could, without assistance, make the facility out of compliance. These exceptions require commission approval.

ATTACHMENT 9A

IMPACT OF INCREASED COSTS TO THE ACSP

The ACSP has experienced many challenges due to the increased costs of fuel, labor, and materials over the past few years. Since the ACSP is based on 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for each practice it has been almost impossible to keep up with the cost changes in areas such as gravel, pipe, fencing, lumber, and the cost of operating heavy machinery to install many of the BMPs in the program. In program year 2004, the ACSP was able to contract with 2,053 projects statewide encumbering $6,827,880 compared to only 1,135 projects in 775 contracts statewide in the 2016 program year encumbering $5,376,518. Because of the price increase the soil and water conservation districts are not able to help as many farmers install conservation practices.

The ACSP continues to monitor the established average costs list for the program and receives feedback from the local soil and water conservation districts on any adjustments that are needed. Division staff completed a review of the current average cost manual in the spring of 2016 and the adjustments will be effective for the 2017 program year. The division staff continues to consider changes in average cost as receipts and documentation determine the current average cost is incorrect. The division plans to conduct another complete review of the average cost manual in the spring of 2019.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above considerations, the commission believes the ACSP is being administered cost-effectively and that considerable water quality benefits are being realized for the investment made with state funds. The program aids agricultural operations in making essential water quality improvements. The cost of these water quality practices cannot be passed on to the consumer in the price of the food or fiber product. The ACSP thereby contributes both to water quality and to sustaining a strong state agricultural economy. The commission continues to emphasize prioritizing, targeting, accountability, leveraging, and adaptability in managing these public funds to further improve the water quality benefits intended by the General Assembly.

Increased costs of fuel, labor, and materials have significantly impacted the amount of conservation the program can effect and the number of cooperating farmers who can be assisted. The commission has taken actions to improve program efficiencies that have helped to partly offset these impacts in the short-term. The ACSP continues to play a vital role in assisting farmers and ranchers with voluntary water quality protection and with compliance with state and federal regulatory requirements. The program is our state's cornerstone in efforts to support private working lands stewardship for the benefit of water quality and all the citizens of the state of North Carolina.

Appendix A

ATTACHMENT 9A

County	Number of 2016 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted	County	Number of 2016 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted
Alamance	13	$49,741	$49,741	Jones	4	$35,825	$35,825
Alexander	3	$54,315	$68,459	Lee	13	$39,391	$39,492
Alleghany	4	$46,195	$56,997	Lenoir	6	$40,442	$42,484
Anson	5	$54,442	$54,696	Lincoln	3	$53,985	$67,022
Ashe	5	$50,458	$63,689	Macon	4	$31,449	$57,099
Avery	4	$41,797	$70,792	Madison	11	$43,190	$86,328
Beaufort	5	$31,382	$45,391	Martin	6	$27,960	$34,683
Bertie	5	$37,353	$37,353	McDowell	4	$38,474	$65,162
Bladen	9	$42,570	$42,570	Mecklenburg	3	$9,248	$9,248
Brunswick	6	$28,689	$28,914	Mitchell	7	$49,296	$101,240
Buncombe	6	$50,391	$97,889	Montgomery	1	$32,294	$32,294
Burke	5	$41,231	$69,832	Moore	6	$39,461	$39,461
Cabarrus	3	$54,236	$67,396	Nash	8	$44,878	$54,303
Caldwell	5	$46,716	$51,715	New Hanover	1	$4,500	$4,500
Camden	6	$31,331	$31,331	Northampton	9	$37,850	$38,581
Carteret	4	$15,318	$15,318	Onslow	7	$45,015	$45,015
Caswell	17	$56,805	$57,385	Orange	14	$61,538	$78,048
Catawba	6	$41,150	$48,580	Pamlico	7	$48,859	$54,503
Chatham	5	$54,577	$57,790	Pasquotank	9	$36,513	$46,458
Cherokee	15	$39,840	$76,084	Pender	5	$35,720	$35,720
Chowan	9	$34,320	$42,046	Perquimans	9	$31,789	$40,594
Clay	14	$41,192	$89,282	Person	16	$48,337	$48,337
Cleveland	6	$45,774	$45,774	Pitt	10	$45,551	$57,117
Columbus	12	$45,571	$45,571	Polk	3	$31,837	$31,849
Craven	2	$10,576	$10,711	Randolph	4	$51,761	$51,761
Cumberland	4	$28,329	$28,329	Richmond	1	$32,338	$41,765
Currituck	3	$29,953	$29,953	Robeson	10	$50,325	$53,303
Dare	0	$0	$0	Rockingham	15	$55,219	$71,205
Davidson	15	$48,527	$48,527	Rowan	3	$63,361	$63,361
Davie	5	$50,781	$50,781	Rutherford	5	$49,089	$49,089
Duplin	15	$72,643	$85,437	Sampson	13	$68,155	$86,140
Durham	8	$55,401	$62,803	Scotland	5	$33,862	$33,862
Edgecombe	6	$36,968	$36,968	Stanly	5	$56,716	$56,716
Forsyth	11	$43,739	$43,739	Stokes	10	$48,281	$86,883
Franklin	13	$48,812	$59,836	Surry	12	$65,174	$119,372
Gaston	5	$44,439	$55,831	Swain	2	$28,779	$55,975
Gates	3	$25,319	$25,319	Transylvania	7	$37,176	$64,686
Graham	7	$27,338	$46,740	Tyrrell	6	$40,375	$40,375
Granville	12	$40,247	$40,577	Union	7	$67,778	$95,040

Appendix A

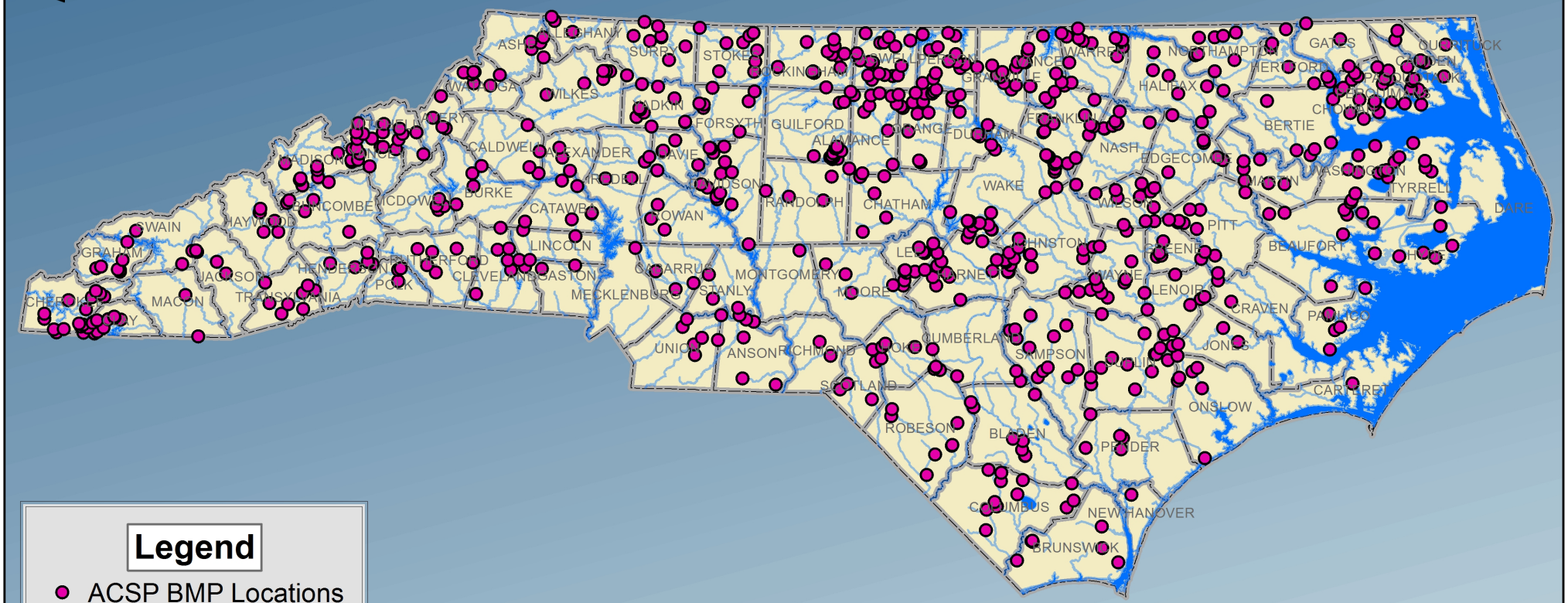
ATTACHMENT 9A

County	Number of 2016 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted	County	Number of 2016 Contracts	Amount Contracted (Cost Share)	Total Amount Contracted
Greene	7	$39,342	$39,342	Vance	9	$35,000	$35,000
Guilford	17	$53,117	$83,397	Wake	23	$46,088	$64,832
Halifax	8	$44,552	$44,552	Warren	13	$40,808	$53,419
Harnett	17	$43,880	$44,172	Washington	12	$34,119	$35,955
Haywood	6	$43,745	$84,523	Watauga	7	$50,165	$97,449
Henderson	8	$53,641	$104,201	Wayne	10	$51,827	$59,081
Hertford	7	$31,618	$39,118	Wilkes	7	$50,088	$64,382
Hoke	7	$29,539	$29,539	Wilson	14	$35,574	$42,412
Hyde	9	$40,513	$40,513	Yadkin	7	$55,891	$70,695
Iredell	3	$29,880	$56,244	Yancey	16	$54,559	$106,165
Jackson	5	$35,933	$62,146				
Johnson	11	$59,170	$64,339	**Total**	**775**	**$4,282,528**	**$5,376,518**

ATTACHMENT 3A

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best Management Practices Contracted in FY2016



Division of Soil & Water Conservation

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles

Appendix B

ATTACHMENT 9A

AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (DIP)
FISCAL YEAR 2016*

(REVISED August 2015)

Definition of Practices

(1) Abandoned tree removal means to remove Christmas and/or apple tree fields for integrated pest management and for reducing sedimentation. An abandoned tree field can be of any size or age trees where standard management practices (e.g., maintaining groundcover, insect and disease control, fertilizer applications and annual shearing practices) for the production of the trees are discontinued or abandoned. The field must have been abandoned for at least 5 years. Abandonment leads to adverse soil erosion formations such as gullies and to production of disease inoculums and increased pest population. Conversion to grass, hardwoods, or white pine on abandoned fields further protects soil loss by preventing runoff on steep slopes due to a better groundcover thereby providing additional water quality protection. Benefits include water quality protection, prevention of soil erosion, and wildlife habitat establishment.

(2) An abandoned well closure is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris, or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals, and farm machinery. Cost share for this practice is limited to $1,500 per well at 75% cost share and $1,800 per well at 90%.

(3) An agrichemical containment and mixing facility means a system of components that provide containment and a barrier to the movement of agrichemicals. The purpose of the system is to provide secondary containment to prevent degradation of surface water, groundwater, and soil from unintentional release of pesticides or fertilizers. Cost share for this practice is limited to $16,500 per facility at 75% cost share and $19,800 per facility at 90%.

(4) An agrichemical handling facility means a permanent structure that provides an environmentally safe means of mixing agrichemicals and filling tanks with agrichemicals for application and storage to improve water quality. Benefits may include prevention of accidental degradation of surface and ground water. Cost share for this practice is limited to $27,500 per facility at 75% cost share and $33,000 per facility at 90%.

(5) Agricultural pond restoration/repair means to restore or repair existing failing agricultural pond systems. Benefits may include erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields for better water quality. This practice is only applicable to low hazard classification ponds. For restoration projects involving dam, spillway, or overflow pipe upgrades, cost share is limited to $15,000 per pond at 75% cost share and $18,000 per pond at 90%. For restoration projects involving removal of accumulated sediment only, total charge to NCACSP is restricted to a total of $3,000 per pond at 75% cost share and $3,600 per pond at 90%.

(6) Agricultural road repair/stabilization means repair or stabilization of existing access roads utilized for agricultural operations, including roads to existing crop fields, pastures, and barns.

(7) Agricultural temporary water collection pond means to construct an agricultural water collection system for water reuse or irrigation to improve water quality. These systems may include construction of new ponds, utilizing existing ponds, water storage tanks and pumps in order to intercept sediment, nutrients, manage chlorophyll a. These systems may have the added benefit of reducing the demand on the water supply, and decreasing withdrawal from aquifers but these benefits shall not be the justification for this practice.

(8) Chemigation or fertigation backflow prevention is a combination of devices (valves, gauges, injectors, drains, etc.) to safeguard water sources from contamination by fertilizers used during the irrigation of agricultural crops. The practice is intended to modify or improve fertilizer injection systems with components necessary to prevent backflow or siphoning of contaminants into the water supply thereby improving and protecting the state's waters.

(9) A conservation cover practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grass, legumes, or other approved plantings on fields previously with no groundcover established, to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. Other benefits may include reduced offsite sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Eligible land includes that planted to Christmas Trees, orchards, ornamentals, vineyards and other cropland needing protective cover.

(10) A three-year conservation tillage system means any tillage and planting system in which at least (60) sixty percent of the soil surface is covered by plant residue for the same fields for three consecutive years to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. This incentive is broken down into two categories depending on the crop(s) to be grown:

(a) Grain crops and cotton
(b) Vegetables, Tobacco, Peanuts, and Sweet Corn

Cost share for each category of this practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(11) A cover crop means a crop or mixture of crops grown primarily for seasonal protection, erosion control and soil improvement. It usually is grown for one year or less. The major purpose is water and wind erosion control, to cycle plant nutrients, add organic matter to the soil, improve infiltration, aeration and tilth, improve soil quality, reduce soil crusting, and sequester carbon/nutrients. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(12) A critical area planting means an area of highly erodible land that cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is

established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(13) A cropland conversion practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grasses, trees, or wildlife plantings on fields previously used for crop production to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(14) Crop residue management means maintaining cover on sixty (60) percent of the soil surface at planting to protect water quality. Crop residue management also provides seasonal soil protection from wind and rain erosion, adds organic matter to the soil, conserves soil moisture, and improves infiltration, aeration and tilth. Benefits may include reduction in soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $15,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(15) A diversion means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(16) A field border means a strip of perennial vegetation established at the edge of the field that provides a stabilized outlet for row water to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(17) A filter strip means an area of permanent perennial vegetation for removing sediment, organic matter, and other pollutants from runoff and waste water to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(18) A grade stabilization structure means a structure (earth embankment, mechanical spillway, detention-type, etc.) used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(19) A grassed waterway means a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(20) A heavy use area protection means an area used frequently and intensively by animals, which must be stabilized by surfacing with suitable materials to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(21) A land smoothing practice means reshaping the surface of agricultural land to planned grades for the purpose of improving water quality. Improvements to water quality include:

(a) Reduction in nutrient loss.
(b) Reduction in concentrated flow of water from an agricultural field.
(c) Improved infiltration.

(22) A livestock exclusion system means a system of permanent fencing (board or barbed, high tensile or electric wire) installed to exclude livestock from streams and critical areas not intended for grazing to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(23) A livestock feeding area is a sized concrete pad where feeders are located, surrounded by a heavy use area. The livestock feeding area is designed for the purpose of improving the lifespan of the heavy use area and to reduce the runoff of nutrients and fecal coliform to adjacent water bodies. The practice is to be used to address water quality concerns where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of feeding areas is infeasible due to physical limitations (e.g., slope) and where other stream protection measures are insufficient to protect water quality. Cost share for the concrete pad for this practice is limited to $4,200 at 75% cost share and $5,040 at 90%.

(24) A long term no-till practice means planting all crops for five consecutive years with at least eighty (80) percent plant residue from preceding crops to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive or this incentive combined with 3-year conservation tillage for grain and cotton is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(25) A micro-irrigation system means an environmentally safe system for the conveyance and distribution of water, chemicals, and fertilizer to agricultural fields for crop production. A micro-irrigation system is for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface as drops, tiny streams, or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to support one or more of the following purposes:

(a) To efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth.
(b) To efficiently and uniformly apply plant nutrients in a manner that protects water quality.
(c) To prevent contamination of ground and surface water by efficiently and uniformly applying chemicals and fertilizers.
(d) To establish desired vegetation.

Cost share for this practice will be based on actual cost with receipts required not to exceed $25,000 charge to the NCACSP at 75% cost share and $30,000 at 90%, including the cost of backflow prevention.

(26) A nutrient management means a definitive plan to manage the amount, form, placement, and timing of applications of nutrients to minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater and improve water quality.

(27) A nutrient scavenger crop is a crop of small grain grown primarily as a seasonal nutrient scavenger. The purpose is to scavenge and cycle plant nutrients. The nutrient scavenger crop also adds organic matter to the soil, improves infiltration, aeration and tilth, improves soil quality, reduces soil crusting, provides residue for conservation tillage, and sequesters carbon. Benefits may include reduction of soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(28) A pastureland conversion practice means establishing trees or perennial wildlife plantings on excessively eroding land with a visible sediment delivery problem to the waters of the state used for pasture that is too steep to mow or maintain with conventional equipment to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation.

(29) A pasture renovation practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of grass, where existing pasture vegetation is inadequate. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(30) A portable agrichemical mixing station means a portable device to be used in the field to prevent the unintentional release of agrichemicals to the environment during mixing and transferring of agrichemicals. Benefits may include prevention of accidental degradation of surface and ground water. Cost share for this practice is limited to $3,500 per station at 75% cost share and $4,200 at 90%. Cost share is also limited to one station per cooperator.

(31) Precision Agrichemical Application means using a system of components that enable reduction and greater control of fertilizer and pesticide application. This is accomplished through avoidance of excessive overlapping, unnecessary application to end/turn rows, and more precise control of application rates.

(32) Precision nutrient management means applying nitrogen; phosphorus and lime in a site-specific manner (with specialized application equipment or multiple application events) based on the site specific recommendations for each GPS-referenced sampling point to minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater and improve water quality. Cost share for this incentive is limited to $15,000 per cooperator.

(33) Prescribed grazing involves managing the intensity, frequency, duration, timing, and number of grazing animals on pastureland in accordance with site production limitations, rate of plant growth, physiological needs of forage plants for production and persistence, and nutritional needs of the grazing animals. The goal of this practice is to reduce accelerated soil erosion and compaction, to improve or maintain riparian and watershed function, to maintain surface and/or subsurface water quality and quantity, to improve nutrient distribution, and to improve or maintain desired species composition and vigor of plant communities. Productive pastures maintain wildlife habitat and permeable green space. Cost share for this incentive is limited to $15,000 per cooperator.

(34) A riparian buffer means a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (grass, shrubs, trees, or a combination of vegetation types) established adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced

soil erosion and nutrient delivery, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

(35) A rock-lined outlet means a waterway having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone or other permanent material where an unlined or grassed waterway would be inadequate to improve water quality. Benefits may include safe disposal of runoff, reduced erosion and sedimentation.

(36) A rooftop runoff management system means a system of collection and stabilization practices (dripline stabilization, guttering, collection boxes, etc.) to prevent rainfall runoff from agricultural rooftops from causing erosion where vegetative practices are insufficient to address erosion concerns and protect water quality.

(37) A sediment control basin means a basin constructed to trap and store waterborne sediment where physical conditions or land ownership preclude treatment of a sediment source by the installation of other erosion control measures to improve water quality.

(38) A sod-based rotation practice means an adapted sequence of crops, grasses and legumes or a mixture thereof established and maintained for a definite number of years as part of a conservation cropping system which is designed to provide adequate organic residue for maintenance or improvement of soil tilth to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Cost share for this incentive practice is limited to $25,000 per cooperator in a lifetime.

(39) A stock trail or walkway means to provide a stable area used frequently and intensively for livestock movement by surfacing with suitable material to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved, particulate, and sediment-attached substances.

(40) A stream protection system means a planned system for protecting streams and stream banks that eliminates the need for livestock to be in streams by providing an alternative-watering source for livestock to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination, and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances. System components may include:

(a) A spring development means improving springs and seeps by excavating, cleaning, capping or providing collection and storage facilities.
(b) A stream crossing means a trail constructed across a stream to allow livestock to cross without disturbing the bottom or causing soil erosion on the banks.
(c) A trough or tank means devices installed to provide drinking water for livestock at a stabilized location.
(d) A well means constructing a drilled, driven or dug well to supply water from an underground source.
(e) A windmill means erecting or constructing a mill operated by the wind's rotation of large vanes and is used as a source of power for pumping water.

(41) Streambank and shoreline protection means the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and

erosion. This practice should be used to prevent the loss of land or damage to utilities, roads, buildings, or other facilities adjacent to the banks, to maintain the capacity of the channel, to control channel meander that would adversely affect downstream facilities, to reduce sediment load causing downstream damages and pollution, or to improve the stream for recreation or fish and wildlife habitat.

(42) A stream restoration system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures, and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors in order to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambank. Cost share for this practice is limited to $50,000 per cooperator per year at 75% cost share and to $60,000 per year at 90%.

(43) A stripcropping practice means to grow crops and sod in a systematic arrangement of alternating strips or bands on the contour to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. The crops are arranged so that a strip of grass or close-growing crop is alternated with a strip of clean-tilled crop, fallow, or no-till crop, or a strip of grass is alternated with a close-growing crop.

(44) A terrace means an earth embankment, a channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(45) A waste management system means a planned system in which all necessary components are installed for managing liquid and solid waste to prevent or minimize degradation of soil and ground and surface water resources. System components may include:

(A) A closure of waste impoundment means the safe removal of existing waste and waste water and the application of this waste on land in an environmentally safe manner. This practice is only applicable to waste storage ponds and lagoons. Cost share for this practice is limited to $75,000 per cooperator at 75% cost share and $90,000 at 90% cost share.

(B) A concentrated nutrient source management system is a system of vegetative and structural measures used to manage the collection, storage, and/or treatment of areas where agricultural products may cause an area of concentrated nutrients.

(C) A constructed wetland for land application practice means an artificial wetland area into which liquid animal waste from a waste storage pond or lagoon is dispersed over time to lower the nutrient content of the liquid animal waste.

(D) A drystack means a fabricated structure for temporary storage of animal waste. Cost share for drystacks for poultry and non-.0200 animal operations are limited to $33,000 per structure at 75% cost share and $39,600 at 90%.

(E) The feeding/waste storage structure is designed for the purpose of improving the collection/storage of animal waste and to reduce runoff of nutrients and fecal

coliform to adjacent water bodies. The practice is intended to be used where livestock feeding areas are in close proximity to streams and where relocation or rotation of feeding areas is infeasible due to physical limitations (e.g., slope) and where other stream protection measures are insufficient to address water quality concerns. Cost share for this practice is limited to $27,500 per structure at 75% cost share and $33,000 per structure at 90%.

(F) An insect control system means a practice or combination of practices (planting windbreaks, pre-charging structures, incorporation of waste into soil, etc.) which manages or controls insects from confined animal operations, waste treatment and storage structures, and waste applied to agricultural land.

(G) Lagoon biosolids removal means removing accumulated biosolids from active lagoons. The biosolids will be properly utilized on farmland or forestland or processed to a value-added product, including energy production, to reduce nutrient impacts from nitrogen-only based planning and impacts of phosphorus accumulation on application land.

(H) A livestock mortality management system is a facility for managing livestock mortalities such as to minimize water quality impacts or to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute. Cost shareable mortality management system components include: composter, rotary drum composter, forced aeration static pile composter, mortality freezer, mortality incinerator, and mortality gasification system.

(I) A manure composting facility is a facility for the biological treatment, stabilization and environmentally safe storage of organic waste material (such as manure from poultry and livestock) to minimize water quality impacts and to produce a material that can be recycled as a soil amendment and fertilizer substitute.

(J) Manure/litter transportation means transporting dry litter and dry manure from livestock and poultry farms that lack sufficient land to effectively utilize the animal-derived nutrients. The litter/manure will be properly utilized on alternative land or processed to a value-added product, including energy production, to reduce nutrient impacts. Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive payments shall be limited to 3-years per applicant and $15,000 in a lifetime.

(K) An odor control management system means a practice or combination of practices (planting windbreaks, pre-charging structures, incorporation of waste into soil, etc.) which manages or controls odors from confined animal operations, waste treatment and storage structures and waste applied to agricultural land and improves air quality by reducing and intercepting airborne particulate matter, chemical drift and odor.

(L) A retrofit of on-going animal operations means modification of structures to increase storage or to correct design flaws to meet current standards. This practice may also be used to close waste impoundments on on-going operations, including the safe removal of existing waste and waste water and the application of this waste on land in an environmentally safe manner. .

(M) A solids separation from tank-based aquaculture production means a facility for the removal, storage and dewatering of solid waste from the effluent of intensive tank-based aquaculture production systems. The system is used to capture organic solids from the effluent stream of intensive fish production systems that would otherwise flow to effluent ponds for storage and further treatment. This waste comes from uneaten feed and feces generated by fish while being fed within a tank-or raceway based fish farm.

(N) A storm water management system means a system of collection and diversion practices (guttering, collection boxes, diversions, etc.) to prevent unpolluted storm water from flowing across concentrated waste areas on animal operations.

(O) A waste application system means an environmentally safe system (such as solid set, dry hydrant, mobile irrigation equipment, etc.) for the conveyance and distribution of animal wastes from waste treatment and storage structures to agricultural fields as part of an irrigation and waste utilization plan. Cost share for this practice is limited to $35,000 per cooperator in a lifetime at 75% cost share and $42,000 in a lifetime at 90%.

(P) A waste storage pond means an impoundment made by excavation or earthfill for temporary storage of animal waste, waste water and polluted runoff.

(Q) A waste treatment lagoon means an impoundment made by excavation or earthfill for biological treatment and storage of animal waste.

(46) A water control structure means a permanent structure placed in a farm canal, ditch, or subsurface drainage conduit (drain tile or tube), which provides control of the stage or discharge of surface and/or subsurface drainage. The management mechanism of the structure may be flashboards, gates, valves, risers, or pipes. The primary purpose of the water control structure is to improve water quality by elevating the water table and reducing drainage outflow. A secondary purpose is to restore hydrology in riparian buffers to the extent practical. Elevating the water table promotes denitrification and lower nitrate levels in drainage water from cropping systems and minimizes the effects of short-circuiting of drainage systems passing through riparian buffers. Other benefits may include reduced pollution from other dissolved and sediment-attached substances, reduced downstream sedimentation and reduced stormwater surges of fresh water into estuarine areas.

This practice is not intended to be used to control water inflow from tidal influence (i.e., no tide gates).

(47) A wetland restoration system means a system of practices designed to restore the natural hydrology of an area that had been drained and cropped.

*To be used in conjunction with the most recent version of the APA Rules for the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control and the NC-ACSP Manual.

ATTACHMENT 9A

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ELIGIBLE FOR COST SHARE PAYMENTS

(1) Best Management Practices eligible for cost sharing include the practices listed in Table 1 and any approved District BMPs. District BMPs shall be reviewed by the Division for technical merit in achieving the goals of this program. Upon approval by the Division, the District BMPs will be eligible to receive cost share funding.

Table 1

Practice	Minimum Life Expectancy (years)
Abandoned Tree Removal	10
Abandoned Well Closure	1
Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility	10
Agrichemical Handling Facility	10
Agricultural Pond Restoration/Repair	10
Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	10
Agricultural Water Collection System	10
Backflow Prevention System	
Chemigation	10
Fertigation	10
Conservation Cover	6
3-Year Conservation Tillage System	3
Cover Crops	1
Critical Area Planting	10
Cropland Conversion	10
Crop Residue Management	1
Diversion	10
Field Border	10
Filter Strip	10
Grade Stabilization Structure	10
Grassed Waterway	10
Heavy Use Area Protection	10
Land Smoothing	5
Livestock Exclusion	10
Livestock Feeding Area	10
Long Term No-Till	5
Micro-Irrigation System	10
Nutrient Management	3
Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop	1
Pasture Renovation	10
Pastureland Conversion	10
Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station	5
Precision Agrichemical Application	5
Precision Nutrient Management	3
Prescribed Grazing	3

ATTACHMENT 9A

Riparian Buffer	10
Rock-lined Waterway or Outlet	10
Rooftop Runoff Management System	10
Sediment Control Basin	10
Sod-based Rotation	4 or 5
Stock Trail and Walkway	10
Stream Protection System	
Spring Development	10
Stream Crossing	10
Trough or Tank	10
Well	10
Windmills	10
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	10
Stream Restoration	10
Stripcropping	5
Terrace	10
Waste Management System	
Closure of Abandoned Waste Impoundment	10
Concentrated Nutrient Source Management System	10
Constructed Wetland for Land Application	10
Drystack	10
Feeding/Waste Storage Structure	10
Insect Control System	5
Lagoon Biosolids Removal Practice	1
Livestock Mortality Management System	
Incinerator	5
Others Systems	10
Manure Composting Facility	10
Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive	1
Odor Management System	1 to 10
Retrofit of On-going Animal Operations	10
Solids Separation from Tank-Based Aquaculture Production	10
Storm Water Management System	10
Waste Application System	10
Waste Storage Pond	10
Waste Treatment Lagoon	10
Water Control Structure	10
Wetlands Restoration System	10

(2) The minimum life expectancy of the BMPs shall be that listed in Table 1. Practices designated by a District shall meet the life expectancy requirement established by the Division for that District BMP.

(3) The list of BMPs eligible for cost sharing may be revised by the Commission as deemed appropriate in order to meet program purpose and goals.

ATTACHMENT 9A

NC AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES OF APPROVED BMPs

Purpose: Stream Protection Measures

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Heavy Use Area Protection	-	√	-	10
Livestock Exclusion System	√	√	-	10
Spring Development	-	-		10
Stock Trail	-	√	-	10
Stream Crossing		√	-	10
Trough or Tank	-	-	√	10
Well	-	-	√	10
Windmill	-	-	√	10
Livestock Feeding Area	-	-	√	10

Purpose: Waste Management Measures – Mortality and Manure Management

BMP	Proper mgmt. of nutrients	Reduction of soil loss	Nutrient interception	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Closure of Waste Impoundment	√	-	-	-	10
Constructed wetlands	√	-	√	-	10
Controlled Livestock Lounging Area	-	√	-	√	10
Dry Manure Stack	√	-	-	-	10
Feeding/Waste Storage					10
Heavy Use Area Protection	-	√	-	-	10
Insect Control	-	-	-	-	5
Odor Control	-	-	-	-	1-10
Storm Water Management	√	-	-	-	10
Waste Treatment Lagoon/Storage Pond	√	-	-	-	10
Mortality Management Systems Incinerators	√ √	- -	- -	- -	10 5
Waste Application System	√	-	-	√	10
Tank-Based Aquaculture	√	-	-	-	10
Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive	√	-	-	-	1
Manure Composting Facility	√				10
Lagoon Biosolids Removal Incentive	√	-	-	-	1
Concentrated Nutrient Source Management	√			√	10

ATTACHMENT 9A

Purpose: Erosion Reduction/Nutrient Loss Reduction in Fields

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Conservation Tillage 3-yr	√	√	3
Long Term No-till	√	√	5
Critical Area Planting	√	√	10
Cropland Conversion	√	√	10
Water Diversion	√	√	10
Land Smoothing	√	√	10
Wetlands Restoration	√	√	10
Pastureland Conversion	√	√	10
Sod-based Rotation	√	√	4 or 5
Stripcropping	√	√	5
Terraces	√	√	10
Conservation Cover	√	√	6
Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop	√	√	10
Cover Crop	√	√	1
Pasture Renovation	√	√	10
Micro-Irrigation System	√	√	10
Rooftop Runoff Management		√	10
Prescribed Grazing	√	√	3
Crop Residue Management	√	√	3

Purpose: Agricultural Chemical Pollution Prevention

BMP	Interception of chemicals	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Abandoned Tree Removal	√	10
Agri-chemical Handling Facility	√	10
Fertigation Back Flow Prevention	√	10
Chemigation Back Flow Prevention	√	10
Portable Pesticide Mixing Station	√	5
Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility	√	10

ATTACHMENT 9A

Purpose: Sediment/Nutrient Delivery Reduction from Fields

BMP	Reduction of applied nutrient	Reduction of soil loss	Nutrient interception	Facilitating BMP	Life of BMP (yrs)
Field Border	-	√	√	-	10
Filter Strip	-	√	√	-	10
Grade Stabilization Structure	-	-	-	√	10
Grassed Waterway	-	√	√	-	10
Nutrient Mgmt.	√	-	-	-	3
Riparian Buffer	-	√	√	-	10
Rock-lined Outlet	-	-	-	√	10
Sediment Control Basin	-	-	√	-	10
Water Control Structure	-	√	√	-	10
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	-	√	√	-	10
Stream Restoration		√			10
Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	-	√	-	-	10
Abandoned Well Closure	-	-	-	√	1
Agricultural Pond Restoration/Repair		√	√		10
Precision Nutrient Management	√			√	3

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

ATTACHMENT 9A

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
ALAMANCE	4	25	34	73.5%	25	0	0
ALEXANDER	2	14	68	20.6%	14	0	2
ALLEGHANY	4	9	129	7.0%	9	0	0
ANSON (BROWN CREEK)	1	8	27	29.6%	8	0	0
ASHE (NEW RIVER)	2	5	83	6.0%	4	1	0
AVERY	2	5	94	5.3%	5	0	0
BEAUFORT	5	9	42	21.4%	9	0	3
BERTIE	1	11	98	11.2%	11	0	0
BLADEN	1	12	100	12.0%	12	0	0
BRUNSWICK	2	3	44	6.8%	3	0	0
BUNCOMBE	3	5	106	4.7%	5	0	0
BURKE	3	4	75	5.3%	4	0	0
CABARRUS	2	9	71	12.7%	9	0	1
CALDWELL	5	8	88	9.1%	8	0	0
CAMDEN (ALBEMARLE)	3	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
CARTERET	2	4	4	100.0%	4	0	0
CASWELL	1	14	263	5.3%	14	0	0
CATAWBA	2	4	80	5.0%	4	0	0
CHATHAM	2	7	91	7.7%	7	0	0
CHEROKEE	2	9	160	5.6%	9	0	0
CHOWAN (ALBEMARLE)	3	6	55	10.9%	6	0	0
CLAY	3	4	78	5.1%	4	0	0
CLEVELAND	2	5	60	8.3%	5	0	1
COLUMBUS	2	8	97	8.2%	7	1	0
CRAVEN	1	1	15	6.7%	1	0	1
CUMBERLAND	3	4	58	6.9%	4	0	0
CURRITUCK (ALBEMARLE)	3	5	8	62.5%	5	0	0
DAVIDSON	1	13	74	17.6%	13	0	0
DAVIE	2	16	67	23.9%	16	0	0
DUPLIN	2	9	175	5.1%	9	0	0
DURHAM	1	5	41	12.2%	5	0	0
EDGECOMBE	1	8	58	13.8%	8	0	0
FORSYTH	2	4	72	5.6%	4	0	0
FRANKLIN	3	13	84	15.5%	12	1	0
GASTON	2	4	74	5.4%	3	1	2
GATES	4	6	31	19.4%	6	0	0
GRAHAM	1	5	47	10.6%	5	0	0
GRANVILLE	1	7	135	5.2%	7	0	0
GREENE	2	12	43	27.9%	12	0	0
GUILFORD	5	22	136	16.2%	22	0	2
HALIFAX (FISHING CREEK)	1	4	58	6.9%	3	1	1
HARNETT	4	9	137	6.6%	9	0	0
HAYWOOD	2	6	117	5.1%	6	0	0
HENDERSON	2	5	86	5.8%	5	0	0
HERTFORD	1	5	45	11.1%	5	0	0
HOKE	1	8	22	36.4%	8	0	1
HYDE	5	6	75	8.0%	6	0	0
IREDELL	2	6	48	12.5%	6	0	0
JACKSON	1	5	60	8.3%	5	0	0
JOHNSTON	3	11	152	7.2%	11	0	0
JONES	2	7	71	9.9%	7	0	1
LEE	4	5	84	6.0%	4	1	0

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

ATTACHMENT 9A

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
LENOIR	3	10	60	16.7%	9	1	0
LINCOLN	2	7	96	7.3%	7	0	0
MACON	1	4	68	5.9%	4	0	0
MADISON	2	8	160	5.0%	8	0	0
MARTIN	2	6	88	6.8%	6	0	0
MCDOWELL	1	3	11	27.3%	3	0	0
MECKLENBURG	3	2	11	18.2%	1	1	0
MITCHELL	3	10	114	8.8%	10	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1	25	52	48.1%	25	0	0
MOORE	2	27	38	71.1%	27	0	0
NASH	3	3	66	4.5%	3	0	0
NEW HANOVER	1	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
NORTHAMPTON	1	10	189	5.3%	10	0	0
ONSLOW	3	7	74	9.5%	7	0	0
ORANGE	1	21	149	14.1%	20	1	0
PAMLICO	1	2	25	8.0%	1	1	0
PASQUOTANK (ALBEMARLE)	3	2	25	8.0%	2	0	0
PENDER	2	4	68	5.9%	4	0	0
PERQUIMANS (ALBEMARLE)	3	3	3	100.0%	3	0	0
PERSON	3	10	154	6.5%	8	2	1
PITT	3	15	182	8.2%	15	0	0
POLK	3	5	38	13.2%	5	0	0
RANDOLPH	2	10	77	13.0%	10	0	0
RICHMOND	3	8	40	20.0%	8	0	0
ROBESON	2	6	143	4.2%	6	0	0
ROCKINGHAM	3	12	203	5.9%	12	0	0
ROWAN	1	5	59	8.5%	5	0	1
RUTHERFORD	1	6	8	75.0%	6	0	1
SAMPSON	3	23	189	12.2%	23	0	0
SCOTLAND	1	3	3	100.0%	3	0	0
STANLY	3	8	106	7.5%	8	0	0
STOKES	5	7	121	5.8%	7	0	0
SURRY	4	10	164	6.1%	10	0	1
SWAIN	4	3	33	9.1%	3	0	0
TRANSYLVANIA	2	5	67	7.5%	5	0	0
TYRRELL	2	3	54	5.6%	3	0	0
UNION	1	14	79	17.7%	14	0	0
VANCE	2	5	82	6.1%	5	0	0
WAKE	5	7	129	5.4%	6	1	0
WARREN	1	10	136	7.4%	8	2	2
WASHINGTON	1	5	5	100.0%	5	0	0
WATAUGA	2	3	48	6.3%	3	0	0
WAYNE	3	23	158	14.6%	22	1	0
WILKES	5	24	80	30.0%	24	0	0
WILSON	5	5	92	5.4%	5	0	0
YADKIN	5	18	114	15.8%	17	1	0
YANCEY	1	8	131	6.1%	8	0	0
TOTALS	**235**	**817**	**8,018**	**10.2%**	**800**	**17**	**21**
					97.9%	**2.1%**	**2.6%**

ATTACHMENT 9A

Cost Share Programs

Funding and Compliance Process

District conducts natural resource assessments to determine conservation needs. District advertises Cost Share Programs.

District develops and approves an Annual Strategy Plan and prioritization ranking form based on water quality and quantity priorities associated with each program.

Strategy Plan is sent to Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Annual Strategy Plans from all Districts are evaluated by Division staff and District rankings are determined based on parameters adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Cost Share funds are allocated to Districts by the Commission.

Districts receive their annual allocations.

District accepts applications; District Board reviews, ranks, and approves applications during an official meeting.

Technical staff conducts conservation planning and writes Cost Share contracts from approved applications.

District Board reviews and approves contracts during an official meeting.

Cost Share Contracts are sent to Division for approval.

Each contract is reviewed by Division Staff and approved as a contract among the State, District, and cooperators, if program requirements are met; Division notifies District of contract approval before installation begins.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed to NRCS and SWCC standards or other references in SWCC approved BMPs.

Technical staff checks BMP and certifies installation has been completed according to BMP standards.

Request for payment is completed and signed by cooperator and a technical staff person with job approval authority for the BMP.

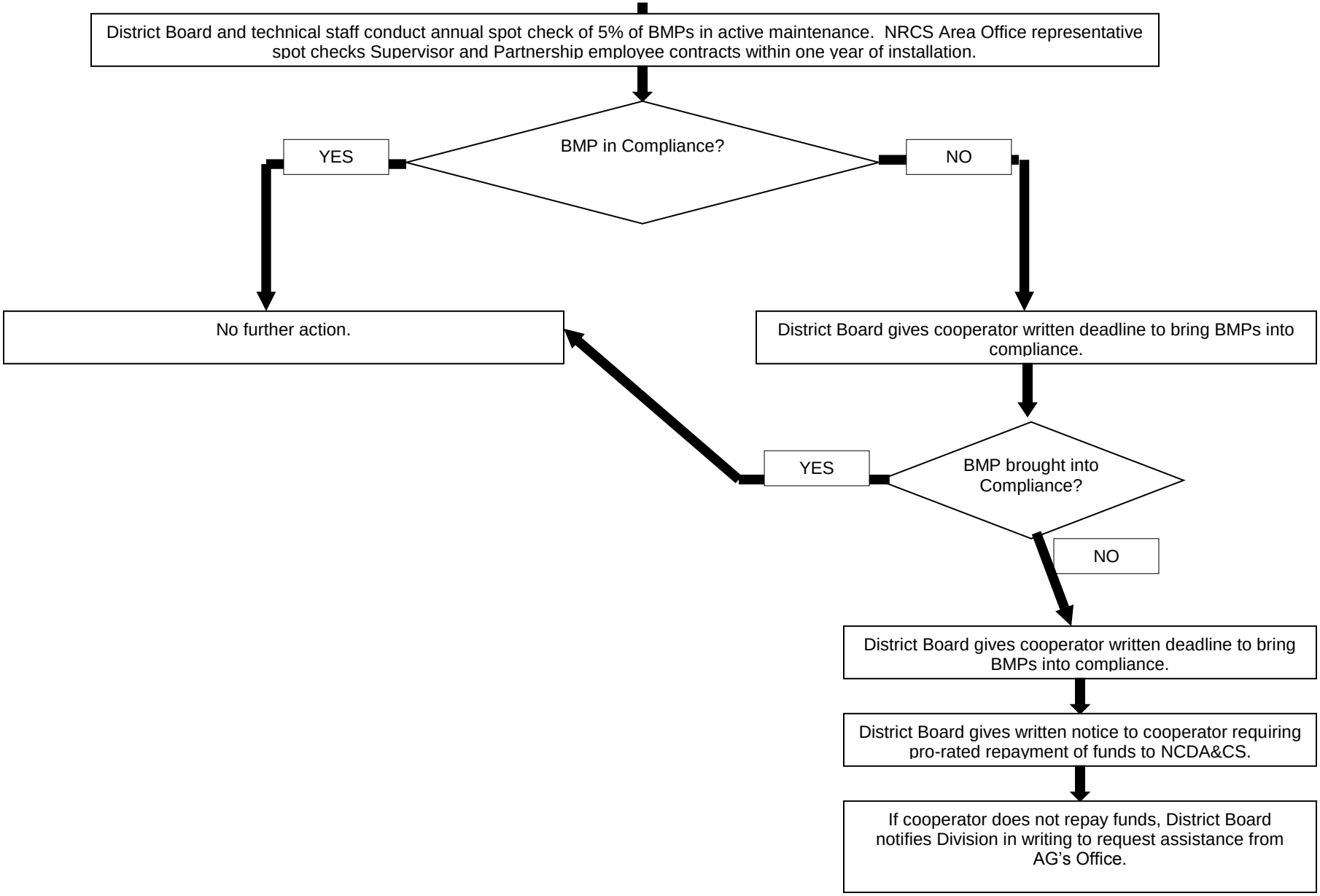
Request for Payment is approved by the District Board and forwarded to the Division.

Division staff reviews and approves request for payment.

Approved requests for payment are forwarded to NCDA&CS Controller's Office for payment to be issued.

Cooperator receives payment for installed BMPs and District receives notification of payment.

ATTACHMENT 9A



ATTACHMENT 9A

Cropland Conversion- Long Leaf Pine

Streambank and shoreline protection

Livestock Exclusion System

Dry stack-Poultry

Manure Composting Facility

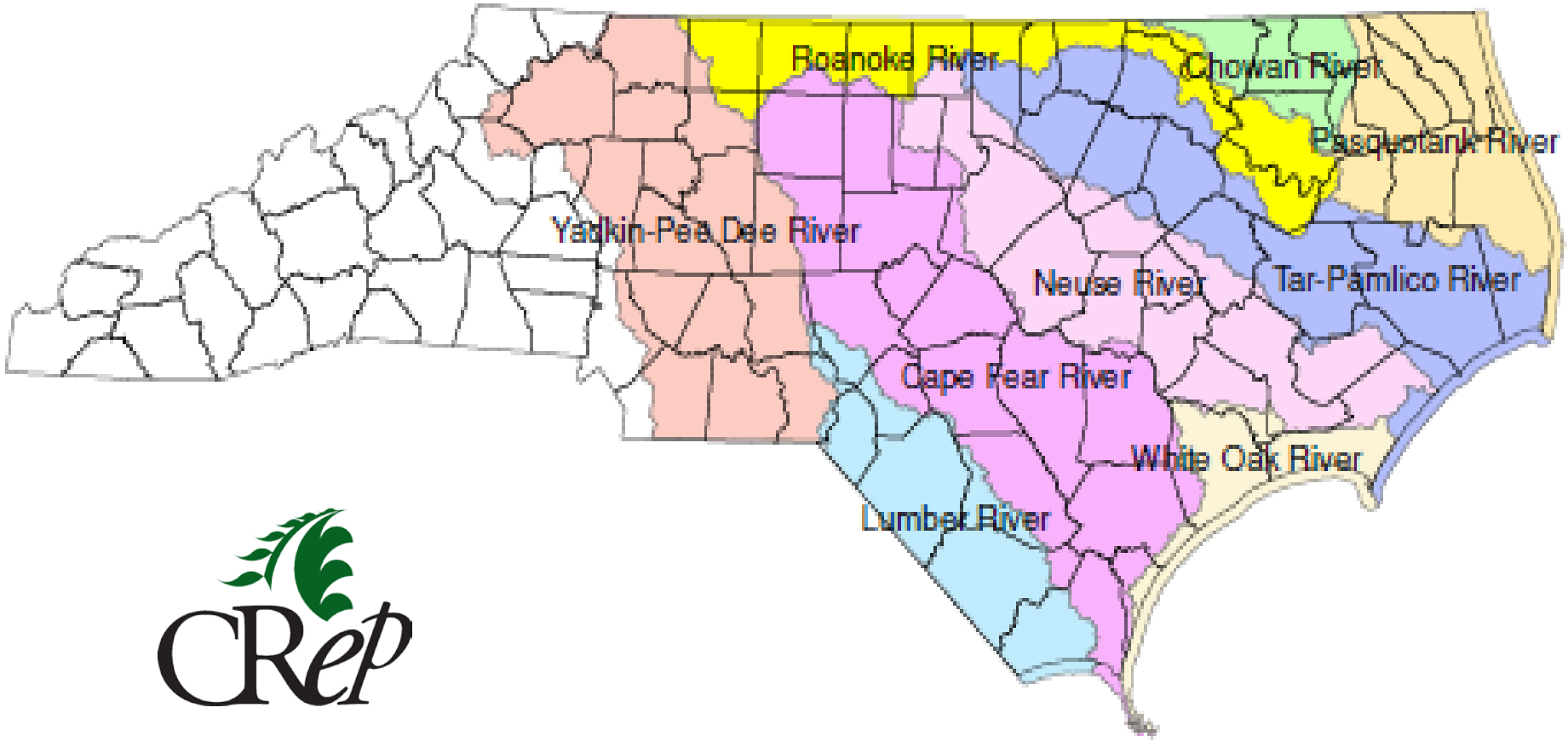
Rooftop Runoff Management System

ATTACHMENT 9B

NC Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program 2016 Annual Report

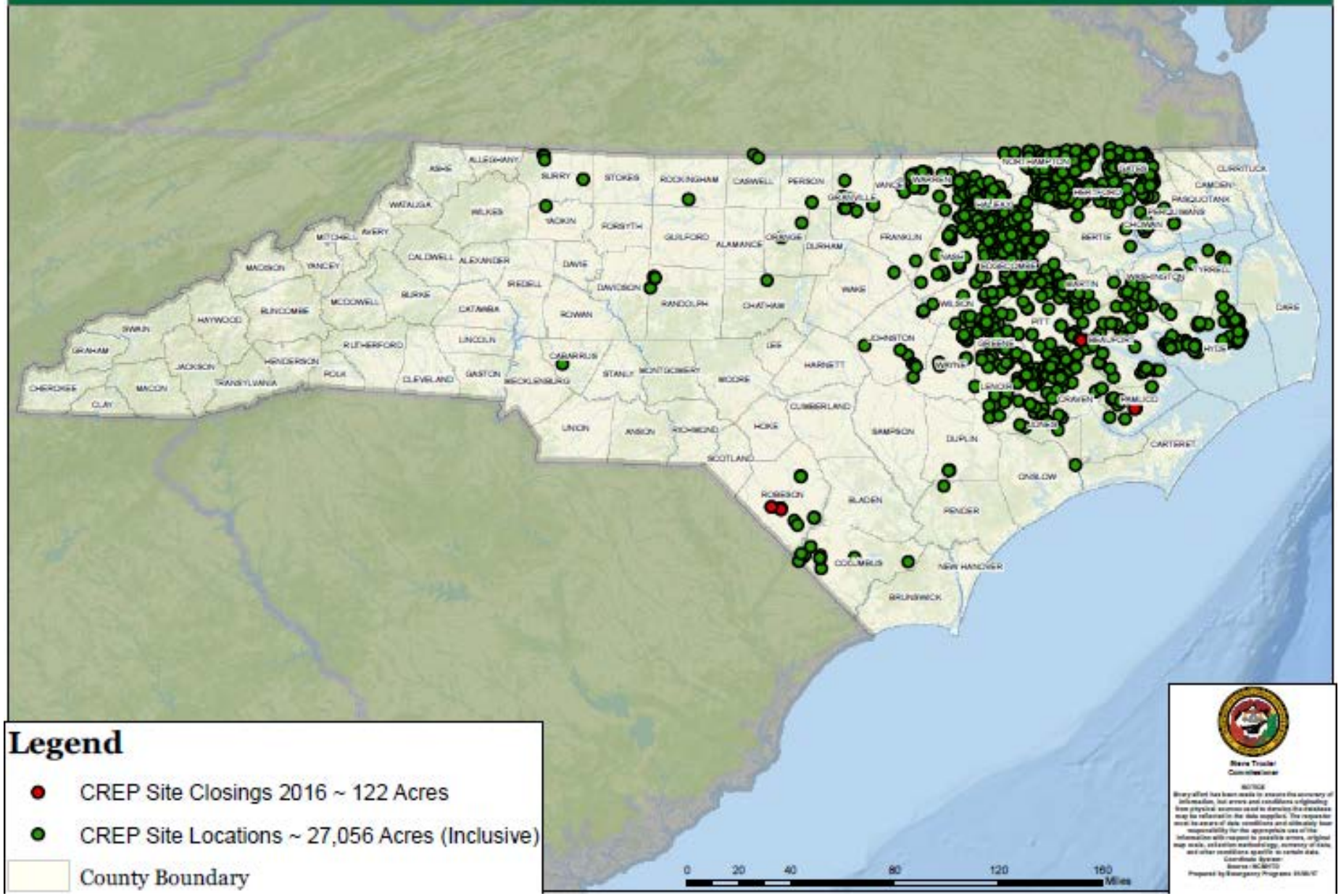
January 8, 2016

Figure 1: CREP River Basins



ATTACHMENT 9B

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)



Closed Easements as of 9/30/16

Permanent Easements - 266 Easements

- Totaling 7,683 Acres

30-year Easements - 905 Easements

- Totaling 18,892 Acres

Approximately 848 Stream Miles Protected Through Long Term Conservation Easements

Easement Distribution

River Basin	Number of Acres	Number of Contracts	Approx. Stream Miles Protected
Cape Fear	104.3	5	3.06
Chowan	5,153.1	325	142.4
Lumber	264.9	23	8.32
Neuse	4,069.9	219	120.2
Pasquotank	365.2	11	11.0
Roanoke	230.3	8	6.33
Tar-Pamlico	16,725.7	567	542.0
White Oak	5.4	1	0.30
Yadkin-PeeDee	138.7	12	14.3

Conservation Practices

Eligible Practices	Number of Acres *
CP3 (Shortleaf Pine)	97.2
CP3A (Hardwood & Longleaf Pine)	3,018.5
CP21 (Filter Strip)	1,916.6
CP22 (Riparian Buffer)	26,424.8
CP23 (Wetland Restoration)	2,171.7
CP31 (Bottomland Timber)	6.3
Total Program Enrollment	33,635.1

Overall Program effectiveness

Stream Miles Protected	Sediment Reduction (tons)	Nitrogen Reduction (#)	Phosphorus Reduction (#)
1,078	246,437	1,923,745	441,590

ATTACHMENT 9B

CREP Marketing Initiatives

LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

POLLINATOR HABITAT

SENTINEL LANDS

CREP TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE EXPENDITURES
FY 2000 - 2016

CRP Payments (Life of Contract)	[redacted]
Federal Cost Share	$3,534,856
Stewardship Endowment	$1,833,874
State Expenses for CREP Enrollments	$28,565,245
Total Program Costs	$91,663,821

Every State dollar leverages $2 Federal

ATTACHMENT 9B

CREP TOTAL FEDERAL AND STATE EXPENDITURES FY 2000 - 2016

CRP Payments (Life of Contract)	$57,677,082
Federal Cost Share	$3,534,856
State Cost Share	$2,448,968
Stewardship Endowment	$1,833,874
State Expenses for CREP Enrollments	$24,282,403
Total Program Costs	$91,663,821

EVERY STATE DOLLAR LEVERAGES $2.14 FEDERAL

Questions?
CRep

ATTACHMENT 9C

Report to the Environmental Review Commission and Fiscal Research Division of the N.C. General Assembly on the Community Conservation Assistance Program

FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
January 2017

General Statue 143-215.74M(e) of Session Law 2006-78 mandates that the Soil and Water Conservation Commission report to the Environmental Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division a summary of the Community Conservation Assistance Program (herein referred to as CCAP) annually. The purpose of CCAP is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical and financial assistance.

Eligible landowners, including homeowners, businesses, schools, parks, churches, and others, may be reimbursed up to 75 percent of the cost of retrofitting BMPs. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (districts) provide educational services to local governments and the public and direct technical and financial assistance to property owners. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Commission) administers the program through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. CCAP BMPs include: abandoned well closures, backyard rain gardens, backyard wetlands, bioretention areas, cisterns, critical area plantings, diversions, grassed swales, impervious surface conversions, marsh sills, permeable pavement, pet waste receptacles, riparian buffers, stormwater wetlands, stream restoration, stream and shoreline protection, and structural stormwater conveyance. More information regarding CCAP BMPs can be found in Appendix C, the Detailed Implementation Plan.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 the Division of Soil and Water Conservation received recurring appropriated funds for CCAP in the amount of $193,097. A portion of these funds support a full-time permanent employee to coordinate the program and administer the funds for program implementation. Some of these funds, totaling $24,460, are used to maintain technical assistance positions in two active CCAP counties. The remainder of the state appropriations was allocated to local districts for BMP installation. At their November 18, 2015 meeting, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission allocated CCAP funds to 73 districts according to the parameters outlined in 02 NCAC 59H .0103. The total number and value of FY2016 CCAP contracts by county can be found in Appendix A.

In addition to the State appropriation, unencumbered BMP implementation grant funds were re-allocated to districts participating in active grants. The funding source for these grants include the NC Environmental Enhancement Grant Program and US EPA Section 319 Clean Water Act Grant Program. These funds, in combination with the recurring state appropriation, allowed this program to address water quality concerns and reach citizens across the state.

Program highlights and accomplishments in FY2016 include the following:

- The CCAP Advisory Committee met three times during FY2016 to provide oversight and technical review of the program. This group was active in the following areas:
    - Discussed the CCAP rules revision and drafted language for Commission consideration. .
    - Discussed future funding for the program, both from grant sources and revising the allocation parameters for the program, and recommended a voluntary recall for unencumbered FY2016 CCAP funds.
    - Developed the basis for a regional allocation application process to provide guidance on how to better utilize the limited funding available for the program.
    - Discussed and provided guidance to division staff on the Job Approval Authority (JAA) process, including the online testing process for district employees.
    - Gathered information through the education and outreach workgroup from districts and partnership organizations on successful CCAP projects.
- 99 project contracts were submitted in FY 2016 to encumber $272,303.

BMPs installed in FY2016 from CCAP funds only:

Best Management Practice	Amount Installed
Abandoned well closure	22 wells
Backyard rain garden	5 raingardens
Bioretention area	4 retention areas
Cisterns	10 cisterns
Critical Area Planting	6 critical area plantings
Diversions	1 diversion
Grassed Swale	3 grassed swales
Pervious surface conversion	1 conversion
Pet waste receptacle	28 pet waste receptacles
Riparian buffer	3 riparian buffers
Stormwater wetland	2 wetlands
Stream Restoration	6 stream restorations
Streambank and shoreline protection	12 stream and shoreline protection systems

The water quality benefits derived from the implementation of these practices are shown below:

Benefit	Value	Units
Acres Affected	201.6	Acre
Gallons of Water Saved	25,350	Gallons
Nitrogen Removed	10.6	Pounds
Number of Buildings Affected	217	Each
Number of People Affected	3,049	Each
Phosphorus Removed	2.1	Pounds
Drainage Area Affected	11,406,812	Sqft
Tons of Soil Saved	520	Tons
Solids Removed	0.1	Tons

The N.C. Community Conservation Assistance Program fills a necessary gap in programs that address water quality issues in the state as North Carolina's demographics, communities, and pollutant sources change. Demand for the program from districts across the state continues to exceed the current funding. During FY2016, over $2.1 million was requested from the 73 participating districts. This is a conservative estimate as many districts submit lower requests than needed due to the limited amount of funds available.

Many existing water quality initiatives are geared towards new construction, such as Low Impact Development, the State's Erosion and Sediment Control statute, and design standards. CCAP is unique in that it is a retrofit only program. The results of the program illustrate the important accomplishment of the General Assembly in creating the only state-wide program that addresses non-point water pollution sources from already developed areas. In addition, CCAP will be a cost effective mechanism for helping implement the Falls Lake and Jordan Lake Existing Development Rules should additional funding for the program become available.

Future program recommendations include:

- Increasing program funding to accommodate the existing project needs.
- Increasing technical assistance funding to support district staff.
- Increasing funding to provide additional engineering support.
- Continuing training and testing for BMP design and installation for employees to obtain job approval authority.
- Expanding the water quality benefits tool to measure the impact of all BMPs in reducing stormwater conveyed pollutants.
- Increasing outreach efforts and distribution of materials statewide.

For more information on the CCAP, please refer to the appendices:

- Appendix A: Total number and value of FY2016 CCAP contracts by county
- Appendix B: CCAP FY2016 Contracted BMPs Map
- Appendix C: CCAP FY2016 Detailed Implementation Plan
- Appendix D: Best Management Practices (BMP) effects table
- Appendix E: CCAP Spot Check report
- Appendix F: Flow chart of funding and compliance process
- Appendix G: BMP photos

ATTACHMENT 9C

Appendix A - FY 2016 Contracts and Contract Values

COUNTY	CONTRACT NUMBER	BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE	CONTRACT VALUE
ALAMANCE	01-2016-502	Abandoned well closure	$2,000
ALAMANCE	01-2016-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,000
ALAMANCE	01-2016-504	Abandoned well closure	$1,000
ALEXANDER	02-2016-501	Stream restoration	$5,209
ALEXANDER	02-2016-502	Critical area planting	$979
ALEXANDER	02-2016-503	Pet waste receptacle	$1,900
ALLEGHANY	03-2016-501	Bioretention areas	$4,568
BRUNSWICK	10-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$10,449
BUNCOMBE	11-2016-501	Bioretention areas	$2,813
BUNCOMBE	11-2016-501	Stormwater wetlands	$2,494
BUNCOMBE	11-2016-502	Stormwater wetlands	$4,444
BURKE	12-2016-004	Grassed Swale	$5,632
BURKE	12-2016-501	Cisterns	$1,644
BURKE	12-2016-502	Stormwater wetlands	$3,069
CABARRUS	13-2016-501	Stormwater wetlands	$0
CABARRUS	13-2016-502	Cisterns	$1,352
CABARRUS	13-2016-503	Stream restoration	$6,667
CALDWELL	14-2016-003	Streambank and shoreline protection	$7,531
CALDWELL	14-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$2,223
CHATHAM	19-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,599
CHATHAM	19-2016-502	Riparian buffer	$3,618
CHEROKEE	20-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$2,619
CLAY	22-2016-501	Bioretention areas	$3,291
CLAY	22-2016-502	Backyard rain garden	$3,183
CLEVELAND	23-2016-201	Cisterns	$1,100
DARE	28-2016-001	Abandoned well closure	$0
DARE	28-2016-001	Marsh sills	$2,392
DAVIDSON	29-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$2,550
DAVIDSON	29-2016-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,200
DAVIDSON	29-2016-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,275
DAVIE	30-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,999
DURHAM	32-2016-504	Impervious surface conversion	$5,000
DURHAM	32-2016-506	Cisterns	$0
DURHAM	32-2016-508	Streambank and shoreline protection	$0
DURHAM	32-2016-531	Cisterns	$1,438
DURHAM	32-2016-555	Streambank and shoreline protection	$3,512
FORSYTH	34-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,447
FORSYTH	34-2016-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
FORSYTH	34-2016-503	Cisterns	$931
FORSYTH	34-2016-504	Cisterns	$1,695
GASTON	36-2016-514	Diversion	$5,705

GUILFORD	41-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,125
GUILFORD	41-2016-502	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
GUILFORD	41-2016-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,350
GUILFORD	41-2016-504	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
HALIFAX	42-2016-511	Grassed Swale	$1,769
HARNETT	43-2016-509	Abandoned well closure	$750
HAYWOOD	44-2016-501	Riparian buffer	$4,476
HENDERSON	45-2016-303	Streambank and shoreline protection	$4,885
HENDERSON	45-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$5,837
HERTFORD	46-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
HYDE	48-2016-301	Marsh sills	$1,813
JACKSON	50-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,000
JOHNSTON	51-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$2,226
JOHNSTON	51-2016-502	Streambank and shoreline protection	$2,338
LEE	53-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
LENOIR	54-2016-501	Stream restoration	$4,085
MACON	56-2016-501	Backyard rain garden	$2,956
MADISON	57-2016-501	Critical area planting	$3,100
MADISON	57-2016-502	Cisterns	$2,596
MCDOWELL	59-2016-501	Stream restoration	$8,303
MECKLENBURG	60-2016-005	Streambank and shoreline protection	$4,958
MITCHELL	61-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$3,496
MONTGOMERY	62-2016-501	Critical area planting	$1,780
MONTGOMERY	62-2016-501	Riparian buffer	$18
MOORE	63-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
MOORE	63-2016-502	Abandoned well closure	$2,757
MOORE	63-2016-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
NASH	64-2016-501	Streambank and shoreline protection	$4,724
NEW HANOVER	65-2016-001	Backyard rain garden	$527
NEW HANOVER	65-2016-002	Backyard rain garden	$1,041
NEW HANOVER	65-2016-003	Backyard rain garden	$4,144
ORANGE	68-2016-501	Critical area planting	$568
ORANGE	68-2016-502	Grassed Swale	$792
ORANGE	68-2016-502	Bioretention areas	$1,361
ORANGE	68-2016-503	Abandoned well closure	$1,170
ORANGE	68-2016-504	Backyard rain garden	$474
ORANGE	68-2016-504	Critical area planting	$113
ORANGE	68-2016-505	Critical area planting	$1,125
ORANGE	68-2016-506	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
ORANGE	68-2016-507	Abandoned well closure	$2,850
ORANGE	68-2016-508	Abandoned well closure	$1,275
ORANGE	68-2016-555	Backyard rain garden	$924
ORANGE	68-2016-555	Critical area planting	$1,325
PENDER	71-2016-502	Streambank and shoreline protection	$2,487
PITT	74-2016-501	Backyard rain garden	$810
PITT	74-2016-502	Critical area planting	$3,002
POLK	75-2016-504	Streambank and shoreline protection	$2,586

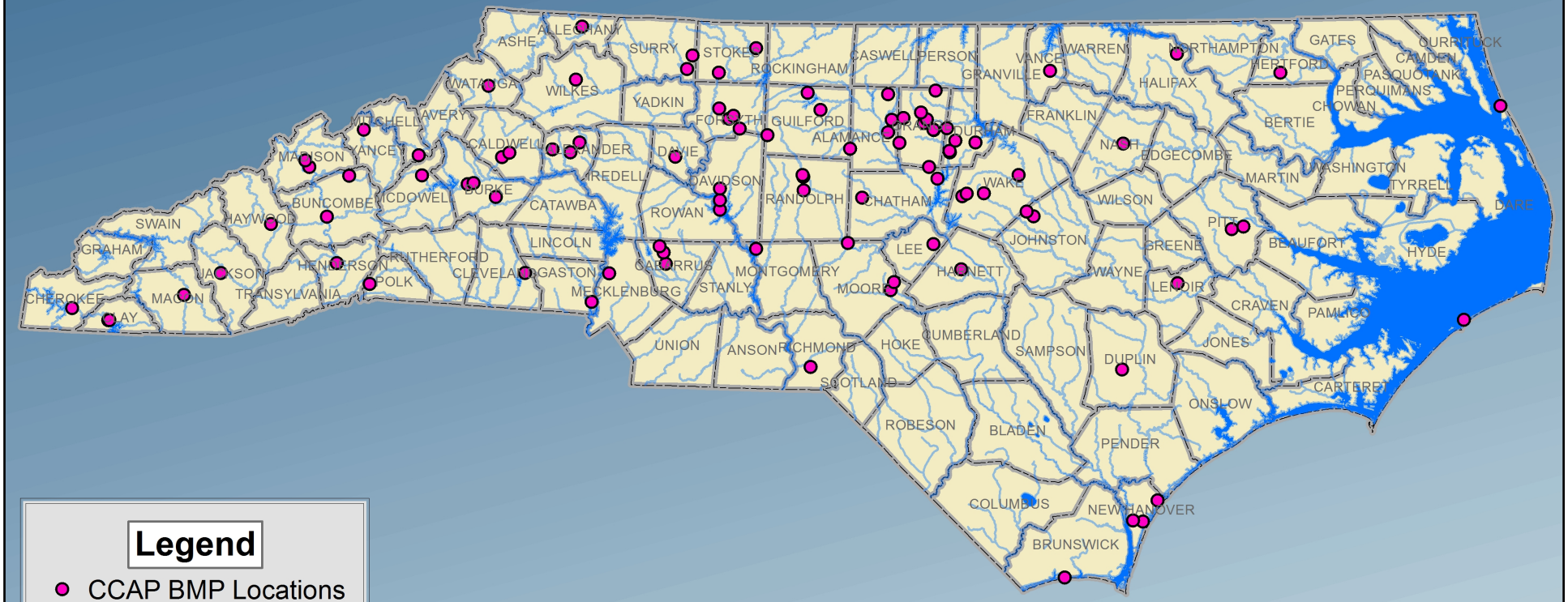
RANDOLPH	76-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,424
RANDOLPH	76-2016-502	Cisterns	$2,270
RANDOLPH	76-2016-504	Riparian buffer	$6,100
RICHMOND	77-2016-002	Stream restoration	$3,365
STOKES	85-2016-501	Abandoned well closure	$1,388
STOKES	85-2016-502	Cisterns	$967
SURRY	86-2016-510	Abandoned well closure	$1,500
SURRY	86-2016-511	Pet waste receptacle	$2,903
VANCE	91-2016-501	Pet waste receptacle	$1,579
WAKE	92-2016-501	Stream restoration	$2,437
WAKE	92-2016-503	Streambank and shoreline protection	$4,339
WAKE	92-2016-504	Streambank and shoreline protection	$5,895
WAKE	92-2016-505	Stream restoration	$15,939
WATAUGA	95-2016-501	Stormwater wetlands	$4,198
WILKES	97-2016-501	Cisterns	$3,555
Total			$272,303

Appendix B: CCAP FY2016 Contracted BMPs Map

ATTACHMENT 9C

Community Conservation Assistance Program

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Funded Best Management Practices Contracted in FY2016



Division of Soil & Water Conservation

http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/

0 10 20 40 60 80 100 120 Miles

ATTACHMENT 9C

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
PY2016

All practices defined below are to be maintained by the landowner of a single-family residence for a five-year period; all other types of properties are to be maintained by the landowner for a 10-year period.

Definition of Practices

(1) Abandoned well closure is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals and machinery.
(2) Bioretention area is the use of plants and soils for removal of pollutants from stormwater runoff. Bioretention can also be effective in reducing peak runoff rates, runoff volumes and recharging groundwater by infiltrating runoff. Bioretention areas are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.
(3) A backyard rain garden is a shallow depression in the ground that captures runoff from a driveway, roof, or lawn and allows it to soak into the ground, rather than running across roads, capturing pollutants and delivering them to a stream. Backyard rain gardens are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.
(4) Stormwater wetland means a constructed system that mimics the functions of natural wetlands and is designed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater quality and quantity. Stormwater wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft^2.
(5) Backyard wetlands are constructed systems that mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They can temporarily store, filter and clean runoff from driveways, roofs and lawns, and thereby improve water quality. The wetland should be expected to retain water or remain saturated for two to three weeks. Backyard wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft^2.
(6) A cistern is a system of collection and diversion practices to prevent stormwater from flowing across impervious areas, collecting sediment and reaching the storm drains. Benefits may include the reduction of stormwater runoff thereby reducing the opportunity for pollution to enter the storm drainage system.
(7) A critical area planting means an area of highly erodible land, which cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation and improved surface water quality.
(8) A diversion means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality.

(9) A grassed swale consists of a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, and sedimentation and improve the quality of surface water pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

(10) Impervious surface conversion means the removal of impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water and prevent precipitation from infiltrating soils. Removal of these impervious materials, when combined with permeable pavement or vegetation establishment, is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.

(11) Permeable pavement means materials that are designed to allow water to flow through them and thus reduce the imperviousness of traffic surfaces, such as patios, walkways, sidewalks, driveways and parking areas.

(12) A pet waste receptacle means a receptacle designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after animals in parks, neighborhoods and apartment complexes so as to prevent waste from being transported off-site by stormwater runoff.

(13) A riparian buffer means an area adjacent to a stream where a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (sod, shrubs, trees or a combination of vegetation types) is established to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.

(14) A stream restoration system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambanks.

(15) Streambank and shoreline protection means the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels against scour and erosion.

(16) Marsh sills protect estuarine shorelines from erosion, combining engineered structures with natural vegetation to maintain, restore, or enhance the shoreline's natural habitats. A sill is a coast-parallel, long or short structure built with the objective of reducing the wave action on the shoreline by forcing wave breaking over the sill. Sills are used to provide protection for existing coastal marshes, or to retain sandy fill between the sill and the eroding shoreline, to establish suitable elevations for the restoration or establishment of coastal marsh and/or riparian vegetation.

(17) A structural stormwater conveyance includes various techniques to divert runoff from paved surfaces where a vegetated diversion is not feasible. The purpose is to direct stormwater runoff (sheet flow or concentrated) away from a direct discharge point and divert it to an approved BMP or naturally vegetated area capable of removing nutrients through detention, filtration, or infiltration.

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Appendix D - FY 2016 BMP Effects

BMP	Reduction of Nutrients	Reduction of Soil Loss	Gallons of Water Conserved	Maintenance Period of BMP*
Abandoned well closure				10
Backyard raingarden				10
Backyard wetland				10
Bioretention area	X			10
Cisterns			X	10
Critical Area Planting		X		10
Diversion		X		10
Grassed swale		X		10
Impervious surface conversion	X			10
Marsh sill				10
Permeable pavement	X			10
Pet waste receptacle				10
Riparian buffer	X			10
Stream restoration		X		10
Streambank and shoreline stabilization		X		10
Stormwater wetland	X			10
Structural stormwater conveyance		X		10

* The maintenance period for single-family home sites is five years

ATTACHMENT 9C

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
ALAMANCE	4	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ALEXANDER	2	1	6	16.7%	1	0	1
ALLEGHANY	4	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
ANSON (BROWN CREEK)	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ASHE (NEW RIVER)	2	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
AVERY	2	3	4	75.0%	3	0	0
BEAUFORT	5	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
BERTIE	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
BLADEN	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
BRUNSWICK	2	2	9	22.2%	2	0	0
BUNCOMBE	3	2	10	20.0%	2	0	0
BURKE	3	4	15	26.7%	4	0	0
CABARRUS	2	2	16	12.5%	1	1	1
CALDWELL	5	1	23	4.3%	1	0	0
CAMDEN (ALBEMARLE)	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CARTERET	2	6	12	50.0%	6	0	0
CASWELL	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CATAWBA	2	1	11	9.1%	1	0	0
CHATHAM	2	1	13	7.7%	1	0	0
CHEROKEE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CHOWAN (ALBEMARLE)	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CLAY	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CLEVELAND	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
COLUMBUS	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CRAVEN	1	1	2	50.0%	0	1	0
CUMBERLAND	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CURRITUCK (ALBEMARLE)	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
DARE	2	3	8	37.5%	3	0	0
DAVIDSON	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
DAVIE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
DUPLIN	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
DURHAM	1	14	119	11.8%	14	0	0
EDGECOMBE	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
FORSYTH	2	2	28	7.1%	2	0	0
FRANKLIN	3	3	3	100.0%	3	0	0
GASTON	2	1	5	20.0%	1	0	1
GATES	4	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GRAHAM	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GRANVILLE	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GREENE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GUILFORD	5	2	10	20.0%	2	0	1
HALIFAX (FISHING CREEK)	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
HARNETT	4	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
HAYWOOD	2	1	6	16.7%	1	0	0
HENDERSON	2	3	11	27.3%	3	0	0
HERTFORD	1	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
HOKE	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
HYDE	5	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
IREDELL	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
JACKSON	1	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
JOHNSTON	3	1	7	14.3%	1	0	0
JONES	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	1
LEE	4	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0

ATTACHMENT 9C

NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
LENOIR	3	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
LINCOLN	2	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
MACON	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
MADISON	2	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
MARTIN	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MCDOWELL	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MECKLENBURG	3	1	7	14.3%	1	0	0
MITCHELL	3	2	5	40.0%	2	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MOORE	2	4	4	100.0%	4	0	0
NASH	3	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
NEW HANOVER	1	3	19	15.8%	3	0	2
NORTHAMPTON	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ONSLOW	3	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
ORANGE	1	1	8	12.5%	1	0	0
PAMLICO	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
PASQUOTANK (ALBEMARLE)	3	2	6	33.3%	1	1	0
PENDER	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
PERQUIMANS (ALBEMARLE)	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
PERSON	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
PITT	3	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
POLK	3	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
RANDOLPH	2	1	11	9.1%	1	0	0
RICHMOND	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ROBESON	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ROCKINGHAM	3	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
ROWAN	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
RUTHERFORD	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
SAMPSON	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
SCOTLAND	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
STANLY	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
STOKES	5	1	14	7.1%	1	0	0
SURRY	4	1	13	7.7%	1	0	0
SWAIN	4	3	4	75.0%	3	0	0
TRANSYLVANIA	2	1	7	14.3%	1	0	0
TYRRELL	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
UNION	1	2	5	40.0%	2	0	0
VANCE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WAKE	5	2	18	11.1%	2	0	0
WARREN	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
WASHINGTON	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WATAUGA	2	1	9	11.1%	1	0	1
WAYNE	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WILKES	5	1	6	16.7%	1	0	0
WILSON	5	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
YADKIN	5	4	4	100.0%	4	0	0
YANCEY	1	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
TOTALS	**237**	**115**	**525**	**21.9%**	**112**	**3**	**8**
					97.4%	**2.6%**	**7.0%**

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Cost Share Programs

Funding and Compliance Process

District conducts natural resource assessments to determine conservation needs. District advertises Cost Share Programs.

District develops and approves an Annual Strategy Plan and prioritization ranking form based on water quality and quantity priorities associated with each program.

Strategy Plan is sent to Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Annual Strategy Plans from all Districts are evaluated by Division staff and District rankings are determined based on parameters adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Cost Share funds are allocated to Districts by the Commission.

Districts receive their annual allocations.

District accepts applications; District Board reviews, ranks, and approves applications during an official meeting.

Technical staff conducts conservation planning and writes Cost Share contracts from approved applications.

District Board reviews and approves contracts during an official meeting.

Cost Share Contracts are sent to Division for approval.

Each contract is reviewed by Division Staff and approved as a contract among the State, District, and cooperators, if program requirements are met; Division notifies District of contract approval before installation begins.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed to NRCS and SWCC standards or other references in SWCC approved BMPs.

Technical staff checks BMP and certifies installation has been completed according to BMP standards.

Request for payment is completed and signed by cooperator and a technical staff person with job approval authority for the BMP.

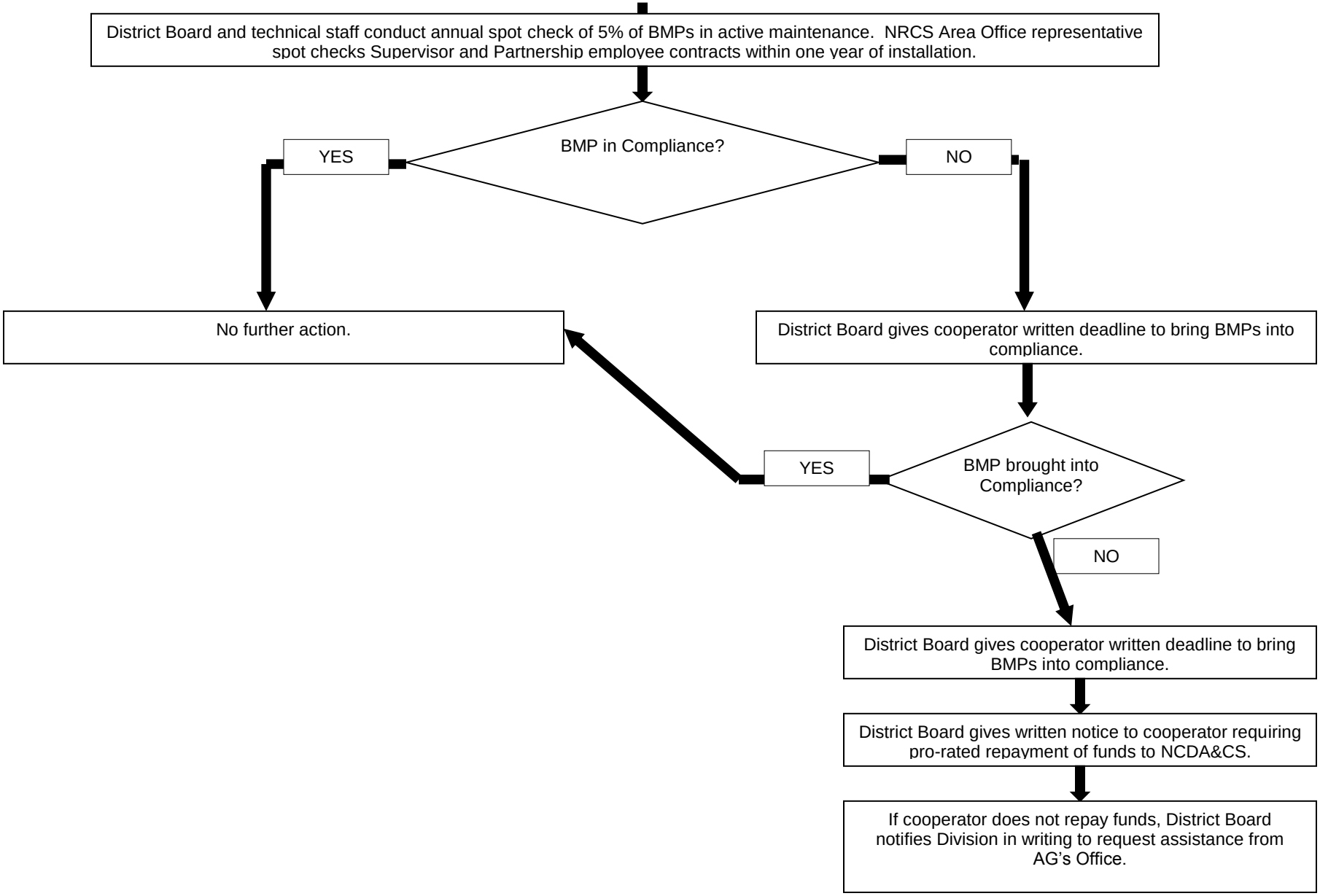
Request for Payment is approved by the District Board and forwarded to the Division.

Division staff reviews and approves request for payment.

Approved requests for payment are forwarded to NCDA&CS Controller's Office for payment to be issued.

Cooperator receives payment for installed BMPs and District receives notification of payment.

ATTACHMENT 9C



ATTACHMENT 9C

Appendix G – Best Management Practices (BMP) Photographs

FY 2016 CCAP Annual Report

Oyster Reef – Dare

Oyster spat forming on newly installed reef – Dare

Shoreline Stabilization – Brunswick

Stream stabilization – Wake

Stream stabilization, before – Henderson

Stream stabilization, after – Henderson

AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
§ 139-60
FISCAL YEAR 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
January 2017

Background

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2011-145, and became effective on July 1, 2011. This program, referred to as AgWRAP, was established to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

Public benefit of this program is achieved by the following:

- Reducing competition for water resources by public users
- Improving the efficient use of water while enabling the industry to produce food, fiber and other agricultural products
- Preparing the agricultural industry to weather future droughts
- Generating and protecting local jobs in agriculture and agribusiness

AgWRAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The commission meets with stakeholders to gather input on AgWRAP's development and administration through the AgWRAP Review Committee. AgWRAP has received state appropriations as shown in the table below.

Fiscal Year	Appropriated funding
2012	$1,000,000
2013	$500,000
2014	$1,000,000 • $500,000 available statewide • $500,000 limited to counties affected by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) settlement: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties.
2015	$1,477,500
2016	$977,500

Up to 15% of these funds can be used by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and districts to provide technical and engineering assistance, and to administer the program.

Since the inception of AgWRAP in FY2012, the Soil and Water Conservation Commission has allocated best management practice funding through a combination approach of competitive applications for specific projects and directly to districts to approve applications locally. In FY2016, the commission conducted a regional application process for agricultural water supply/reuse ponds, agricultural pond repair/retrofits, and agricultural water collection and reuse systems. In addition, the commission

allocated $616,113 to 84 soil and water conservation districts who requested funding for AgWRAP practices. In total, 153 AgWRAP applications were contracted in FY2016.

This report includes a summary of actions taken to achieve the goals the commission adopted for the program in the FY2016 Detailed Implementation Plan. The report includes the following appendices to provide more information about the program:

A. Total number and value of FY2016 contracts by county
B. Map of FY2016 AgWRAP Contracted BMPs
C. FY2016 Detailed Implementation Plan
D. BMP effects table
E. FY2016 Spot Check Report
F. Funding and Compliance Process
G. BMP Photos

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Goals

I. Conduct a competitive regional application process for selected AgWRAP BMPs: 55% of available BMP funding.

a. Fund projects in each of the division's regions: western, central and eastern.

In FY2016, the commission funded ponds in each region of the state:

- A total of 21 contracts were approved in the western region in FY2016.
  - Agricultural water supply/reuse ponds: 13 contracts
  - Agricultural pond repair/retrofits: 7 contracts
  - Agricultural water collection and reuse system: 1 contract
- A total of 16 contracts were approved in the central region in FY2016:
  - Agricultural water supply/reuse ponds: 6 contracts
  - Agricultural pond repair/retrofits: 9 contracts
  - Agricultural water collection and reuse system: 1 contract
- A total of 7 contracts were approved in the eastern region in FY2016:
  - Agricultural water supply/reuse ponds: 2 contracts
  - Agricultural pond repair/retrofits: 5 contracts

b. Distribute funding for AgWRAP BMPs among the following agricultural sectors identified in the Protecting Agriculture Water Resources in North Carolina Strategic Plan (February 2011): aquaculture, field crops, forestry, fruits and vegetables, green industry, livestock and poultry (and forages and drinking water for same).

In FY2016, the commission approved applications for all agricultural sectors that applied and met the requirements of the AgWRAP program. The sectors that were funded in FY2016 include field crops, fruits and vegetables, green industry, and livestock and poultry operations.

II. Allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for all other BMPs

a. Award funds to all districts requesting an allocation.

The commission approved funding for the 84 districts that requested a FY2016 AgWRAP allocation on November 18, 2015.

b. Allocate funds to districts from all geographic areas of the state.

The FY2016 AgWRAP allocation provided funds to districts in all geographic areas of the state. Please refer to Appendix A for information about FY2016 AgWRAP contracts by county.

c. Encumber contracts for conservation practices in all agricultural sectors as described above.

FY2016 AgWRAP district contracts were encumbered for projects on field crops, fruits and vegetables, green industry, and livestock and poultry operations. Due to limitations with the cost share database, there is not a way to query whether any contracts were encumbered for forestry or aquaculture operations using district funds.

III. Implement Job Approval Authority Process for AgWRAP BMPs

a. Review job approval category requirements to ensure technical competency.

In FY2016, the commission continued to approve employee requests for the following job approval categories:

- Pond site assessment
- Sediment removal planning and certification
- Water needs assessments

Currently, 24 conservation partnership employees representing 19 districts have obtained job approval authority for one or more of the categories above.

b. Maintain the job approval database.

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation maintains a database including the categories described above. A list of employees with job approval authority is available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/JAA.html

IV. Conduct training for districts

a. Continue to train districts on the program.

The division continued to provide training and support to district employees when reviewing AgWRAP applications, contracts and requests for payments. The division also worked with the AgWRAP Review Committee to clarify BMP policies and develop additional tools for site evaluation and planning practices, as well as forms to aid in the certification of installation of individual practices.

b. Provide technical training for the required skills to plan and implement approved AgWRAP BMPs.

The division provided training and assistance by working directly with district employees when reviewing potential new pond sites, pond repairs sediment removal plans and water collection and reuse systems. The division also hosted and/or supported NRCS in providing specific training on conservation planning, fencing, floodplain management, stream crossings and watering facilities. While some of these practices may not be directly implemented through AgWRAP, they are facilitative practices that may be necessary to support the overall conservation plan for an agriculture operation.

c. Maintain the AgWRAP website

The division continues to maintain the AgWRAP information online for easy access for districts, cooperators and partners. AgWRAP program information including BMP policies can be accessed at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/index.html. Practice planning and design tools, including the Water Needs Assessment Tool for NC, are available at: http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/onlinedesigntools.html.

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County	Contract Number	Best Management Practice	Amount
Yancey	00-2016-801	Well	$1,380
Yancey	00-2016-802	Well	$3,620
Yancey	00-2016-803	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Alamance	01-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$5,000
Alexander	02-2016-802	Well	$9,275
Alleghany	03-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Anson	04-2016-501	Well	$4,993
Ashe	05-2016-801	Well	$1,759
Ashe	05-2016-802	Well	$9,423
Avery	06-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Bertie	08-2016-801	Well	$8,153
Bladen	09-2016-801	Well	$11,880
Buncombe	11-2016-801	Streamside Pickup	$2,549
Buncombe	11-2016-802	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$23,999
Buncombe	11-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$2,500
Buncombe	11-2016-804	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$2,933
Burke	12-2016-003	Well	$5,000
Burke	12-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Burke	12-2016-802	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cabarrus	13-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Caldwell	14-2016-005	Micro-Irrigation System	$5,000
Catawba	18-2016-801	Well	$6,676
Chatham	19-2016-802	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Chatham	19-2016-803	Well	$6,118
Cherokee	20-2016-801	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$529
Cherokee	20-2016-802	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$723
Cherokee	20-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Cherokee	20-2016-804	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$1,248
Cherokee	20-2016-805	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$672
Cherokee	20-2016-806	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$1,250
Cherokee	20-2016-807	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$578
Chowan	21-2016-800	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$5,000
Clay	22-2016-802	Micro-Irrigation System	$4,619
Clay	22-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Clay	22-2016-804	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-802	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-805	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$4,000
Cleveland	23-2016-806	Well	$7,099
Cleveland	23-2016-807	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-808	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Cleveland	23-2016-809	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Columbus	24-2016-801	Well	$7,335
Columbus	24-2016-802	Well	$7,335
Columbus	24-2016-804	Well	$7,335
Columbus	24-2016-805	Well	$7,353
Craven	25-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Cumberland	26-2016-801	Well	$5,263

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County	Contract Number	Best Management Practice	Amount
Duplin	31-2016-800	Well	$5,000
Duplin	31-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Duplin	31-2016-802	Well	$5,000
Duplin	31-2016-803	Well	$5,000
Duplin	31-2016-804	Well	$5,000
Duplin	31-2016-805	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Duplin	31-2016-806	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Durham	32-2016-801	Micro-Irrigation System	$6,089
Durham	32-2016-802	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$3,682
Forsyth	34-2016-801	Well	$11,758
Forsyth	34-2016-802	Well	$12,832
Franklin	35-2016-800	Well	$5,754
Franklin	35-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Gaston	36-2016-804	Well	$7,187
Gaston	36-2016-805	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$23,999
Gaston	36-2016-806	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$24,000
Gates	37-2016-004	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$5,000
Graham	38-2016-801	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$1,250
Graham	38-2016-802	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$1,250
Graham	38-2016-803	Micro-Irrigation System	$1,250
Graham	38-2016-804	District BMP- Micro-Irrigation System for Greenhouse/High Tunnel	$1,250
Granville	39-2016-101	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$3,000
Granville	39-2016-102	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$3,000
Greene	40-2016-801	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Guilford	41-2016-801	Well	$5,710
Guilford	41-2016-802	Well	$5,709
Halifax	42-2016-811	Well	$6,903
Halifax	42-2016-813	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Halifax	42-2016-814	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Halifax	42-2016-816	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Harnett	43-2016-803	Well	$4,026
Harnett	43-2016-804	Well	$4,026
Haywood	44-2016-801	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$12,157
Henderson	45-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Henderson	45-2016-802	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Hertford	46-2016-800	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$5,000
Iredell	49-2016-801	Well	$9,000
Johnston	51-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$16,007
Jones	52-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$1,000
Jones	52-2016-801	Well	$4,000
Lee	53-2016-801	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$20,000
Lee	53-2016-802	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$3,000
Lee	53-2016-803	Well	$7,538
Lenoir	54-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$23,999
Lincoln	55-2016-812	Well	$7,936
Madison	57-2016-801	Well	$5,000
McDowell	59-2016-801	Well	$2,295
McDowell	59-2016-803	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$2,705
Mecklenburg	60-2015-007	Well	$570

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County	Contract Number	Best Management Practice	Amount
Mecklenburg	60-2015-007	Well	$7,111
Mecklenburg	60-2016-003	Well	$570
Mecklenburg	60-2016-004	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$10,001
Mitchell	61-2016-801	Well	$1,024
Mitchell	61-2016-802	Well	$3,976
Montgomery	62-2016-801	Ag Water Collection System	$18,000
Montgomery	62-2016-802	Micro-Irrigation System	$4,973
Moore	63-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Moore	63-2016-803	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Moore	63-2016-804	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$2,238
Moore	63-2016-805	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$3,737
Nash	64-2016-801	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$9,482
Onslow	67-2016-801	Well	$5,240
Orange	68-2016-801	Well	$3,500
Pender	71-2016-801	Well	$4,470
Pender	71-2016-802	Well	$2,897
Perquimans	72-2016-800	Conservation Irrigation Conversion	$9,788
Person	73-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$5,000
Pitt	74-2016-801	Well	$5,450
Pitt	74-2016-802	Well	$3,259
Robeson	78-2016-801	Well	$5,000
Robeson	78-2016-802	Well	$4,126
Robeson	78-2016-803	Well	$4,763
Robeson	78-2016-804	Well	$4,463
Robeson	78-2016-805	Well	$5,000
Rockingham	79-2016-801	Well	$9,474
Rockingham	79-2016-802	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$27,500
Rockingham	79-2016-803	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$27,500
Rockingham	79-2016-806	Agriculture Pond Repair/Retrofit	$27,498
Rockingham	79-2016-807	Well	$9,263
Rockingham	79-2016-808	Well	$10,763
Rowan	80-2016-004	Well	$9,303
Rowan	80-2016-005	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Sampson	82-2016-801	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$20,000
Stanly	84-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$5,000
Stanly	84-2016-802	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	$27,500
Stokes	85-2016-802	Well	$5,199
Surry	86-2016-008	Well	$9,083
Surry	86-2016-009	Well	$8,409
Surry	86-2016-011	Well	$12,700
Surry	86-2016-012	Well	$9,200
Surry	86-2016-013	Well	$10,958
Surry	86-2016-014	Well	$10,958
Union	90-2016-801	Well	$9,013
Union	90-2016-802	Well	$3,913
Vance	91-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$5,000
Wake	92-2016-800	Well	$3,235
Wake	92-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$13,336
Watauga	95-2016-801	Well	$2,615

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County	Contract Number	Best Management Practice	Amount
Wayne	96-2016-801	Well	$6,435
Wayne	96-2016-802	Well	$5,303
Wilkes	97-2016-801	Ag Water Collection System	$10,884
Wilson	98-2016-801	Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	$2,000
Wilson	98-2016-802	Well	$2,025
Yadkin	99-2016-009	Well	$5,697

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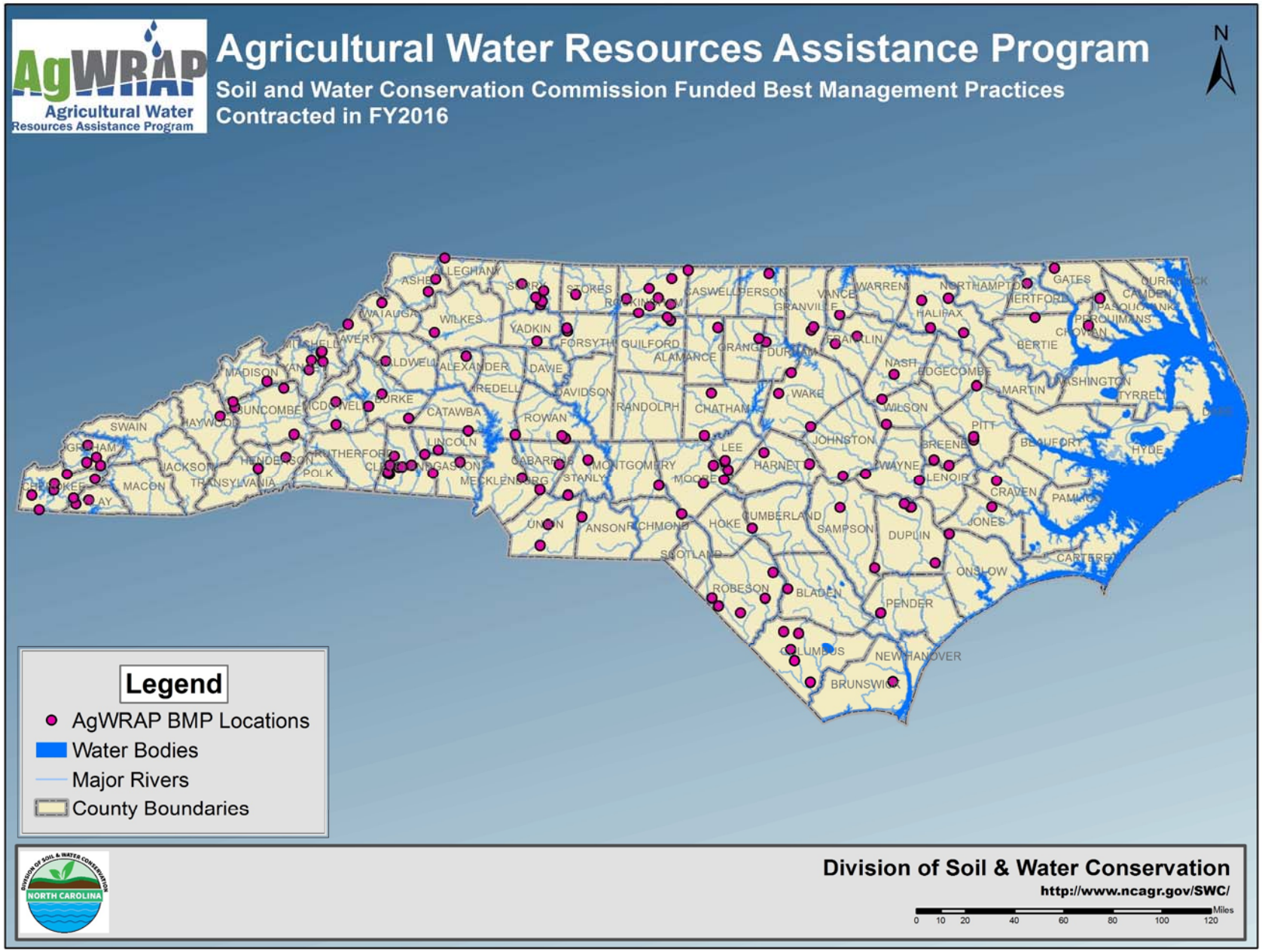

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Fiscal Year 2016 Detailed Implementation Plan
September 2015

Background

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2011-145, and became effective on July 1, 2011. This program, herein referred to as AgWRAP, was established to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

AgWRAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The commission meets with stakeholders to gather input on AgWRAP's development and administration through the AgWRAP Review Committee. AgWRAP has received the following state appropriations:

- FY2012: $1,000,000
- FY2013: $500,000
- FY2014: $1,000,000; $500,000 available statewide, $500,000 limited to counties affected by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) settlement: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Swain, Transylvania, Watauga and Yancey counties.
- FY2015: $1,477,500
- FY2016: $977,500 *(draft state budget)*

Up to 15% of these funds can be used by the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and districts to provide technical and engineering assistance, and to administer the program.

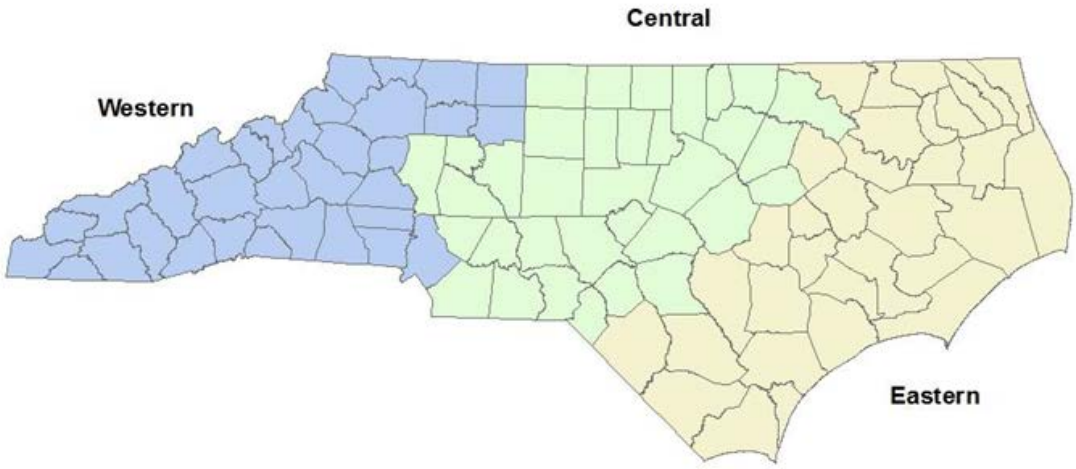
Fiscal Year 2016 Allocation Strategy

Due to the high cost of some of the program's eligible best management practices, and the limited funding for the program, the Commission will award two allocations for AgWRAP.

1. **Competitive regional application process for agricultural water supply/reuse ponds, agricultural pond repair/retrofits, and agricultural water collection and reuse systems: 55% of available BMP funding.**

The regions, as depicted in Figure 1, will be eligible to receive 1/3 of the amount of funds in the regional pool. Applications will be approved using the same ranking criteria for each region. Should a region not have sufficient applications to fund, the commission will allocate the remaining funds by approving applications in other regions, funding applications by highest score.

Figure 1: Regions for AgWRAP allocations



2. **District allocations for all AgWRAP best management practices: 45% of available BMP funding.**
    a. Allocations will be made to all districts requesting funds in their FY2016 Strategy Plan.
    b. Allocation parameters are as follows:

Parameter	Percent
Number of farms (total operations): Census of Agriculture	20%
Total acres of land in farms (includes the sum of all cropland, woodland pastured, permanent pasture (excluding cropland and woodland), plus farmstead/ponds/lvstk bldg): Census of Agriculture	20%
Market Value of Sales: Census of Agriculture	10%
Agricultural Water Use: NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, 3 year average of most recent NC Water Use Published Survey Data	20%
Population Density: State Demographics NC, Office of State Budget and Management, latest certified data available	30%

Conservation plan requirement

All approved AgWRAP applications must have a completed conservation plan prior to contract approval or the district requesting design assistance from division engineering staff. The commission is requiring this plan, which is the cooperator's record of decisions, to help districts evaluate water supply resource concerns including inadequate water for livestock, inefficient water use for irrigation and/or inefficient moisture management. Conservation plans will ensure that alternative practices are considered and that the recommended practices address the identified resource concerns to maintain AgWRAP BMPs through their contract life.

Program Guidelines

AgWRAP will be implemented using a pilot approach for this fifth year. Rule drafting is currently underway, and all commission cost share program rules will begin the adoption process this year.

The agricultural water definition, from Protecting Agriculture Water Resources in North Carolina Strategic Plan (February 2011) will be used to determine eligibility for AgWRAP.

> *Agricultural water is considered to be any water on farms, from surface or subsurface sources, that is used in the production, maintenance, protection or on-farm preparation or treatment of agriculture commodities or products as necessary to grow and/or prepare them for on-farm use or transfer into any form of trade as is normally done with agricultural plant or animal commerce.* This expressly includes any on-farm cleaning or processing to make the agricultural product ready for sale or other transfer to any consumer in a usable form. It does not include water used in the manufacture or extended processing of plants or animals or their products when the processor is not the grower or producer and/or is beyond the first handler of the farm product.

All eligible operations must have been in existence for more than one year, and expansions to existing operations are eligible for the program.

The percent cost share for all BMPs is 75%. Limited resource and beginning farmers and farmers enrolled in Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture Districts are eligible to receive 90% cost share. The contract maintenance period of the majority of practices is 10 years.

Soil and water conservation districts can adopt additional guidelines for the program as they implement AgWRAP locally.

Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Goals

I. Conduct a competitive regional allocation process for selected AgWRAP BMPs.
   a. Fund projects in each of the division's regions: western, central and eastern.
   b. Distribute funding for BMPs among the following agricultural sectors identified in the Protecting Agriculture Water Resources in North Carolina Strategic Plan (February 2011): aquaculture, field crops, forestry, fruit and vegetable, green industry, livestock and poultry (and forages and drinking water for same).

II. Allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for all other BMPs
   a. Award funds to all districts requesting an allocation.
   b. Allocate funds to districts from all geographic areas of the state.
   c. Encumber contracts for conservation practices in all agricultural sectors as described above.

III. Continue to implement Job Approval Authority Process for AgWRAP BMPs
   a. Review job approval category requirements to ensure technical competency.
   b. Maintain the job approval database.

IV. Conduct training for districts
   a. Continue to train districts on the program.
   b. Provide technical training for the required skills to plan and implement approved AgWRAP BMPs.
   c. Maintain the AgWRAP website (http://www.ncagr.gov/swc/agwrap.htm) with all relevant information.

Best Management Practices

Additional practices may be adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and introduced during the program year.

(1) Agricultural water supply/reuse pond: Construct agricultural ponds for water supply for irrigation or livestock watering. Benefits may include water supply, erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(2) Agricultural pond repair/retrofit: Repair or retrofit of existing agricultural pond systems. Benefits may include water supply, erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(3) Agricultural pond sediment removal**:** Remove sediment from existing agricultural ponds to increase water storage capacity. Benefits may include water supply, erosion control, flood control, and sediment and nutrient reductions from farm fields. The minimum life expectancy is 1 year. Cooperators are ineligible to reapply for assistance for this practice for a period of 10 years; unless the sedimentation is occurring due to no fault of the cooperator.

(4) Agricultural water collection and reuse system: Construct an agricultural water management and/or collection system for water reuse or irrigation for agricultural operations. These systems may include any of the following: water storage tanks, pumps, water control structures, and/or water conveyances. Benefits may include reduced demand on the water supply by reuse and decrease withdrawal from existing water supplies. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(5) Baseflow interceptor (streamside pickup): Improve springs and seeps alongside a stream, near the banks, but not in the channel by excavating, cleaning, capping to collect and/or store water for agricultural use. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(6) Conservation Irrigation Conversion: Modify an existing overhead spray irrigation system to increase the efficiency and uniformity of irrigation water application. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(7) Micro-irrigation System: Install an environmentally safe system for the conveyance and distribution of water, chemicals and fertilizer to agricultural fields for crop production. Replace and/or reduce other types of irrigation and fertilization with a micro-irrigation system for frequent application of small quantities of water on or below the soil surface: as drops, tiny streams or miniature spray through emitters or applicators placed along a water delivery line. This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to efficiently and uniformly apply irrigation water and maintain soil moisture for plant growth. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

(8) Well: Construct a drilled, driven or dug well to supply water from an underground source for irrigation, livestock and poultry, aquaculture, or on-farm processing. The minimum life expectancy is 10 years.

NC AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
WATER QUANTITY IMPROVEMENT/PROTECTION PURPOSES OF APPROVED BMPs

BMP	Gallons of agricultural water storage increase	Gallons of agricultural water storage protected	Acres irrigated or number of animals watered	Life of BMP (yrs.)
Agricultural water supply/reuse pond	√	-	√	10
Agricultural pond repair/retrofit	√	√	√	10
Agricultural pond sediment removal	√	√	-	1
Conservation irrigation conversion	-	-	-	10
Micro-irrigation system		-	-	10
Well	-	-	√	10

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NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
ALAMANCE	4	2	8	25.0%	2	0	1
ALEXANDER	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ALLEGHANY	4	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
ANSON (BROWN CREEK)	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
ASHE (NEW RIVER)	2	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
AVERY	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
BEAUFORT	5	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
BERTIE	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
BLADEN	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
BRUNSWICK	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
BUNCOMBE	3	4	5	80.0%	4	0	1
BURKE	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CABARRUS	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CALDWELL	5	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CAMDEN (ALBEMARLE)	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CARTERET	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CASWELL	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CATAWBA	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CHATHAM	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CHEROKEE	2	2	16	12.5%	2	0	0
CHOWAN (ALBEMARLE)	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CLAY	3	1	4	25.0%	1	0	0
CLEVELAND	2	5	5	100.0%	4	1	0
COLUMBUS	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
CRAVEN	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CUMBERLAND	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
CURRITUCK (ALBEMARLE)	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
DAVIDSON	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
DAVIE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
DUPLIN	2	5	22	22.7%	5	0	0
DURHAM	1	2	3	66.7%	2	0	0
EDGECOMBE	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
FORSYTH	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
FRANKLIN	3	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
GASTON	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
GATES	4	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
GRAHAM	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
GRANVILLE	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GREENE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
GUILFORD	5	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
HALIFAX (FISHING CREEK)	1	1	7	14.3%	1	0	1
HARNETT	4	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
HAYWOOD	2	1	2	50.0%	1	0	1
HENDERSON	2	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
HERTFORD	1	3	5	60.0%	3	0	1
HOKE	1	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
HYDE	5	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
IREDELL	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
JACKSON	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
JOHNSTON	3	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
JONES	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
LEE	4	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0

ATTACHMENT 9D

NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
SPOT CHECK REPORT SUMMARY FY2016

DISTRICTS	PARTICIPATING SUPERVISORS	VISITS	Total # CPOs	PERCENT VISITED	IN COMPLIANCE	OUT OF COMPLIANCE	MAINTENANCE NEEDED
LENOIR	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
LINCOLN	2	5	5	100.0%	5	0	0
MACON	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MADISON	2	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
MARTIN	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MCDOWELL	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
MECKLENBURG	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
MITCHELL	3	2	3	66.7%	2	0	0
MONTGOMERY	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
MOORE	2	5	5	100.0%	5	0	0
NASH	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
NEW HANOVER	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
NORTHAMPTON	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ONSLOW	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ORANGE	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
PAMLICO	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
PASQUOTANK (ALBEMARLE)	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
PENDER	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
PERQUIMANS (ALBEMARLE)	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
PERSON	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
PITT	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
POLK	3	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
RANDOLPH	2	2	2	100.0%	2	0	0
RICHMOND	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
ROBESON	2	1	9	11.1%	1	0	0
ROCKINGHAM	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
ROWAN	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
RUTHERFORD	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
SAMPSON	3	3	9	33.3%	3	0	0
SCOTLAND	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
STANLY	3	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
STOKES	5	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
SURRY	4	1	5	20.0%	1	0	0
SWAIN	4	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
TRANSYLVANIA	2	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
TYRRELL	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
UNION	1	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
VANCE	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WAKE	5	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
WARREN	1	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
WASHINGTON	1	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WATAUGA	2	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WAYNE	3	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
WILKES	5	1	2	50.0%	1	0	0
WILSON	5	1	1	100.0%	1	0	0
YADKIN	5	3	3	100.0%	3	0	0
YANCEY	1	1	3	33.3%	1	0	0
TOTALS	**235**	**98**	**188**	**52.1%**	**97**	**1**	**5**
					99.0%	**1.0%**	**5.1%**

ATTACHMENT 9D

Cost Share Programs

Funding and Compliance Process

District conducts natural resource assessments to determine conservation needs. District advertises Cost Share Programs.

District develops and approves an Annual Strategy Plan and prioritization ranking form based on water quality and quantity priorities associated with each program.

Strategy Plan is sent to Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

Annual Strategy Plans from all Districts are evaluated by Division staff and District rankings are determined based on parameters adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Cost Share funds are allocated to Districts by the Commission.

Districts receive their annual allocations.

District accepts applications; District Board reviews, ranks, and approves applications during an official meeting.

Technical staff conducts conservation planning and writes Cost Share contracts from approved applications.

District Board reviews and approves contracts during an official meeting.

Cost Share Contracts are sent to Division for approval.

Each contract is reviewed by Division Staff and approved as a contract among the State, District, and cooperators, if program requirements are met; Division notifies District of contract approval before installation begins.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are installed to NRCS and SWCC standards or other references in SWCC approved BMPs.

Technical staff checks BMP and certifies installation has been completed according to BMP standards.

Request for payment is completed and signed by cooperator and a technical staff person with job approval authority for the BMP.

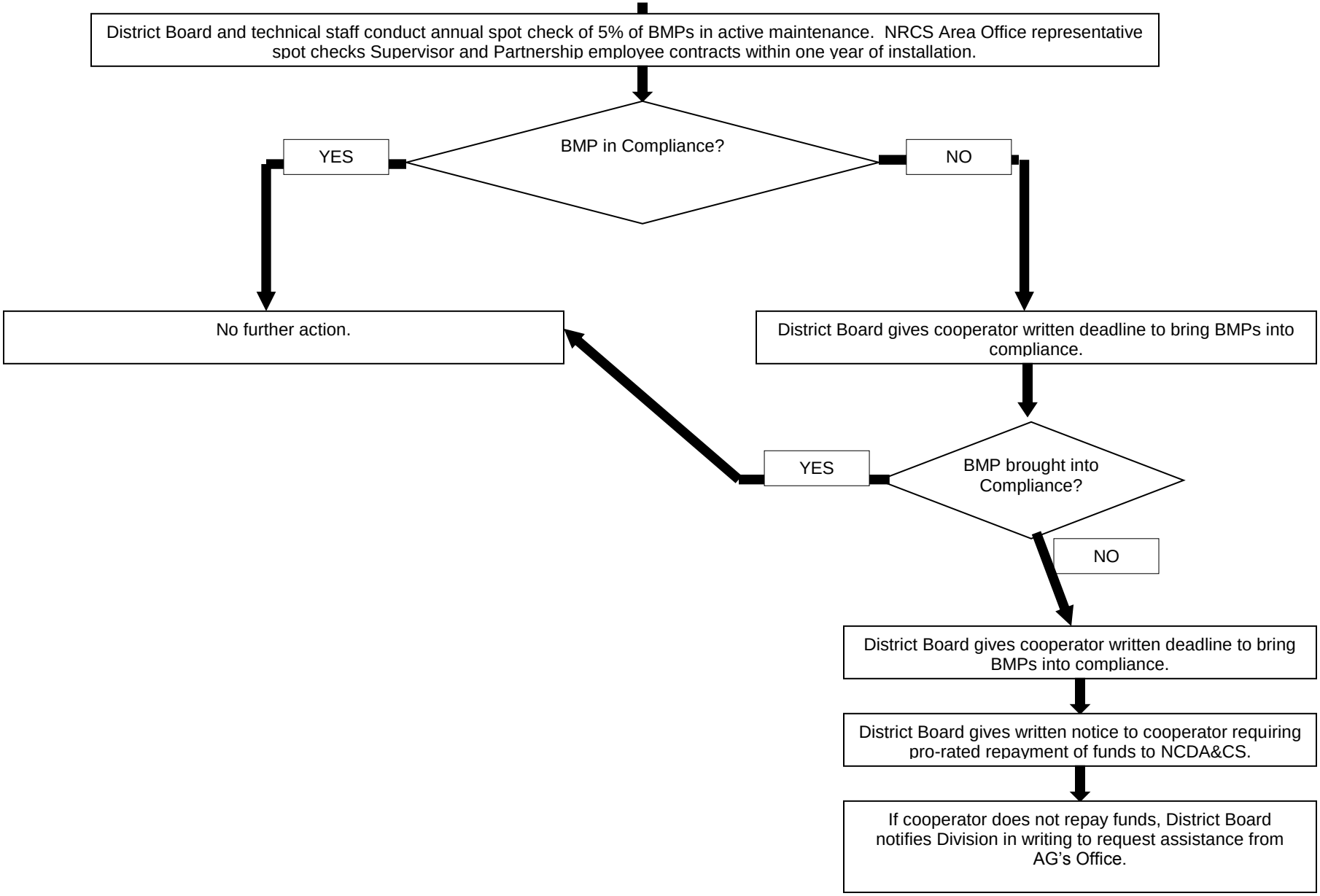
Request for Payment is approved by the District Board and forwarded to the Division.

Division staff reviews and approves request for payment.

Approved requests for payment are forwarded to NCDA&CS Controller's Office for payment to be issued.

Cooperator receives payment for installed BMPs and District receives notification of payment.

ATTACHMENT 9D



AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Pictures of selected practices

Irrigation well

Agricultural water supply/reuse pond

Agricultural pond sediment removal

AgWRAP Regional Application Recommendations

County of Pond Site	Cooperator Name	AgWRAP Best Management Practice	Amount requested for BMP construction	Amount requested for private engineering to complete design	Proposed funding source
Bertie	Jeff Belflower	New pond	$ 30,000	$ -	AgWRAP
Totals			**$ 30,000**	**$ -**	

ATTACHMENT 11A

NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
Yours for Life

Washington County Soil and Water
P.O.Box 218
Roper, NC 27970

To Commission Members:

I am writing this letter asking for post contract approval for the water control structures (that work with subsurface tile drainage), that were put in on Doug Maxwell's farm. NC State University reached out to soil and water districts wanting to implement these structures. There were AIM funds earmarked for this work. Doug Maxwell was willing to implement the structures and was told by our technician that there were funds to assist with the cost. A note in the file (May, 2016) indicates that the project was pending waiting for division approval.

I believe that after that initial work, our technician failed to follow through with proper communication with the producer to explain that work could not be done until it was approved by the commission. I apologize for the over site, but am asking that you honor the work that has done. It is documented that they were properly installed and Doug even went beyond what was needed in installation. The units were designed and built by Agri Drain Corporation.

Thank you,

Gerda D. Rhodes
Board Chair of WCSWCD

ATTACHMENT 11A

Tyrrell Soil and Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 162 - Columbia, NC 27925 - Phone (919) 796-3891 - Fax (919) 796-1963

9/13/2016

Soil & Water Conservation Commission
1614 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

RE: AIM Project 94-2016-010

Dear Members of the Commission,

This letter is on the behalf of the Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District. As technician for the Tyrrell Soil & Water Conservation District, I have Job Approval Authority for the design, construction, and implementation of Water Control Structures. I have been asked to inspect and evaluate the Water Control Structures for contract 94-2016-010 installed by Doug Maxwell in Washington County, NC. For some background on the construction competency of Mr. Maxwell, part of his business is designing and installing sub surface drain tile systems for farmers across the state as well as in various states. He has sophisticated equipment that allows him to survey and install this tile with great precision. I myself have observed this process on multiple occasions.

As for my evaluation of the installation of the structures, the two structures are level and installed very well. On my observation, they had a few boards inside the risers and were holding water the height of the boards as designed. They are both tied into the sub surface drain tile systems and seem to function as designed. Mr. Maxwell has also gone beyond the call by getting a bulkhead/headwall structure installed around both of the structures to prevent erosion and the possibility of compromising the integrity of the designed systems at his own cost which is $2,000+ extra.

In conclusion, it is my opinion that these structures were installed and tied into the existing systems correctly and competently, and will function and serve their purpose. I have included some photos of both of the sites.

Thank you for your time,

Ty Fleming
Tyrrell SWCD Technician

ATTACHMENT 11A

Structure near 30’ Canal Rd. (Note: Large black pipe in picture above is not Part of structure, but was blown in ditch from adjacent property by Hurricane Hermine.)

Structure 2 installed at far end of field.

ATTACHMENT 11B

Board Members

C. Leroy Smith, Chair
Tom Best, Vice-Chair
Bob Edwards, Sec. / Tres.
Brooks Bunn, Member

403 Government Circle, Suite 4 Greenville, N.C. 27834
Phone (252) 752-2720 ext. 3 Fax (252) 752-5595

December 20, 2016

Dear Soil & Water Conservation Commission,

Our district would like to request post work approval for the repair of a waterway still under the 10 year maintenance period: NCACSP 74-2012-009. The waterway performed beautifully during hurricane Matthew in that it trapped a large amount of sediment carried by a large amount of water. Mr. Stephen McLawhorn understood the need to wait for district/division approval before beginning work but he also needed to quickly repair the waterway so that he could plant his next crop of strawberries without the threat of drainage issues resulting from the damaged waterway. He needed to plant his strawberries within a certain timeframe and could not wait for approval. In light of the circumstances, the Pitt district advised him to do the work and told him that we would do our best to have his application/contract approved after the repair work had been completed. This repair application/contract was approved by our SWCD Board at our most recent meeting December 6th, 2016: NCACSP 74-2017-012. Mr. McLawhorn communicated that he would greatly appreciate any assistance the district could offer since he's had a tough year in the strawberry business due to unfavorable weather. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

C. Leroy Smith
Pitt SWCD Chairman

ATTACHMENT 11B

Hedgepeth, Kelly

From: Sisley, Caroline - NRCS-CD, Greenville, NC <Caroline.Sisley@nc.nacdnet.net>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2016 3:10 PM
To: Hedgepeth, Kelly
Cc: Harrison, David; Andrews, PJ
Subject: Requesting Post Approval on Waterway Repair
Attachments: 74-2017-012 StephenMcLawhorn DamageBefore pic1.jpeg; 74-2017-012 StephenMcLawhorn DamageBefore pic2.jpeg; 74-2017-012 StephenMcLawhorn DamageBefore pic3.jpeg

Hello Kelly,

Our district would like to request post approval from the Commission on the repair of a waterway still under the 10 year maintenance period: NCACSP 74-2012-009. The waterway performed beautifully during hurricane Matthew in that it trapped a large amount of sediment carried by a large amount of water. The farmer understood the need to wait for district/division approval before beginning work but he also needed to quickly repair the waterway so that he could plant his next crop of strawberries without the threat of drainage issues resulting from the damaged waterway. He needed to plant his strawberries within a certain timeframe and could not wait for approval. In light of the circumstances, the Pitt district advised him to do the work and told him that we would do our best to have his application/contract approved after the repair work had been completed. This repair application/contract was approved by our SWCD Board at our most recent meeting December 6th: NCACSP 74-2017-012. The farmer communicated that he would greatly appreciate any assistance the district could offer since he's had a tough year in the strawberry business due to unfavorable weather.

I've submitted the contract in CS2 and attached pictures of the damage caused by hurricane Matthew. If you have any questions or need additional information please let me and PJ know.

Thank you,

Caroline Sisley, Resource Conservation Specialist
Pitt Soil & Water Conservation District
403 Government Circle, Suite 4
Greenville, NC 27834
252-752-2720 Ext 123

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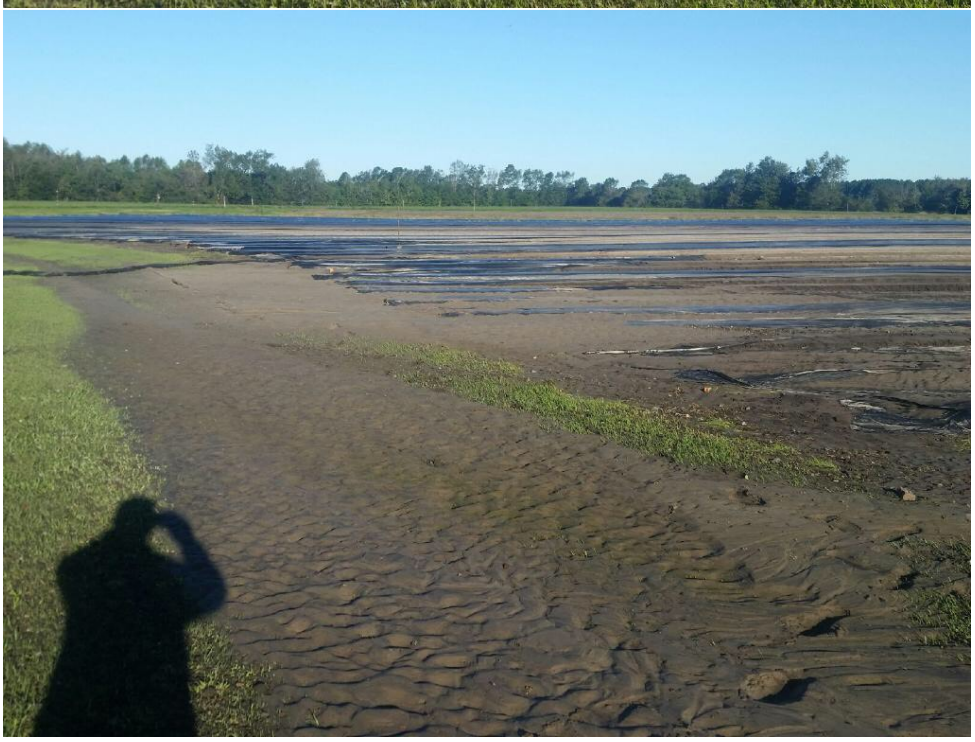
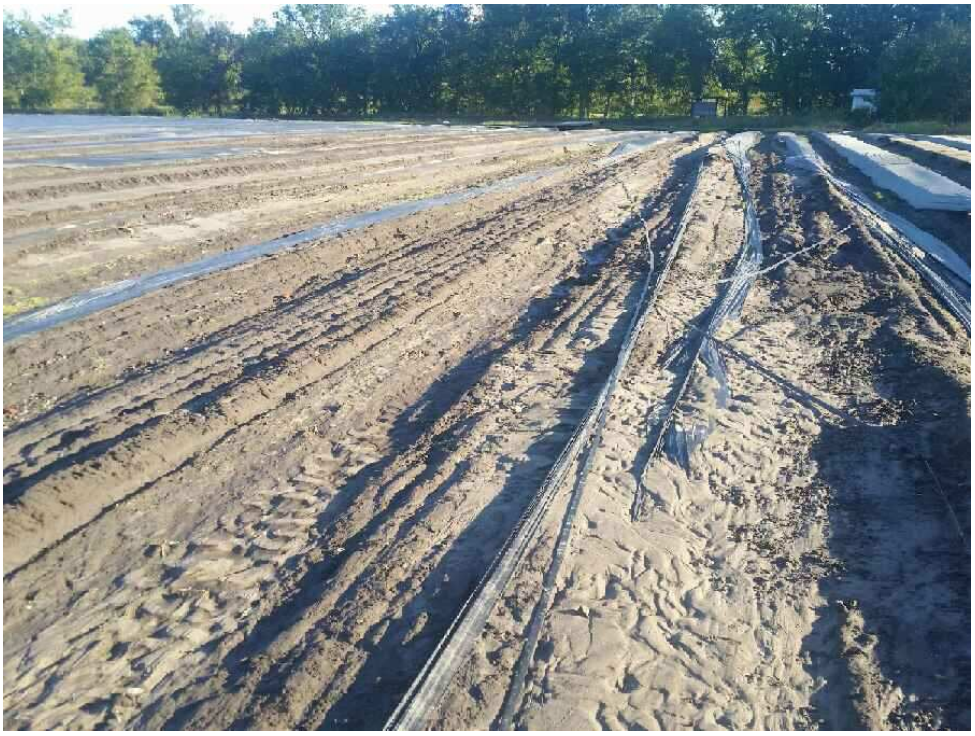
ATTACHMENT 11B



ATTACHMENT 11B