

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

WORK SESSION - TELECONFERENCE

NC Department of Agriculture
216 W. Jones Street
Old Health Building
3rd Floor Conference Room 316
Raleigh, NC 27603
March 17, 2020
Call-in # 919-733-2511
6:00 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION - TELECONFERENCE

NC Department of Agriculture
216 W. Jones Street
Old Health Building
3rd Floor Conference Room 316
Raleigh, NC 27603
March 18, 2020
Call-in # 1-888-363-4734 Access 9031247
9:00 a.m.

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 – Cell phones set to silent or \$100 donation

Chairman John Langdon

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda

Chairman John Langdon

2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluation

Mr. Phillip Reynolds

3. Election of Vice Chairman

Chairman John Langdon

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. January 5, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. January 5, 2020 Business Session Meeting Minutes

5. Division Report

Director Vernon Cox

6. Association Report

Mr. Blount Knowles

7. NRCS Report

Mr. Tim Beard

- 8. Consent Agenda
 - A. Supervisor Appointments Mr. Eric Pare
 - B. Supervisor Contracts Ms. Julie Henshaw
 - C. Technical Specialist Designation Mr. Jeff Young

 - 9. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program 2019 Report (*Item removed from the agenda*) Mr. Eric Galamb

 - 10. Cost Share Committee Recommendations Ms. Julie Henshaw
 - A. Spot Check Policy Revisions
 - B. Structural Use Policy Revisions

 - 11. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation Ms. Julie Henshaw

 - 12. AgWRAP Review Committee Recommendations Mr. Joshua Vetter
 - A. Regional Application Approval
 - B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

 - 13. School of Government Supervisor Training Update Mr. Eric Pare

 - 14. Reapportionment of Hurricane Matthew & Florence Disaster Response Funds Mr. David Williams

 - 15. District Issues Ms. Julie Henshaw
 - A. Post-Approval Nash SWCD

 - 16. New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District Correspondence (*Item removed from the agenda*) Chairman John Langdon
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**

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March 17, 2020**

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NC Department of Agriculture
216 W. Jones Street
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Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	David Williams	Michelle Lovejoy
Wayne Collier	Helen Wiklund	Sandra Weitzel
Blount Knowles	Joshua Vetter	Bryan Evans
Myles Payne	Allie Dinwiddie	Eric Pare
Derek Potter	Cayle Aldridge	Rick McSwain
Mike Willis	Lisa Fine	Tom Ellis
Commission Counsel	Kristina Fischer	Anne Coan
Phillip Reynolds	Ken Parks	Keith Larick
Guests	Jeff Young	Michael Shepherd
Vernon Cox	Tom Hill	Ralston James

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:10 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. There were no conflicts declared. Director Cox then read the list of attendees.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. Director Cox stated Items 9 and 16 have been removed and will be presented at the May Commission meeting.
- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commission Counsel. Mr. Reynolds stated Commissioner Knowles' Statement of Economic Interest Evaluation has been received. Mr. Reynolds stated, as required, a portion of the evaluation will be read into the minutes at tomorrow's meeting.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Chairman Langdon stated Commissioner Collier has done a fine job as vice chairman and unless there is someone else interested, he encourages the nomination of Commissioner Collier.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. Commissioner Collier stated the minutes are in order.

4A. January 5, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes

4B. January 5, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes

5. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox. Director Cox stated the report will be presented at the Business Meeting tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated there will be an update on Coronavirus and other items.
6. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knowles. Commissioner Knowles stated the report will be presented at the Business Meeting tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
7. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present tomorrow. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard, or his representative, will be presenting the report.
8. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare, Deputy Director Williams, and Mr. Jeff Young to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Jarette J. Hurry, Bertie SWCD, filling the appointed expired term of Robert Hoggard for 2018-2022
- Gary Higgins, Buncombe SWCD, filling the elected term of Jeff Foster for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Rick Karriker, Davie SWCD, filling the elected term of Irvin H. "Cokie" Jones for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Laura Marie Davis, Durham SWCD, filling the appointed term of Curtis J. Richardson for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Robert G. Cloninger III, Gaston SWCD, filling the elected term of Rebecca Hurd for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Delmon Dewitt Hardee, Johnston SWCD, filling the elected term of Douglas William Lee (deceased) for 2018-2022
- Thomas J. Elijah III, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the appointed term of Jonathan Schwartz for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Willie L. Harrison, Nash SWCD, filling the appointed term of John Finch for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter
- Gerald McSwain, Stanly SWCD, filling the elected term of Terry L. Blalock for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter

8B. Supervisor Contracts: 3 contracts; totaling \$25,938

8C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Kayla Mounce, Wilkes SWCD Resource Conservationist, WUP/NM Category

9. Conservation Reserve Enhance Program 2019 Report: *This item has been removed.*

10. Cost Share Committee Recommendations: Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams to present.

10A. Spot Check Policy Revisions: Mr. Williams stated the Cost Share Committee recommends revising the policy, which is highlighted in red in the attachment. The revisions are as follows:

- Item 1: Supervisors will provide additional notice to the cooperator for spot checks. The revised policy gives cooperators 10-days advance notice of a site visit to allow for following the necessary biosecurity protocols.
- Item 1.a.: Removing the words “*high-risk.*” In cases where there is a biosecurity concern, the supervisors must delay the site visit until the concern is lifted.
- Item 1.c.: All ponds and similar structures would be subject to an annual inspection.
- Item 1.e.: Adding the AgWRAP and CCAP programs to the policy.

10B. Structural Use Policy Revisions: Mr. Williams stated the current policy limits the use of structures to only include the storage of waste, waste handling and mortality equipment. The primary intended purpose of the revised policy is to meet the guidelines while preserving the intended use of the structure but not being restrictive for alternative uses, as long as there is not a negative impact. Waste cannot be found outside the structure or displaced by other items; any other items in the structure must be agricultural and temporary in nature. The five affected Structural BMPs are:

- Livestock Feeding Area
- Feeding/Waste Storage Structure
- Dry Stack
- Manure Composting Facility
- Livestock Mortality Management System

Chairman Langdon stated the landowner may ask for the structure to be larger if they agree to pay for the extra space, with the extra spacing being exempt from the policy. Mr. Williams stated if the cooperator pays to have a larger structure, the additional space must be clearly defined and stipulated on the design and the cooperator will not receive cost share assistance for the additional space.

Commission Counsel Mr. Reynolds stated that it is not necessary for the existing contracts to be changed; it is the guidance for Division staff about how the contracts are being enforced.

11. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation: Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Williams stated the proposed allocations the Division is presenting totals \$330,859. The supplemental allocation is for the 5% contingency that is held back until the March Commission meeting plus any additional funds returned to the program through completed and canceled contracts. The proposed allocation uses the same allocation formula that is in the Commission's rule.

12. AgWRAP Review Committee Recommendations: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Regional Application Approval: Mr. Vetter stated action is required on Batch 2 of the regional applications.

- Reviewed a total of 16 applications
- Received 11 new applications
- Rolled over 5 applications from Batch 1 that were not previously funded
- Total of 9 projects; 3 per region to be funded
- Total BMP request is \$225,000

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision: Mr. Vetter reported the AgWRAP Review Committee's recommendations and highlighted the split between District Allocations (AG) and Regional Applications (AP). The Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) has an AP fund balance of \$356,828, and the total AP fund requests are \$225,000, which leaves a surplus of \$131,825. The number of AG reallocation requests is 35, and the requested AG reallocation funds total is \$263,012, which leaves a balance of \$966. Since March 9, 2020, the number of AG reallocation requests dropped to 27, and the requested AG reallocation funds total is \$205,995, which leaves a revised AG balance of \$384. The AgWRAP Review Committee revised the language in the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) to allow for the surplus AP funds to be reallocated to meet the existing requests for AG funds for FY2020.

13. School of Government Supervisor Training Update: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. In December 2018, there were 55 newly elected supervisors and only five supervisors did not attend the SOG training. Those five supervisors received reminder letters to enroll in the training in February 2021. Mr. Pare received a letter from a new supervisor after being appointed on January 5, 2020. The supervisor did not attend the training because he had a poultry delivery on the same day as the training, but he is expected to sign up for the upcoming training in February 2021. Director Cox stated Ms. Murdock is an elected district supervisor with Durham SWCD. Ms. Murdock ran for election in the North Carolina State Senate and won the primary race. Ms. Murdock will be appointed for the remainder of the previous Senator's term who resigned. Ms. Murdock cannot hold two elected offices and will resign as Durham district supervisor. Mr. Pare will send a follow-up letter requesting the date of her resignation.

14. Reapportionment of Hurricane Matthew and Florence Disaster Response Funds: Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Deputy Director Williams stated the funds the Division has received can be

reapportioned for other disaster recovery purposes. The Division recommends reapportioning the funds for the purpose of Stream Debris Removal as described in the report.

15. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

15A. Post Approval: Mr. Williams stated this is a request for a post approval of Contract # 64-2018-801. There was some miscommunication between the cooperator and staff, and the BMP was installed prior to final approval from the Division. The practice has been installed and meets standards and specifications. Mr. Fisher, chairman of Nash SWCD, will be presenting tomorrow and discuss the miscommunication. The Division and district recommend paying this as post approval.

16. New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District Correspondence: *This item has been removed.*

Public Comments: Commissioner Collier stated Commissioner Willis helped Durham County with regards to an Agricultural issue about storing soil on a farm. Commissioner Willis stated the NC Sedimentation Control Commission received a request from Durham's planning department that oversees the sedimentation and erosion control practices in their county. The planning department was requesting a policy change to identify what is and what is not an agricultural practice. They were asking for a policy to be approved by the NC Sedimentation Control Commission that did not recognize the agricultural exemption that is included in the NC Sedimentation Pollution Control Act. The NC Sedimentation Control Commission did not approve that provision.

Chairman Langdon commended the Division staff for all their work. He asked everyone to keep Julie Henshaw and her mother in your thoughts and prayers, as well as Eddie Humphrey's family.

Director Cox thanked Chairman Langdon for his comments and thanked staff and everyone on the conference call for their cooperation and patience.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.



Vernon N. Cox, 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 May 19, 2020.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2020**

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Blount Knowles	Kristina Fischer	Paula Day
John Langdon	Bryan Evans	Edward Long
Myles Payne	Ken Parks	Tom Gerow
Derek Potter	Cayle Aldridge	Jamie Walker
Mike Willis	Tom Ellis	Michele Raquet
Commission Counsel	Tom Hill	Millie Langley
Phillip Reynolds	Rachel Smith	Henry Faison
Guests	Rick McSwain	FT Shepherd
Vernon Cox	Lisa Fine	Tim Beard
David Williams	Eric Pare	Randy Freeman
Helen Wiklund	Michael Shepherd	Julie Henshaw
Allie Dinwiddie	Ralston James	Kerry Taylor
Joshua Vetter	Anne Coan	Parker Phillips

Chairman Langdon asked all Commissioners to introduce themselves. Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:07 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. Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone and provided guidelines for the meeting.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda with the removal of Items 9 and 16. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve the revised agenda and Commissioner Collier seconded. Motion carried.

- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commission Counsel. Mr. Reynolds stated the Statement of Economic Interest has been received for newly appointed Commission member, Mr. Knowles. The Governor's Office sent the paperwork to the Division where it will be kept on file. By statute, portions of the letter must be read into the minutes and available upon request.

From the State Ethics Commission to Governor Cooper for the Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. W. Blount Knowles for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

Dear Governor Cooper: Our office has received Mr. W. Blount Knowles' 2020 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation 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 (the "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.

Mr. Knowles would fill the role of a first vice-president of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD). He represents Bertie County on the NCASWCD, an association that consists of the 96-local soil and water conservation districts. He owns financial interests in a number of publicly traded companies, including Dominion Energy, Inc., Duke Energy Corp and WPX Energy Inc. In addition, he owns and operates the agricultural business, R. B. Knowles, Inc. Because the companies could possibly be involved in or impacted by decisions made by the Commission, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Mr. Knowles should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving Bertie County or any entity in which he owns a financial interest come before the Commission for official action.

Chairman Langdon welcomed Commissioner Knowles.

- 3. Election of Vice Chairman:** Chairman Langdon called for a nomination and motion for a member of the Commission to serve as the vice chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Commissioner Payne nominated Commissioner Collier as vice chairman and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.
- 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.
- 4A. January 5, 2020 Work Session Meeting Minutes**
- 4B. January 5, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes**
- 5. Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated the Department is committed to maintaining services with limiting contact of employees, by adhering to the Governor's directive concerning the Coronavirus. Director Cox highlighted the areas impacted by the Coronavirus

with regards to the agribusiness industry and protecting consumers, while managing our day-to-day business. The Department remains committed to keeping certain State locations open, while restricting others and canceling several events/programs. In addition, Director Cox discussed the following:

- Personnel Updates
- JAA Initiative Update
 - Hired Gail Hughes, Orange SWCD (Retired)
 - Mutual Aid Agreement
- 2020 Legislative Initiatives Highlighted
 - Farm Act
 - Two Engineering Positions
- Hurricane Matthew Debris Removal Updates
- Hurricanes Florence/Michael/Dorian Stream Repair Updates
- Other Disaster Activities Updated
 - Road Repairs/Pond Repairs/Lagoon Management/Pasture Renovation/Winter Forage
- May Meeting at the NC State Fairgrounds

6. Association Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Knowles. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Knowles stated the following:

- 2020 Annual Meeting was a success, and the Association is looking for a location for the 2021 Annual Meeting
- NACD Meeting was held in Las Vegas with over 40 attendees
 - Resolution adopted regarding CREP and CRP letters sent from FSA
 - The Foundation and the Association presented the Strategic Visioning Project
 - The Association made a contribution to the NCF Envirothon
 - North Carolina is the 3rd leading state in contributions
- 2020 SOG Basic Training had 84 attendees; 53 were supervisors
- NCASWCD Leadership Initiative has 16 spots available
- 2020 Legislative action items were highlighted
- Mutual Aid Agreement is for Districts willing to offer personnel resources for assistance during disasters and for training needs of adjacent districts
- NACD Washington D.C. Spring Fly-In is canceled
- A teleconference of the NCASWCD Executive Committee will take place on Monday, March 23, at 8:30 a.m.

7. NRCS Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beard stated NRCS is trying to provide service to the public while dealing with the Coronavirus. As of today, Federal offices are open and operating, however, all travel and public meetings are canceled. In North Carolina, some personnel are teleworking. NRCS is working with other Federal agencies to keep the communication open between the agencies to not get mixed messages from the National office.

- National Office Update

- Chief Lohr announced at the NACD Meeting that our mission statement has changed
- Chief Lohr introduced a new mentoring program that will roll out in June; a 17-state pilot program will provide training and awareness to employees by mentors who have knowledge in agriculture that will benefit NRCS and district employees
- In December 2019, it was announced that North Carolina was awarded 2 Conservation Innovation Grants
- USDA is seeking proposals for the On-Farm Conservation and Soil Health Test Projects totaling \$25M; proposals are being accepted through May 11
- The cut-off date for accepting EQIP applications is March 6 with 2,300 applications received
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) deadline extended for public comments to March 20
- In February, received allocations totaling ~\$53M for all farm programs for financial assistance
- Thirteen local sponsors with EWP agreements in the process of being signed or are active
- Personnel Update
 - North Carolina has a cap of 132 NRCS employees and will share 2 geologists with South Carolina and Puerto Rico

8. Consent Agenda: Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

8A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Jarette J. Hurry, Bertie SWCD, filling the appointed expired term of Robert Hoggard for 2018-2022
- Gary Higgins, Buncombe SWCD, filling the elected term of Jeff Foster for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Rick Karriker, Davie SWCD, filling the elected term of Irvin H. Jones for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Laura Marie Davis, Durham SWCD, filling the appointed term of Curtis J. Richardson for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
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8B. Supervisor Contracts: 3 contracts; totaling \$25,938

8C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Kayla Mounce, Wilkes SWCD Resource Conservationist, WUP/NM Category

9. Conservation Reserve Enhance Program 2019 Report: *This item has been removed.*

10. Cost Share Committee Recommendations: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw. Deputy Director Williams presented for Ms. Henshaw. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Deputy Director Williams stated the Cost Share Committee met to discuss the Spot Check Policy to make sure the Division gives the districts and producers enough time to implement biosecurity protocols.

10A. Spot Check Policy Revisions: Deputy Director Williams stated the revision in Item 1 is for the advanced notification for visits for a spot check with the cooperator's permission. Item 1 will add, "*Districts shall contact and obtain permission from the cooperator prior to visiting each contract selected for a spot check. Cooperators must be contacted a minimum of 10 days in advance of visit.*" The revision to Item 1.c. is to clarify for all agricultural ponds and similar structures and will read, "*All agricultural water supply/reuse ponds, agricultural pond repair/retrofits and agricultural water collection systems.*" For Item 1.e., the Spot Check Policy applies to AgWRAP and CCAP not just ACSP.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Spot Check Policy revisions. Commissioner Potter motioned to approve the Spot Check Policy revisions and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Structural Use Policy Revisions: Deputy Director Williams stated the Cost Share Committee discussed the allowances with what can be stored under structures. The revised policy allows cost-shared structures to be used for other agricultural uses, while ensuring the intended purpose of the structures is maintained. In addition to waste, mortality and equipment related to handling waste or mortality, any other items stored in the structure must be agricultural and temporary in nature. The Cost Share Committee provided a matrix of four questions to determine compliance. There are five BMP practices that are affected by these policy changes that were highlighted.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the language revisions to the five BMPs in the Structural Use Policy. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve the revisions and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

11. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated the funds for this allocation are from the 5% withheld at the start of each fiscal year and any cancellations and returns year to date. The Division received ~\$1M in requests from 34 districts and recommends the approval of the supplemental allocation in the amount of \$330,859.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the supplemental allocation and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

- 12. AgWRAP Review Committee Recommendations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Regional Application Approval: Mr. Vetter stated this is the second batch of regional applications. There is a total of nine projects recommended for funding. All three regions submitted applications. The total BMP requests is \$225,000.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the funding for all nine AgWRAP Regional Application projects. Commissioner Potter motioned to approve the nine regional applications and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision: Mr. Vetter stated the AgWRAP State Appropriation is broken into two funding pools, i.e., District Allocations (AG) and Regional Application (AP). The AP fund balance is \$356,828, and the AP total requests is \$225,000. There is a surplus of \$131,825. The AgWRAP Committee suggests a revision to the Detailed Implementation Plan. The revision will state, *“Should the regional pool not have enough ranked applications to encumber available funding, the commission will allocate the remaining funds through district allocations. The allocation process will follow the allocation process described on page 4, after February 1st.”* In addition, the *“Districts may voluntarily return AgWRAP allocations at any time during the fiscal year. On February 1, 2020, districts may request additional funding for specific projects through an online application process.”* As of today, the total reallocation requests are 27, the reallocation funds requested is \$205,995, and the AG balance is \$384.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the revision to the FY 2020 AgWRAP Detailed Implementation Plan. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the revision to the FY 2020 Detailed Implementation Plan and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

- 13. School of Government Supervisor Training Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Pare stated this is an informational update. Mr. Pare highlighted the SOG requirements. In December 2018, 55 supervisors were newly elected, and 50 supervisors took the training, however, five supervisors have not yet attended the mandatory training. These supervisors received letters reminding them of the need to attend the 2021 SOG Training.

- 14. Reapportionment of Hurricanes Matthew and Florence Disaster Response Funds:** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director Williams. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Deputy Director Williams stated that there is \$600,000 more in Hurricane Matthew Agricultural Pond Repair (AgWRAP) funds than is needed, but there is more demand for Stream Debris Removal. The proposal is to move \$600,000 from Pond Repair to Stream Debris Removal. For Hurricane Florence recovery funds, it is recommended that a total of \$2M be moved from Lagoon Management Incentive, Pasture Renovation, Winter Forage Crop Incentive, BMP Repair/Renovation, and Agricultural Pond Repair to Stream Debris Removal.

For the 2019 Appropriation, all the funds are set aside for Stream Debris Removal. The recommendation is to approve this reapportionment according to these recommendations.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve to reapportionment of disaster recovery funds as presented. Commissioner Potter motioned to approve the reapportionment of disaster recovery funds as presented and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

- 15. District Issues:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated this is a request for a post approval of Contract #64-2018-801 from Nash SWCD.

Mr. Parker Phillips, supervisor in Nash SWCD, presented the letter to request post approval for Contract #64-2018-801 for a water supply well. Mr. Phillips stated this error occurred due to a miscommunication between the new cooperater and staff. The BMP was installed prior to final Division approval. The practice has been installed and meets standards and specifications.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the post approval of Contract #64-2018-801 and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

- 16. New Hanover Soil and Water Conservation District Correspondence:** *This item has been removed.*

Public Comments: Director Cox expressed his appreciation to everyone for working together during these trying times.

Chairman Langdon thanked everyone for working together and for the smoothness of both meetings. Chairman Langdon encouraged everyone to take all necessary precautions to stay healthy during this pandemic, and thanked the Commissioners, Division, supervisors, and partners for their cooperation and support.

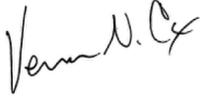
Deputy Director Williams stated guidance was e-mailed to the districts, to follow the lead of the Commission. The districts are encouraged to hold local board meetings via teleconference and to continue to meet the business needs of their district. Any district that needs assistance, the Division is here to help, and they can contact their regional coordinator. Regional coordinators have been instructed to only participate in local board meetings via teleconference. Deputy Director Williams stated that for districts that meet via teleconference, the supervisors can claim per diem and meals but not mileage.

Director Cox stated each district should be reminded that the requirements of the Open Meetings Law remain in effect and that districts need to have enough capacity on a teleconference for the public to participate and have access to the meetings.

Commission Counsel Mr. Reynolds stated he represents many Commissions, and this teleconference is a fine example of how well Webex works with the guidance that was sent out.

Adjournment: Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Willis motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Collier seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.



Vernon N. Cox, 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 May 19, 2020.



STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685
RALEIGH, NC 27611
PHONE: 919-814-3600

Via Email

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III
Governor of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. W. Blount Knowles
Prospective Appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. W. Blount Knowles'** 2020 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective 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 (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

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 Soil and Water Conservation Commission was established to approve petitions for and assist supervisors of soil conservation districts, review applications for planning assistance, and approve, supervise and review small watershed work plans. In addition, the Commission has the authority to develop and implement programs for the approval of water quality and animal waste management systems technical specialists and water quality protection programs. The Commission is also responsible for the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, including the review and approval of applications of district supervisors that apply for a grant from this program, as well as the Community Conservation Assistance Program.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants, and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated

persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Knowles would fill the role of a first vice-president of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD). He represents Bertie County on the NCASWCD, an association that consists of the 96-local soil and water conservation districts. He owns financial interests in a number of publicly traded companies, including Dominion Energy, Inc., Duke Energy Corp and WPX Energy Inc. In addition, he owns and operates the agricultural business, R.B. Knowles, Inc. Because the companies could possibly be involved in or impacted by decisions made by the Commission, he has the potential for a conflict of interest. Accordingly, Mr. Knowles should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving Bertie County or any entity in which he owns a financial interest come before the Commission for official action.

In addition to the conflicts standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,



Mary Roerden, SEI Unit
State Ethics Commission

cc: W. Blount Knowles
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2020**

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

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	David Williams	Ken Parks
Wayne Collier	Jeff Young	Lisa Fine
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Helen Wiklund	Tom Hill
Myles Payne	Bryan Evans	Esther Scott
Mike Willis	Julie Henshaw	Michael Shepherd
	Kelly Hedgepeth	Michelle Lovejoy
Commission Counsel	Eric Pare	Tom Ellis
Phillip Reynolds	Cayle Aldridge	Chester Lowder
Guests	Blount Knowles	Tom Best
Vernon Cox	Josh Vetter	W. Harvey Roberts

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:33 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.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized and thanked the Commissioners, Division staff, and partners for all their hard work.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. None were declared.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. Commissioner Collier stated the minutes are in order.

2A. November 19, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. November 20, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox. Director Cox stated the report will be presented at the Business Meeting this afternoon. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Counsel Reynolds provided an update to the Caldwell County

and Jackson County issue, which was discussed at the November Commission Meeting, whether the Sedimentation Erosion Control plans had to be submitted or whether these activities fit within the exemption. Counsel Reynolds concluded the issue is not a change in policy and should be wrapped up by the March Commission Meeting. Director Cox stated a written understanding is needed on this issue.

Chairman Langdon thanked Counsel Reynolds for his help and attendance.

- 4. Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne. Commissioner Payne stated the report will be presented at the Business Meeting this afternoon. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Payne welcomed everyone to the 76th Annual Meeting of the Association and asked Ms. Michelle Lovejoy with the NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation to present. Ms. Lovejoy distributed a pamphlet called, *“The North Carolina Conservation Partnership”* and stated this is a marketing strategy from the Strategic Planning Project. The pamphlet highlights all the natural resource issues that the districts deal with from an urban setting to a rural setting. Pages 2, 3 and 4 highlight each conservation partner. At the bottom of Page 2, there are six strategic directions listed. The directions are listed below:

Visioning the Future of Conservation Delivery Strategic Directions of the Partnership:

- 1. Implement leadership development for conservation partners to promote effective locally-led conservation.*
 - 2. Connect the private land’s management goals and the conservation partnership priorities.*
 - 3. Collaborate for locally-led conservation.*
 - 4. Address current and emerging landscape scale issues through integrated planning both locally and regionally.*
 - 5. Strengthen and leverage the capacity of Conservation Districts to be the preferred conservation delivery system.*
 - 6. Advocate to increase current and new resources, as well as educate the public of existing and emerging conservation issues.*
- 5. NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present this afternoon. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard will be presenting the report at the Business Meeting this afternoon.
- 6. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare and Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.
- 6A. Supervisor Appointments:**
- Dennis L. Leamon, Iredell SWCD, filling the elected term of Jimmy Howard for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
 - W. Steve Sutton, Pitt SWCD, filling the elected term of John Steadman for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter

- Tracy Grice, Scotland SWCD, filling the appointed term of Aaron F. Stack for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 12 contracts; totaling \$87,467

- 7. FY2019 Commission Cost Share Programs Annual Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated this is the consolidated Cost Share Programs Annual Report, which summarizes and gives an overview of the three Cost Share Programs. There is one addition to the report, which includes information for funding for disaster recovery.
- 8. Supervisor Training Registration Status of Conditional Appointments:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Pare stated this report is for information only. Mr. Pare stated 14 supervisors were appointed in 2019 with the condition that the supervisors attend the UNC-School of Government training in February 2020. Three supervisors have not completed the training; however, Mr. Stallings and Mr. Carson have registered for the training scheduled in February 2020. Mr. Ray has not yet registered for the training. Mr. Evans provided an updated registration list, as of this morning, and there are 20 supervisors registered for the UNC-School of Government training.
- 9. Technical Specialist Continuing Education Audit Results:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Jeff Young to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Young stated this report is for information only. Mr. Young stated the Commission adopted a policy on November 18, 2018, which was implemented on January 1, 2019, that technical specialists must complete at least six hours of continuing education training every three years. Mr. Michael Shepherd conducted an audit on the proof of attendance to ensure the continuing education documentation is credible. All submissions were verified and are 100% in compliance. It is important to note at the end of the third year, if the technical specialist fails to meet the training requirements, the Commission can rescind the designation at the following January meeting.

Chairman Langdon stated the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, district supervisors, the Commission, and the Division should discuss and educate the districts on Job Approval Authority (JAA) so the Commission is not held accountable for not letting the districts know about the need for Job Approval Authority (JAA).

Mr. Bryan Evans stated the NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is working on a resolution for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for districts that are willing to allow their employees to cross county lines during storm events and training events.

Commissioner Willis commended Mr. Rick McSwain for the training on basic stream crossing for new hires in Area 2.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 10:29 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:45 a.m.

10. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Hedgepeth stated there are two district issues.

10A. Consideration of Post-Approval Contract and Supervisor Contract Approval: Ms. Hedgepeth stated this contract is from Currituck County for a post-approval Contract #27-2020-002 for a Non-Field Farm Road Repair. The district applied for money through Formsite, but the technician resigned, and the application was not completed. A Request for Payment (RFP) was generated, but the contract was not entered into CS2, and the contract had not been approved. Due to lack of communication, the contract was updated and resubmitted as complete. A supervisor and staff person will be in attendance tomorrow. Form 1B will also need to be approved and signed.

10B. Consideration of Post-Approval Contract: Ms. Hedgepeth stated this contract is from Sampson County for a post-approval Contract #82-2018-802 for an Irrigation Pond. The pond was installed prior to the contract and design being approved by the Division. The engineering staff stated it will meet the standards. Ms. Henshaw stated this is a first-time cooperator, who planted blueberries and worked on a Cost Share Contract with the district. This contract is part of the regional application process, and it is funded up to \$25K. Since the contract is pending in CS2, no receipts were requested.

Public Comments: Mr. Tom Best from Pitt County stated the staff play a major role and provide an invaluable talent with regards to Job Approval Authority (JAA). The supervisors support and encourage the staff to take the training so as not to lose the staff.

Commissioner Kilpatrick asked if the planting dates for cover crops are changing. Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth stated the Incentives Workgroup is busy gathering the recommended dates, which are based on the NRCS guidance and plantings. Ms. Hedgepeth stated by May of 2020 or July of 2020, the Commission can approve the dates for PY2021.

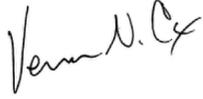
Mr. Tom Ellis with the NC Grange agrees with Chairman Langdon. Mr. Ellis stated it is up to the Commission to be practical in their decision-making process. This Commission has provided more of a realistic hands-on practicality and reality, when it comes to the excellent programs and caring about the farmers. Mr. Chester Lowder with the NC Farm Bureau agrees with Mr. Ellis.

Mr. Eric Pare stated last year there were approximately 60 new district staff. There has been a tremendous turnover across the state, which is causing numerous problems. Chairman Langdon stated there is a big turnover, and we have a big opportunity to create a culture that is efficient and proactive. Ms. Michelle Lovejoy with the NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation stated when the proposal for the Leadership Development Initiative was being formed, there has been a 50% turnover in board members in a decade.

Chairman Langdon asked for an update on the Cost Share Committee Meeting from Director Cox. Chairman Langdon stated the Cost Share Committee met on December 11, 2019 and will meet again in January. Director Cox stated the Cost Share Committee looked at policies, acceptable practices and uses, and drafted some proposed policy changes for cost shared structures. The Cost Share Committee will meet on January 23 and the outcome will be presented at the March Commission Meeting.

Director Cox stated the Commission Meeting at 3 p.m. today has been moved to the Lakeview Room.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.



Vernon N. Cox, 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 , 2020.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
January 5, 2020**

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

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Sherry Harris	Donald Heath
Wayne Collier	Kathryn Smith	Tom Ellis
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Richard Smith	Tommy Houser
Myles Payne	Jason Byrd	Manly West
Derek Potter	Christie Watkins	Esther Scott
Mike Willis	Sandra Reid	Craig Myers
Commission Counsel	Drew Brannon	Ronnie D. Burnette
Phillip Reynolds	James D. Booth	Bill Yarborough
Guests	Tim Beard	W. Harry Roberts
Vernon Cox	Curtis Barwick	Russell Blevins
David Williams	Keith Larick	Brandon Young
Jeff Young	Jonathan Wallin	Lisa Marochak
Helen Wiklund	Patrick Johnson	Eddie Culberson
Ralston James	Jacelyn Rice-Boayue	Joshua Davis
Julie Henshaw	Hermes Goudes	Richard Saunders
Kelly Hedgepeth	James Sarvis	Abby Haselton
Eric Pare	Susannah Goldston	Nancy Carter
Rick McSwain	Edward Davis	Sean Trollinger
Bryan Evans	Mamie Caison	Eric Galamb
Michael Shepherd	MaryBeth Watkins	Blount Knowles
Ken Parks	Gary Simmons	Rod Smith
Josh Vetter	Frank Galloway	James M. Ferguson
Tom Hill	James Malpass	Chester Lowder
Lisa Fine	Jerry Dorsett	
Chris Hogan	P.J. Andrews	

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 3:03 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.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the 76th Annual Meeting and the Commission Meeting. Chairman Langdon thanked the Commission members, Counsel Reynolds, the Division staff, and the partners for their support and time.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Potter motioned to approve the agenda and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the meeting minutes and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

2A. November 19, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. November 20, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox highlighted the following:
 - Personnel Updates
 - 2019 Farm Act (SB 315) has not been passed, which impacts the implementation of the Commission's Job Approval Authority Program
 - 2019 Budget Update; waiting approval
 - District workload increased in PY2019
 - Matthew Stream Debris Removal Update
 - Florence Stream Repair Update
 - Disaster Relief from Hurricane Dorian and Other Named Storms
 - S.L. 2019-250 includes \$5M for stream debris removal
 - Authorizes receiving applications for streams impacted by Hurricane Dorian (2019) and Hurricane Michael (2018). Requests for funding are due by January 17, 2020.
 - Other Disaster Activities Update
 - Agricultural Development Forum is on February 6, 2020 in conjunction with the Southern Farm Show at the NC State Fairgrounds in the Holshouser Building in Raleigh
 - March Commission Meeting is in the NC Agriculture Building in downtown Raleigh
 - Several staff attended the memorial service for Dr. Milton Heath yesterday, who was instrumental in protecting North Carolina's natural resources
4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Payne welcomed everyone to the meeting in conjunction with the 76th Annual Meeting.
 - NACD Annual Meeting is scheduled for February 8-13, 2020 in Las Vegas
 - NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and the NC Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation will present, in a breakout session, the Strategic Visioning project

Visioning the Future of Conservation Delivery Strategic Directions of the Partnership:

1. *Implement leadership development for conservation partners to promote effective locally-led conservation.*
2. *Connect the private land's management goals and the conservation partnership priorities.*
3. *Collaborate for locally-led conservation.*
4. *Address current and emerging landscape scale issues through integrated planning both locally and regionally.*
5. *Strengthen and leverage the capacity of Conservation Districts to be the preferred conservation delivery system.*
6. *Advocate to increase current and new resources, as well as educate the public of existing and emerging conservation issues.*

- Districts will be asked to help fund the cost of the new State Fair building
- UNC-School of Government Basic Training is being held regionally in February

5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beard provided a report that described NRCS Conservation Implementation activities across the State for Fiscal Year 2019. The report is broken down by Congressional Districts and by counties. Also included is the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Report, which was provided to the Commission at the November 20, 2019 meeting. In FY2019, NRCS faced many challenges. The allocations for financial assistance came through in April 2019. The impact of Hurricane Florence not only impacted NRCS but also other Federal agencies. At the beginning of the year, NRCS had approximately 121 employees and ended the year with 106 employees. In summary, the Financial Assistance Programs (EQIP, CSP, RCPP) obligated over \$27M in NC with a few programs highlighted below:

- Congressional District 7: ~\$5M
- EQIP: ~\$22M
- New and Beginning Farmer Funds offered under EQIP and CSP: ~\$1M
- Hurricane and Disaster Recovery Funds offered under EQIP: \$2.1M
- Long Leaf Pine Funds offered under EQIP: ~\$1M
- EWP Program: ~\$23M
- Floodplain Easement: ~\$10M

In all programs, NRCS obligated ~\$63M in recovery funding with help from the partnership. Commissioner Potter asked for a breakdown of where the money has been spent by each employee in the state, i.e., by Congressional District and to see what districts are overworked. Mr. Beard will provide the documentation at the next Commission meeting.

6. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

6A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Dennis L. Leamon, Iredell SWCD, filling the elected term of Jimmy Howard for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- W. Steve Sutton, Pitt SWCD, filling the elected term of John Steadman for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Tracy Grice, Scotland SWCD, filling the appointed term of Aaron F. Stack for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 12 contracts; totaling \$87,467

7. FY2019 Commission Cost Share Programs Annual Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw presented the FY2019 Cost Share Programs summary and thanked the district staff, Division staff, and farmers for all their work.

- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) FY2019 BMP Funding allocated \$4.6M
 - General Assembly appropriated \$2.4M for technical assistance to local districts
 - 102 technical positions; offered \$1,165 in operating support for each position
- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) began in 1984
 - Implemented over 61K contracts, affecting over 3.5M acres, saving 7.6M tons of soil, 21.2M pounds of nitrogen, and 6.6M pounds of phosphorus
 - Highlighted BMPs implemented
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) districts asked for \$2.1M in funding. In fiscal year 2019, districts obligated a total of \$228,052 from appropriated and grant funds to 20 contracts with cooperators. CCAP provided partial support of \$25,320 for two district technician positions.
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Regional Application Process was highlighted for the three regions and projects/BMPs that were funded
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) districts asked for over \$7.2M; Districts obligated \$1,601,780 of state appropriated cost share funds to 156 contracts with cooperators in Fiscal Year 2019. In addition, the Division utilized \$150,000 for technical staff.
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) accomplishments were highlighted from FY2012 – FY2019
- Appendix C lists the contracts by county for the three Cost Share Programs
- Highlighted the Disaster Recovery Funds funneled through the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)
- Cost Share Programs current efforts include upgrading CS2, implementing revised Cost Share Rules for next fiscal year, and conducting regional trainings

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the draft report. Commissioner Kilpatrick motioned to approve the draft report for submission by January 31 and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

8. Supervisor Training Registration Status of Conditional Appointments: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Pare stated this is for information only. Mr. Pare stated 14 supervisors were appointed in 2019 with appointments being conditional upon attending the UNC School of

Government training in February 2020. As of December 2019, one supervisor completed training in February 2019 and one supervisor has registered to attend the training. Three supervisors who were appointed in December 2018 did not attend supervisor training in February 2019. The Commission extended their conditional appointments, based on them attending the training in February 2020. The three appointed supervisors are listed below.

District	First Name	Last Name	SOG Registered
Albemarle-Perquimans	Allen	Stallings	Yes
Franklin	Patrick	Ray	No
Swain	Philip	Carson Sr.	Yes

There are 28 people signed up for the UNC School of Government training. The training locations are in Washington, Asheville, and Burlington.

9. Technical Specialist Continuing Education Audit Results: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Jeff Young to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Young stated this is for information only. Mr. Young stated the Commission adopted a policy on November 18, 2018 that technical specialists are required to take six hours of continuing education training over three years. The Division will conduct a random audit of 10% of all credits, as proof of attendance. The first year of training has ended, and all the submissions are meeting the requirements.

10. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Hedgepeth stated the first issue is from Currituck SWCD for Post-Approval Contract #27-2020-002 in the amount of \$6,523. Mr. Harvey Roberts, supervisor, will present the issue.

10A. Consideration of Post-Approval Contract and Supervisor Contract Approval: Mr. Roberts stated a supervisor had an issue with a drainage pipe on his farm due to storms. The district technician submitted the paperwork, but the application was not completed. Since the technician resigned, the contract was not entered into the CS2 system, and it was not approved. The contract was updated and resubmitted as complete.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve Post-Approval Contract #27-2020-002 and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve Supervisor Contract 1B. Commissioner Kilpatrick motioned to approve Supervisor Contract 1B and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Consideration of Post-Approval Contract: Ms. Hedgepeth stated this issue is from Sampson SWCD for a Post-Approval Contract #82-2018-802 for an AgWRAP Pond. Mr. Curtis Barwick, supervisor, and Mr. Henry Faison, district staff, will present the issue. Mr. Barwick asked the Commission for post approval of the contract. Mr. Henry Faison presented the issue stating this is a first time the applicant has applied for cost share funding. The cooperator needed an irrigation system for the summer and dug a pond without a design. Mr. Faison instructed the cooperator the district would survey the land, prepare a design, get the design

approved by the Division and the cooperator would have a contract. Mr. Faison stated the cooperator would need a 10-year lease on the property because he did not own the property; his wife was the owner. As Mr. Faison investigated the construction of the pond, he contacted the Division engineering staff to survey the pond. The pond can meet NRCS pond standards with some additional improvements. The pond is for blueberry irrigation. The board approved the application of the contract and is waiting for the Division to approve the design. The district needs a survey to meet the standards, and the emergency spillway must be properly installed.

Chairman Langdon stated there are policies and rules and guidelines that we operate under and applicants are not always informed of the rules.

Ms. Hedgepeth stated payment will not be made until it meets NRCS standards, with payment based on actual costs of receipts.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve Contract #82-2018-802. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the Post-Approval Contract #82-2018-802 and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked for public comments.

Commissioner Payne stated NACD started a Leadership Training Program. Applicants from across the U.S. applied. There were seven participants selected. Ms. Barbara Bleiweis was recognized as one of the participants from Mecklenburg County.

Mecklenburg County supervisors are excited the Annual Meeting is in Charlotte.

Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Kilpatrick. Chairman Langdon thanked Commissioner Kilpatrick for all his service to the state, the district, the Commission, and the Association. Chairman Langdon presented a plaque from the Commission in appreciation of his service and leadership to the State of North Carolina with years of service from 2017 - 2020. Commissioner Kilpatrick thanked everyone to be able to serve in a leadership role.

Chairman Langdon stated there is a Leadership Initiative Program in the state that is moving forward with our Association to make it a successful program.

Commissioner Payne stated the Leadership Initiative will happen this year.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.



Vernon N. Cox, 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 , 2020.

Coronavirus

- “The N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services remains committed to providing the services that support our state’s agricultural and agribusiness industry and protect consumers. “
 - Meat & Poultry Inspection
 - Food Distribution
 - Food & Drug Inspection
 - Soil/Waste/Plant Tissue Analysis
 - Wildfire Control Activities
 - Phytosanitary Inspections, etc.



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Coronavirus

- “As the world grapples with this unprecedented global pandemic, we are following the guidelines and recommendations of state, national and world public health organizations and the Governor in managing our day-to-day operations.”
 - Teleworking
 - Staggered Work Schedules
 - Social Distancing



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Coronavirus

- Open:
 - NCDA&CS offices (with some restrictions)
 - State Farmer's Markets
 - State Forests (offices & public restrooms closed to public)
- Restricted Access:
 - Agronomic Lab
 - Old Health Building
 - Weights & Measures, Motor Fuels Lab
 - Pesticides Division's Ballentine Building
- Cancelled:
 - NC State Fairgrounds Events
 - All Pesticide and Exam Schools through April 14
 - Structural Pest Control Schools & Exams
 - Farmland Preservation Workshops
 - N.C. Forest Service educational/group programs



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Personnel

- **Vacancies:**

- Environmental Program Supervisor I (Kelly Hedgepeth) – Submitted to Post
- Envir. Specialist (CREP – Suzanne Hartley) – Awaiting Offer
- Envir. Specialist (CREP – Stuart Coale) – Advertise
- Engineer Tech. III (CREP Survey –C. Reddick) – Interview



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



JAA Initiative

- **Gail Hughes – Orange SWCD (Retired)**
 - New Employee Curriculum
 - JAA Priorities by Area
 - Identify Training Needs/Resources
 - Communicate Training Opportunities to Staff/Supervisors
- **Mutual Aid Agreement**



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



2020 Legislative

- **Farm Act**

- SWCC JAA Authority
- Public Records Law/Section 1619

- **Engineer Positions (2)**



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Matthew Debris Removal

- \$16.1M expended of \$24.9M contracted to 56 local sponsors
- 2,146 miles of debris removal completed to date
- 27 contracts expired on 12/31/2019
- Remaining funds will be reallocated to supplement ongoing contracts (Agenda Item 14).



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Florence/Michael/Dorian Stream Repair

\$16 Million Available Total Appropriation

\$1.5 M Transfer from Div. of Water Resources

- \$16.1 M allocated to 69 local sponsors
- Includes \$6.8 M as non-federal match for EWP.
- Contracts being developed currently
- Proposed to reappropriation some Florence funding to debris removal (Item 14)



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
March 18, 2020



Other Disaster Activities

- Road Repairs
 - Matthew – 126 repairs completed \$458,000 (20 active contracts remain)
 - Florence – 209 repairs completed \$1,009,000 (76 active)
- Pond Repairs
 - Matthew – 9 completed \$967,000 (4 under construction)
 - Florence – 5 completed \$100,000 (5 under contract)
- Lagoon Management – 126 farmers assisted, \$1.35M
- Pasture Renovation – 64 farmers assisted, \$339,000 (1,995 acres)
- Winter Forage – 77 farmers assisted, \$106,000 (4,957 acres)



May Meeting

- **Location:** NC State Fairgrounds (Martin Building)
- **Work Session:** May 19th (6:00 p.m.)
- **Business Meeting:** May 20th (9:00 a.m.)





Association Report to the Commission

March 18, 2020

2020 Annual Meeting

We are finalizing the location for the 2021 Annual meeting. We have been negotiating hard to get as reduced rate as possible.

2020 NACD Meeting

The National NACD meeting was held in Las Vegas, NV February 8-13, 2020. We had over 40 attendees from NC and we were very active in the meeting. Our resolution for federal partners to work together to get the CRP letters sent from FSA to have a statement advising that additional restriction may be remaining on the property for CREP. Our Association and Foundation presented in a breakout session about our Strategic Visioning project. Our Association made a contribution to the NCF Envirothon from funds raised for our hosting of the 2019 event. We were also recognized for the 3rd leading state in contributions.

2020 School of Government Training

Again, this year we offered the Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors on a regional level for the 2nd year. Attendance was great. There were 84 attendees/registrants and of which, 53 were Supervisors. Dates and locations were as follows:

February 4: Beaufort County Ag Center, Washington, NC

February 18: Buncombe SWCD Office, Asheville, NC

February 25: Alamance Ag Center, Burlington, NC

NCASWCD Leadership Initiative

We are excited to be able to offer Leadership training again thanks to a grant acquired by the Foundation and provided by the Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. We have 16 spots available and registration closed last Monday. If you still have an interest, please talk to Bryan.

2020 Legislative Actions

The Legislature returns to session on April 28th. We will be present to continue to push our items, including the JAA, along with the new items added to our Action Items from this past Annual Meeting. That document is on our website and would encourage everyone to take a look at it. New items for this year are to address funding for CCAP, new Debris Removal Cost Share Program and additional Supervisor Training funds.

Mutual Aid Agreements

This year our Association adopted as an action item, the development of a Mutual Aid agreement for Districts willing to offer personnel resources for assistance during disasters and for training needs of adjacent Districts. We are currently developing that agreement and will be working with Districts who are willing to participate. The Association will serve as the clearing house for those Districts participating in these agreements.

NACD Spring Flyin

We will be sending a delegation from NC to participate in the Fly-In on March 25 in DC. We look forward to connecting with our congressional leaders and addressing federal needs for our state.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

North Carolina - The Update



Program Updates

Conservation innovation Grants (CIG)

On December 14, 2019, NRCS announced it is awarding about \$12.5 million for 19 CIG grants. The 2019 CIG funding pool focused on four priority areas: water quantity, urban agriculture, pollinator habitat and accelerating the pace and scale of conservation adoption.

Two of the 19 projects awarded will benefit North Carolina.

1. The Croatan Institute's project, *Rural Regenerative Agricultural Districts: Accelerating the Adoption of Regenerative Agricultural Practices in U.S. Farm Communities through the Development of an Innovative Financing Mechanism*, was awarded \$700,000 in CIG funding and will benefit North Carolina and five other states.
2. The Conservation Fund's project, *Building Economic Access and Land Opportunities*, was awarded \$630,109 and will benefit North Carolina and three other states.

Details about these and other CIG projects that were recently awarded funding can be found on the national CIG website at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

NRCS is working diligently to implement the 2018 Farm Bill while integrating input from agricultural producers and stakeholders. In 2019, NRCS gathered feedback on 13 practice standards through a posting on the Federal Register. In total, NRCS will gather feedback on 90-plus practice standards by the end of FY 2020. Notices will be published on the national and state websites.

NRCS would like to remind the public that historically underserved producers, who are participating in the EQIP, have the option of receiving advance payment. This option allows underserved producers to get conservation practice payments in advance of practice implementation. Under the advance payment option, such producers may request payments when they have final designs and job sheets and are ready to begin their EQIP practices. Advance payments provide at least 50 percent of the payment rate for each practice. The funds must be spent within 90 days of receipt and practices must be



completed as agreed to in an EQIP plan of operations. Producers also may opt to have NRCS pay the contractors or vendors directly.

North Carolina NRCS established March 6, 2020, as the application reception deadline for all producers interested in having their EQIP application considered for available funding.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)

For FY 2019, NRCS can spend up to \$700 million nationally in CStP, which covers part of the cost for producers implementing new conservation activities and maintaining their existing activities. Conservation activities expanded to include: soil health planning, building soil organic matter through resource conserving crop rotations, and activities that help producers adapt to, or mitigate, increasing weather volatility. The application sign-up deadline for North Carolina General (CStP) will be announced soon.

CStP Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI) is available to producers with acreage that has been in grass over a nine-year period, rather than planted with commodity crops. When enrolling in the CStP GCI, producers must meet or exceed the stewardship threshold for one priority resource concern by the end of their five-year contract. This initiative has different rules than the rest of CStP, and there is no ranking period, and CSP payment limitations do not apply.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

NRCS is extending the deadline to March 20, 2020, to submit public comments on its interim rule for ACEP. NRCS is asking for public feedback on two additional questions and made several clarifying changes to the rule preamble.

The updates include:

- Asked whether the Healthy Forest Reserve Program and Regional Conservation Partnership Program should be used primarily to help protect agricultural lands with forest lands that are beyond what is eligible for enrollment as an ACEP Agricultural Land Easement;

North Carolina
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

- Asked for input on streamlining access to ACEP and ranking criteria for applications for the program;
- Corrected the docket number and URL to view a copy of the Environmental Assessment;
- Clarified the revised definition for “wetland restoration” can be found under §1468.3 of the interim rule and the definition of “wetland restoration” in the Jan. 6, 2020, preamble was the prior definition.

The NRCS state office will announce signup periods for ACEP in the coming weeks.

North Carolina Farm Bill Conservation and Easement Program Technical Assistance Allocations for Fiscal Year 2020. (As of 2/05/2020)

<u>Program Name</u>	<u>Financial Assistance Dollar Amount</u>
ACEP Agricultural Land Easements	\$943,966
ACEP Wetland Reserve Easements	\$3,841,404
EQIP	\$21,877,465
CStP	\$100,000
CStP Grassland Conservation Initiative	\$2,360,000

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

NRCS is making progress towards completing EWP agreements sponsors. Currently, there are 13 local sponsors with agreements in the process of being signed or are active. The total financial assistance amount for these agreements is \$13,541,514.87. Overall, NC NRCS is making excellent progress with sponsor beginning EWP projects within 12 months of sponsors’ requesting assistance.

EWP Floodplain Easements (FPE)

In response to recent flooding impacting many parts of North Carolina, NRCS announced the availability of funding conservation easements on agricultural lands damaged by flooding and other natural disasters. Funds are made available through EWP-FPE. In May of 2019, NRCS promoted the program and received letters of interest from potential applicants. NRCS is currently working with those individuals to apply for current available funding under the program.

Total FPE Estimates

- Total estimated cost of fully implemented FPE with residences or other structures is estimated to be \$26,450,000. However, there are four sites that estimated cost have yet to be determined. Total

estimated number of applicants for FPE with residence is 13.

- Total estimated number of applicants for FPE on agricultural lands, 13.
- Total estimated cost of fully implemented FPE on agricultural lands, \$16,700,000.
- Sign-up for FPE with residential and other structures is February 28, 2020, and April 30, 2020 for FPE with commercial properties.

Personnel Updates

- Effective February 2, 2020, Julie Bernstorf will be serving as the new civil engineer on Team 4 in the Yadkinville Field Office.
- Effective February 2, 2020, Paul Schweizer will be serving as the new soil conservation technician for Team 10 in the Smithfield Field Office.
- Effective February 2, 2020, Rafael Vega, assistance state conservationist for ecological sciences, is on 120 a day detail serving as the state conservationist for the State of Florida.
- Effective February 2, 2020, Joshua Spenser, water quality specialist in the NRCS state office, is on a 120 day detail serving as the assistant state conservationist for ecological sciences in the North Carolina State Office.
- Effective March 1, 2020, Brandon King will be serving as the new supervisory soil conservationist for Team 7 in the Burlington Field Office.
- Effective March 1, 2020, Mary Waligora will be serving as the new civil engineer in the North Carolina State Office.
- Effective March 15, 2020, Julius George will be serving as the new assistant state conservationist for field operations for Area 3 in the Goldsboro Field Office.
- Effective April 12, 2020, James Boyett will be serving as the new supervisory soil conservationist for Team 4 in the Wilkesboro Field Office.

Contacts:
State Conservationist—Timothy A. Beard
 (Tel) 919.873.2100
State Public Affairs—Stuart Lee
 (Tel) 919.873.2107
 (Email) Stuart.Lee@nc.usda.gov





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~~Appointed~~ Elected Seat
 Current Term: 18-22

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the BERTIE Soil and Water Conservation District of BERTIE 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 3/18/2020 and ending 12/2/2024 to fill the ~~expired~~ or un-expired term of Robert Hoggard. Dec 5, 2022 EP

Name of nominee: Jarette J. Hurry
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 1005 Sterlingworth Street Windsor, NC 27983
 Email address of nominee: jihurry@ncsu.edu
 Home phone: 252-325-3091
 Mobile phone: 601-214-7319
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: Ag. Agent NSCU
 Age: 28
 Education: M.S. Degree
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: N/A
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: N/A

Other pertinent information: _____

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 Blount Knowles 2/3/2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: Blount Knowles

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.
 X Jarette J. Hurry 2/3/2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Jarette J. Hurry



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 Current Term: 10-2018

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Buncombe County Soil and Water Conservation District of Buncombe County 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 March 18, 2020 EP and ending December 7, 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Jeff Foster

Name of nominee: Gary Higgins
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 20 Selwyn Road, Asheville, NC 28806
 Email address of nominee: g_adalins@att.net
 Home phone: 828-665-0708
 Mobile phone: 828-775-7008
 Business phone: none
 Occupation: Retired
 Age: 65
 Education: B.A. Mars Hill University, 1976
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Community Garden leader for church
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Employed for 36 years at Buncombe SWCD, 23 years as District Director
 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] March 13, 2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair (Chair is being nominated)) Date
 Printed name: William Hamilton

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

X [Signature] March 13, 2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Gary Higgins

February 13, 2020

Jeff Foster, PE
126 Flynn Branch Road
Asheville, NC 28804

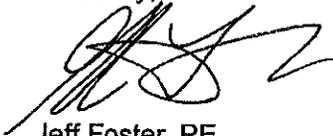
Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District Board
49 Mt. Carmel Road
Asheville, NC 28806

Dear Board,

I regret to inform you that I must tender my resignation as the Chairman of our Board as well as my elected position as a fellow District Board member. As you are aware, our family has experienced some challenges that have caused us to consider potential solutions to these issues. At the recommendation of our medical practitioners, we will need to relocate to the Sanford area. I have since accepted a position with a former employer, CE Group, located in Raleigh.

While I regret that I am no longer able to represent my constituents, I do look forward to working in this new position and the hope it offers our family. We love the Buncombe County area and the opportunity to have served here. I couldn't ask for a better group to work with than you and will miss you a great deal. My family is better off for having known you as well. I look forward to serving once again in the new district in which we find ourselves and hope to see you again at an annual meeting or other related event should I have the good fortune of being elected or appointed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Foster', written over a white background.

Jeff Foster, PE
District Supervisor
Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation District Board



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 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 Davie Soil and Water Conservation District of Davie 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 MARCH 2020 and ending Dec 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of J.H. "Cokie" Jones. 186.

Name of nominee: Rick Karriker
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 2020 Davie Academy Rd Mocksville NC 27028
 Email address of nominee: specialkgoat@yadtel.net
 Home phone: 386-492-2403
 Mobile phone: 704-310-7147
 Business phone: /
 Occupation: Farmer
 Age: 51
 Education: HS + College courses
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: _____
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: _____
Military Service, squad, Fireteam Leader, Platoon Sergeant
 Other pertinent information: Lead jobs for electrical company for years

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]
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated)
 Printed name: KEVIN S. MARION

3-2-20
 Date

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

X [Signature]
 Individual recommended for appointment
 Printed name: Richard B. Karriker, Jr.

3-1-20
 Date

February 25, 2020

Mr. Kevin Marion
Chairman
Davie County Soil and Water Conservation District
180 South Main Street
Mocksville, NC 27028

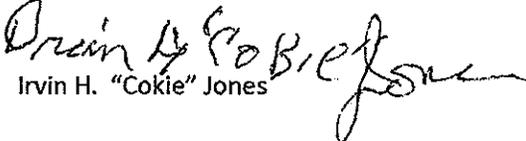
Dear Kevin,

I am requesting that the Davie County Soil and Water Conservation Board please accept my resignation from the position of Supervisor effective March 1, 2020 due to health issues. My health will not permit active involvement and participation in activities as I should. Now is the time for others to take the lead.

It has been such a privilege for me to be a member of the Davie Soil and Water Conservation Board for fifty years. I have enjoyed the great comradeship and generous support of everyone on the Board. I hope I have in some way added to the conservation of our resources.

Thank you for your support and your treasured friendship. If I can be of any service to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Irvin H. "Cokie" Jones



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 Current Term: 16-20
 S.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District of Durham 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 March 18, 2020 and ending December 7, 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Curtis Richardson.

Name of nominee: Laura Marie Davis
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 1412 Carroll St.
 Email address of nominee: lauramariedavis1@gmail.com
 Home phone: _____
 Mobile phone: 513-607-9298
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: Contract nonprofit work
 Age: 27
 Education: BS Biology 2014; Master of Environmental Management 2017
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Associate Supervisor, Durham SWCD; Secretary, Durham Environmental Affairs Board
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Outreach & Engagement Director, EarthShare NC; Environmental Outreach Liaison AmeriCorps Member, Tuscarawas County Board of Commissioners
 Other pertinent information: Ran for elected seat on Durham SWCD Board in 2017

Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable: 2/25/2020
 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 Talmage Layton
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated)
 Printed name: Talmage Layton

3/2/2020

Date

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

X Laura Marie Davis
 Individual recommended for appointment
 Printed name: Laura Marie Davis

3/2/2020

Date

February 3, 2020

Edward Culberson
Director
Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District
201 E. Main Street
Durham, NC 27701

Dear Eddie,

I want to inform you that I will be resigning from the Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors effective March 1, 2020.

I am stepping down from the Board because my duties as a Chair of the Nicholas School's Environmental Science & Policy Division (with over 50 members) plus Director of the Wetland Center have increasingly limited my available time to contribute to the board.

I have very much enjoyed working with you and other Board members through the years. I look forward to seeing your progress on the vital work the District has undertaken.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Curtis J. Richardson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Curtis J. Richardson
Board Supervisor
Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District



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 Current Term: 18-22

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 12/03/2018 and ending 12/03/2022 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Rebecca Hurd 3/2020 E.

Name of nominee: Robert G. Cloninger III
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 3062 Cloninger Rd. Dallas, N.C. 28034
 Email address of nominee: rgcloninger@gmail.com
 Home phone: 704-343-1944
 Mobile phone: _____
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: Public Works Field Operations Manager
 Age: 38
 Education: Bachelors of Science, Industrial Tech/Constructor
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: _____
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: _____
 Other pertinent information: _____

- *Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable: 2015
- 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

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X [Signature]
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated)
 Printed name: Esther M. Scott

18 Feb 2020
 Date

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

X [Signature]
 Individual recommended for appointment
 Printed name: Robert G. Cloninger

02-25-2020
 Date

August 7, 2019

Dear Gaston County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors:

Effective today, I am resigning from my position as Gaston County Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor. I have enjoyed getting to know you and wish you all the best in fulfilling the important work of the board. As I look ahead into the school year, I have realized that I will continue to struggle with finding childcare, but also finding the important time outside of meetings to commit to SWCD work. I appreciate the opportunity and the support the community has given me thus far.

I hope that I may be involved in various projects in the future, as my time commitments change.

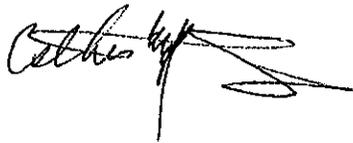
Thank you,



Rebecca K. Hurd

enclosed:

information to change liaison contact



8/20/19



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 Current Term: '18 - '22 *EP*

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District of Johnston 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 March 2020 and ending December 2022 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Douglas William Lee (deceased).

Name of nominee: Delmon Dewitt Hardee
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 7325 Elevation Road, Benson NC 27504
 Email address of nominee: ddhepn@gmail.com
 Home phone: _____
 Mobile phone: 919-202-6342
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: NCDA & CS Farmland Preservation Program Director
 Age: 60
 Education: NC State University, Raleigh NC - Master of Agricultural Education, B.S. Agricultural Education, B.S. Technology of Animal Science
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: See attached resume
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: see attached resume
 Other pertinent information: See attached resume

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]* 02-11-2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: _____

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

X *[Signature]* 2-14-2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Delmon Dewitt Hardee



DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
 North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
 1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
 919.707.3770 • www.ncagr.gov/swc/

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

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 March 18, 2020 and ending November 30, 2021 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Jonathan Schwartz. December 7, 2020 EP

Name of nominee: Thomas J. Elijah, III
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 4008 Dunwoody Drive, Charlotte, NC 28215
 Email address of nominee: T.Elijah3@gmail.com
 Home phone: _____
 Mobile phone: 704-608-1959
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: no-till farmer, educator, project manager, social media manager
 Age: 63
 Education: BBA NC Central University, PM and construction related certification via Central Piedmont CC. See attached resume
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: _____
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: _____
Project Superintendent for home developer, Construction & Life Skills Instructor, Treasurer for family business
 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 Barbara Bleiwen March 2, 2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: BARBARA BLEIWEIN

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.
 x Thomas J. Elijah III 2 March 2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Thomas J. Elijah III

Wiklund, Helen

From: Jonathan <j_schwartz@mindspring.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 10:15 AM
To: Byrd, Anganette
Subject: [External]Resignation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Anganette,

Please have this email serve as my official letter of resignation. It's been a pleasure working with everyone.

Thanks,

Jonathan

----- Original message -----

From: barbara bleiweis <bleiweis4meckswcd@gmail.com>
Date: 8/27/19 9:53 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Jonathan <j_schwartz@mindspring.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting Follow Up

Thanks Jonathan for all your support. I appreciate you and wish you the best.

On Aug 27, 2019, at 9:50 AM, Jonathan <j_schwartz@mindspring.com> wrote:

Hi Barbara,

I was quite impressed with the attendance at our meeting last night, especially the breadth of knowledge and expertise offered by the attendees. As I listened to some of the questions you posed, I took to heart the time commitment component and walked away feeling a bit guilty. While I never brought a technical knowledge or expertise aspect to the board, I believed in the cause and felt that I could look at things from a business perspective in order to add value.

However, due to full time employment and commitments outside of the board, I feel that I haven't been able to contribute the time that other board members can and thus feel like I'm not pulling my weight.

With the support I saw last night, I think it would be prudent for me to resign so the board can be better served with someone who has more time and/or technical expertise.

I will submit my official letter to Anganette by EOD.

Thanks,

Jonathan



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

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the NASH Soil and Water Conservation District of NASH 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 3/18/2020 and ending 12/2/24 to fill the expired or un-expired term of John Finch.

Name of nominee: Willie L. Harrison
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 4927 Harrison Rd Castalia NC 27816
 Email address of nominee: h273@aol.com
 Home phone: 252-459-4155
 Mobile phone: 252-955-2666
 Business phone: _____
 Occupation: Farmer
 Age: 78
 Education: High School
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Farm Manager
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: _____

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 Bobby Joe Fisher 2/3/2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: Bobby Joe Fisher

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

X Willie L. Harrison 2/2/2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Willie Harrison



NASH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Room 107 • Ag. Center Drive • Nashville, NC 27856 • (252) 459-4116 Ext. 3 •

January 13th, 2020

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

To the Soil & Water Conservation Commission:

I, John W. Finch, submit my formal resignation from the Nash Soil & Water Conservation District Board effective January 13th, 2020 due to health reasons. I have enjoyed serving the Nash SWCD Board, the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and the National Association of Conservation Districts. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the conservation family.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John W. Finch". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

John Finch

Yours for Life



DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION
 North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
 1614 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, NC 27699-1614
 919.707.3770 • www.ncagr.gov/swc/

INTERNAL USE ONLY:
 Appointed / Elected Seat
 Current Term: '18 - '22 EGP

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Stanly Soil and Water Conservation District of Stanly 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 3/18/2020 and ending 12/5/2022 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Terry L. Blalock.

Name of nominee: Gerald McSwain
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 36738 South Stanly School Rd, Norwood, NC 28128
 Email address of nominee: mcswain08@windstream.net
 Home phone: 704-474-3797
 Mobile phone: 704-985-4003
 Business phone: 704-985-4003
 Occupation: Farmer
 Age: 68
 Education: High School graduate
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Member of the Farm Service Agency County Committee since 2014.
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Employed by Stanly Soil & Water Conservation District as Ag Cost Share Technician and District Manager from Nov. 1, 1994 until Dec. 31, 2013.
 Other pertinent information: Manager of the Keyser Aluminum fertilizer company from 1986-1994

Dates of previous attendance at UNC School of Government training, if applicable: 2008
 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 Curtis R. Furr 2-24-2020
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: Curtis Furr

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.
Gerald McSwain 2-19-2020
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Gerald McSwain

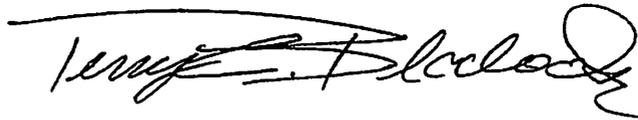
November 19, 2019

Rita Little
Soil & Water Conservation

Due to health reasons I must turn in my resignation effective immediately as board member for Soil and Water Conservation.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the SWCD Board.

I feel the tax payers and land owners of Stanly County don't realize how much benefit the work of this board is to them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Blalock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T" and a distinct "L" and "B".

Terry L. Blalock

**NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Camden	15-2020-004	Abner Wayne Staples	crop residue management	\$7,474	
Duplin	31-2020-508	Louis Howard	disaster pasture renovation	\$9,000	
Warren	93-2020-010	Thomas G. Taylor	heavy use area protection	\$9,464	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 3

Total **\$25,938**

**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Albemarle/Camden 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: Crop Residue Management

Contract number: 15-2020-004 Contract amount: \$ 7,474

Score on priority ranking sheet: 75 Highly Eligible

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

Reason: Incentive Practice

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

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: Abner Wayne Staples

Abner Wayne Staples
(District Supervisor's signature)

2-17-2020
Date

Approved by:

Sergio Torkmatov
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-17-2020
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.



ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Duplin County 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: Disaster ACSP

Best management practice: Disaster Pasture Renovation

Contract number: 31-2020-508

Contract amount: \$ 9,000

Score on priority ranking sheet: N/A - Disaster

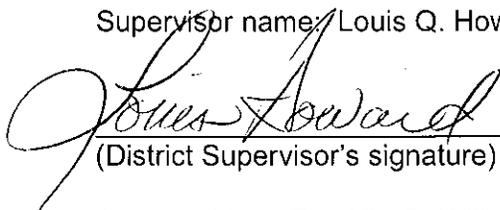
Cost Share Rate : 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

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

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: Louis Q. Howard



(District Supervisor's signature)

2-24-2020
Date

Approved by: Franklin O. Williams



(District Chairperson's signature)

2-24-2020
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.

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: Heavy Use Area Protection

Contract number: 93-2020-010

Contract amount: \$ 9464

Score on priority ranking sheet: 275

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: Thomas G. Traylor

Thomas G. Traylor
(District Supervisor's signature)

Feb. 11, 2020
Date

Approved by:

Haman Collin
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-14-2020
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.





Technical Specialist Designation Recommendations

March 18, 2020

1. 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, professional engineers subject to the "The NC Engineering and Land Surveying Act", or individuals that have completed the training requirements and demonstrated proficiency in a technical specialist category. Individuals must submit an application with evidence of expertise, skills and training required for each designation category.

Ms. Kayla Mounce, Wilkes Soil and Water Conservation District Resource Conservationist, has requested to be designated technical specialist for the Waste Utilization Planning/ Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category. She has successfully completed the required training and technical proficiency has been verified by DSWC staff. Therefore, I recommend this designation for approval.

COST SHARE PROGRAMS SPOT CHECK POLICY

4. Supervisors shall be responsible for conducting annual spot checks to ensure program compliance for the following practices. Districts shall contact:
 1. Districts shall contact and obtain permission from the cooperator prior to visiting each contract selected for a spot check. Cooperators must be contacted a minimum of 10 days in advance of visit.
 - a. 5% or more of all active contracts per program. Contracts should be randomly selected. Districts shall contact cooperators to learn of current biosecurity concerns prior to visiting any animal operations. Scheduling spot checks on these operations shall be coordinated with cooperators to follow protocols. Should a cooperator have a high risk biosecurity concern, the field visit portion of the spot check shall be deferred and completed after the biosecurity concern is lifted.
 - b. All waste management systems for operations not permitted by the Division of Water Resources for five years following implementation. The mandatory waste management spot check cannot make up the total 5% random spot check. After selecting 5% of active contracts, any remaining waste management systems not randomly chosen must be added and reviewed for five years following implementation. The technical review should not be completed by the person who developed the plan.
 - c. All agricultural ponds water supply/reuse ponds, agricultural pond repair/retrofits and agricultural water collection systems-
 - d. 5% of all nutrient management best management practice (BMP) contracts. The technical review should not be completed by the person who developed the plan.
 - e. Any ACSP, AgWRAP or CCAP contract, revision, supplement or repair completed under a Cost Share Program or other nonpoint source pollution cost-shared programs for lands owned or operated by a district, county, division or NRCS employee or district supervisor will be spot checked by representatives of the NRCS Area Office or division within one year after completion of a contract item ~~(effective 12/13/90). Any AgWRAP or CCAP contract, revision, supplement or repair completed under a Cost Share Program or other nonpoint source pollution cost-shared programs for lands owned or operated by a district, county, division or NRCS employee (AgWRAP only) or district supervisor will be spot checked by representatives of the division within one year after completion of a contract item.~~
 2. Spot check reports must be submitted to the division annually. Refer to the Program Year Due Date policy for deadline date.
 3. The commission encourages the participation of all the supervisors in the spot check process, and it requires that at least one supervisor be present for every spot check. The division recommends that all supervisors participating in the site visits inspect the selected operations together and that district, NRCS and/or division technical staff will accompany the supervisors to provide technical expertise.
 4. Districts are to document the number/names of all persons participating in the spot check process. The Open Meetings Law requirements must be met if a quorum of supervisors participates in the spot check process.
 5. During the spot check process, technical staff will provide to supervisors the cost share contract including the conservation standard, conservation plan, design (if applicable) and

Commission Cost Share Programs

field notes. All BMPs and all fields in each selected contract must be inspected for compliance.

6. If a contract is found to be in non-compliance, refer to and follow the non-compliance policy.

Structural Use Policy Revisions

Cost Share Committee Recommendations



1

Structural Use Policies

- Currently limit structures to only include storage of waste/mortality and related application equipment
- Cost Share Committee met to discuss use of structures while ensuring the intended purpose of the structures are maintained

2

Intended Purpose of Structures

- Storage of mortality, feed and waste to protect water quality.
- Mortality, feed and waste may not be found outside of the structure. Cannot be displaced by other items.
- Anything else in the structure must be agricultural and temporary in nature.

3

Questions for Determining Compliance

1. Is the water quality purpose of this BMP being met?
Yes = In compliance / No = Out of compliance
2. Are litter/waste/mortality being stored outside of the structure?
Yes = Out of compliance / No = In compliance

4

Questions for Determining Compliance

3. Are there items in addition to waste application equipment in storage under the structure?

No = In compliance

If Yes: Are these items farm related? Refer to [NCDOR's Sales and Use Tax Bulletin: 27-4; pg. 99](#) for agricultural exemptions. If it would qualify for a farm sales tax exemption, it would be allowable.

Yes = In compliance

No = Out of compliance

5

Questions for Determining Compliance

4. Are there any alterations which are permanent and would hinder the use of the building during times of the year when it is utilized to meet the purpose of the contract?

Yes = Out of compliance / No = In compliance

6

Structural BMPs with Proposed Revisions

- Livestock Feeding Area
- Feeding/Waste Storage Structure
- Dry Stack
- Manure Composting Facility
- Livestock Mortality Management System

7

10B. Structural Use Policy Revisions

Consider action to approve the revisions to the 5 BMPs in this category found in Attachment 10B.

8

Structural Use Policies and Proposed Revisions

Best Management Practice	Purpose	Policy Statement
<p>Livestock Feeding Area</p>	<p>The 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.</p>	<p>8. Any aAdditional area needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense. The additional area must be stipulated on the design and not receive cost share assistance. <u>Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.</u> For example, if the operator stores equipment other than waste handling equipment in the structure and the design plan did not stipulate that the area of the designed structure was increased at the producer's expense, then the operator is out of compliance.</p>
<p>Feeding/Waste Storage Structure</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>7. <u>Additional area needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense. The additional area must be stipulated on the design and not receive cost share assistance.</u>A signed statement is required stating the cost shared portion of the structure will be used only for animal feeding and waste storage. <u>Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.</u> <u>Stockpiled waste shall not be allowed to be stored outside the structure.</u></p>

<p><u>Dry Stack</u></p>	<p>A Dry Stack means a fabricated structure for temporary storage of animal waste.</p>	<p>7. A signed statement is required stating the cost shared portion of the dry stack will be used only for <u>primarily used for</u> -waste storage. <u>Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.</u> (Waste handling equipment may be stored in the dry stack provided it does not cause a displacement of waste.) <u>Waste shall not be allowed to be stored outside the structure.</u></p>
<p><u>Manure Composting Facility</u></p>	<p>Composting is a biological process in which microorganisms convert manure and other organic matter into a soil-like material called compost. Compost can be applied as a soil amendment to improve soil tilth and plant growth. A 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.</p>	<p>6. Payment will be made for the minimum volume required using NRCS and Extension Service design criteria for primary and secondary treatment, and/or storage of composted material in one structure. Storage volume is equal to a maximum of four (4) times the primary volume. Additional volume needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense and must be stipulated on the design. <u>Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.</u> <u>Stockpiled waste nor compost shall not be allowed to be stored outside the structure.</u></p>
<p><u>Livestock Mortality Management System</u></p>	<p>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/refrigeration unit and mortality incinerator system.</p>	<p>17. Any aAdditional area needed to accommodate the producer's equipment and/or desires will be at the producer's expense. The additional area must be stipulated on the design and not receive cost share assistance. <u>Secondary uses related to agriculture may be temporarily permitted provided they do not prevent the structure from being used for its primary purpose.</u> For example, if the operator stores equipment other than waste handling equipment in the structure and the design plan did not stipulate that the area of the designed structure was increased at the producer's expense,</p>

Supplemental ACSP Allocation

ATTACHMENT 11

County	Amount Requested by District	Total March 2020 Allocation
ALAMANCE	\$0	\$0
ALEXANDER	\$0	\$0
ALLEGHANY	\$0	\$0
ANSON	\$30,000	\$12,635
ASHE	\$20,000	\$8,714
AVERY	\$10,000	\$8,870
BEAUFORT	\$50,000	\$10,657
BERTIE	\$0	\$0
BLADEN	\$6,917	\$6,917
BRUNSWICK	\$0	\$0
BUNCOMBE	\$30,000	\$12,122
BURKE	\$0	\$0
CABARRUS	\$33,000	\$12,525
CALDWELL	\$0	\$0
CAMDEN	\$0	\$0
CARTERET	\$0	\$0
CASWELL	\$0	\$0
CATAWBA	\$0	\$0
CHATHAM	\$0	\$0
CHEROKEE	\$10,000	\$9,413
CHOWAN	\$0	\$0
CLAY	\$0	\$0
CLEVELAND	\$30,000	\$11,086
COLUMBUS	\$0	\$0
CRAVEN	\$0	\$0
CUMBERLAND	\$15,000	\$6,503
CURRITUCK	\$0	\$0
DARE	\$0	\$0
DAVIDSON	\$0	\$0
DAVIE	\$0	\$0
DUPLIN	\$67,450	\$16,163
DURHAM	\$0	\$0
EDGECOMBE	\$0	\$0
FORSYTH	\$1,872	\$1,872
FRANKLIN	\$0	\$0
GASTON	\$0	\$0
GATES	\$0	\$0
GRAHAM	\$0	\$0
GRANVILLE	\$5,378	\$5,378
GREENE	\$0	\$0
GUILFORD	\$0	\$0
HALIFAX	\$15,000	\$10,037
HARNETT	\$0	\$0
HAYWOOD	\$53,000	\$9,566

Supplemental ACSP Allocation

ATTACHMENT 11

County	Amount Requested by District	Total March 2020 Allocation
HENDERSON	\$16,000	\$11,460
HERTFORD	\$0	\$0
HOKE	\$0	\$0
HYDE	\$0	\$0
IREDELL	\$0	\$0
JACKSON	\$0	\$0
JOHNSTON	\$45,000	\$14,228
JONES	\$1,758	\$1,758
LEE	\$5,500	\$5,500
LENOIR	\$0	\$0
LINCOLN	\$0	\$0
MACON	\$0	\$0
MADISON	\$0	\$0
MARTIN	\$0	\$0
MCDOWELL	\$0	\$0
MECKLENBURG	\$0	\$0
MITCHELL	\$25,000	\$11,426
MONTGOMERY	\$0	\$0
MOORE	\$9,500	\$8,228
NASH	\$0	\$0
NEW HANOVER	\$0	\$0
NORTHAMPTON	\$0	\$0
ONSLOW	\$15,000	\$8,395
ORANGE	\$21,764	\$12,704
PAMLICO	\$21,000	\$9,663
PASQUOTANK	\$0	\$0
PENDER	\$16,285	\$7,109
PERQUIMANS	\$0	\$0
PERSON	\$0	\$0
PITT	\$6,000	\$6,000
POLK	\$6,000	\$0
RANDOLPH	\$70,000	\$11,168
RICHMOND	\$0	\$0
ROBESON	\$18,000	\$10,948
ROCKINGHAM	\$18,977	\$11,721
ROWAN	\$0	\$0
RUTHERFORD	\$0	\$0
SAMPSON	\$100,000	\$13,702
SCOTLAND	\$0	\$0
STANLY	\$0	\$0
STOKES	\$0	\$0
SURRY	\$50,000	\$14,179
SWAIN	\$0	\$0
TRANSYLVANIA	\$0	\$0

Supplemental ACSP Allocation

ATTACHMENT 11

County	Amount Requested by District	Total March 2020 Allocation
TYRRELL	\$0	\$0
UNION	\$8,216	\$8,216
VANCE	\$0	\$0
WAKE	\$0	\$0
WARREN	\$0	\$0
WASHINGTON	\$15,000	\$9,328
WATAUGA	\$0	\$0
WAYNE	\$148,718	\$12,669
WILKES	\$0	\$0
WILSON	\$0	\$0
YADKIN	\$0	\$0
YANCEY	\$0	\$0
TOTAL	\$995,335	\$330,859



AgWRAP Review Committee Recommendations

Presentation to the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for Approval
March 18, 2020



1

12A. Regional Application Approval

Summary of Batch 2 AgWRAP Regional Applications

- Reviewed **16** applications
- **11** NEW applications and **5** applications from Batch 1
- Practice
 - **5** - Agricultural pond repair/retrofits
 - **8** - NEW Agricultural Water Supply ponds
 - **3** - Irrigation Conversions



2

12A. Regional Application Approval

Summary of Batch 2 AgWRAP Regional Applications

- Regions
 - Western – 7
 - Central – 6
 - Eastern – 3
- Operations
 - Crop – 10
 - Livestock – 6



3

12A. Regional Application Approval

Summary of AgWRAP Regional Application Recommendations

- Recommending **9** projects for funding
- Practice
 - **2** - Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofits
 - **4** - NEW Agricultural Water Supply ponds
 - **2** – Conservation Irrigation Conversions
 - **1** – Micro-Irrigation Conversions



4

12A. Regional Application Approval

Summary of AgWRAP Regional Application Recommendations

- Type of operation
 - **7** – Crops
 - **2** – Livestock
- Regions
 - Western – **3**
 - Central – **3**
 - Eastern – **3**



5

RECOMMENDED AgWRAP Regional Applications

COOPERATOR	COUNTY	REGION	PRACTICE	OPERATION	BMP REQUEST
Gross Retrofit	Harnett	Central	Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit	IRRIGATION - Tobacco	\$ 25,000
Brian Lewis	Guilford	Central	Irrigation Conversion - Center Pivot	IRRIGATION - Tobacco	\$ 25,000
James Smith	Guilford	Central	Irrigation Conversion - Micro/Drip Irrigation	IRRIGATION - Corn and Soybeans	\$ 25,000
Byrum Irrigation Pond	Chowan	Eastern	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Corn	\$ 25,000
Hardison Irrigation Pond	Beaufort	Eastern	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Tobacco, Corn and Soybeans	\$ 25,000
Stuart Pierce Farms	Hertford	Eastern	Irrigation Conversion - Center Pivot	IRRIGATION - Cucumbers	\$ 25,000
English Pond	Mitchell	Western	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Nursery	\$ 25,000
Hunt/Gold Cattle Pond	Cleveland	Western	Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit	LIVESTOCK - Beef	\$ 25,000
McCammon Pond	Rutherford	Western	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	LIVESTOCK - Beef	\$ 25,000

Total BMP Request = **\$225,000**

6

12A. Regional Application Approval

- TAKE ACTION to approve the funding for all nine AgWRAP Regional Application projects presented to you.



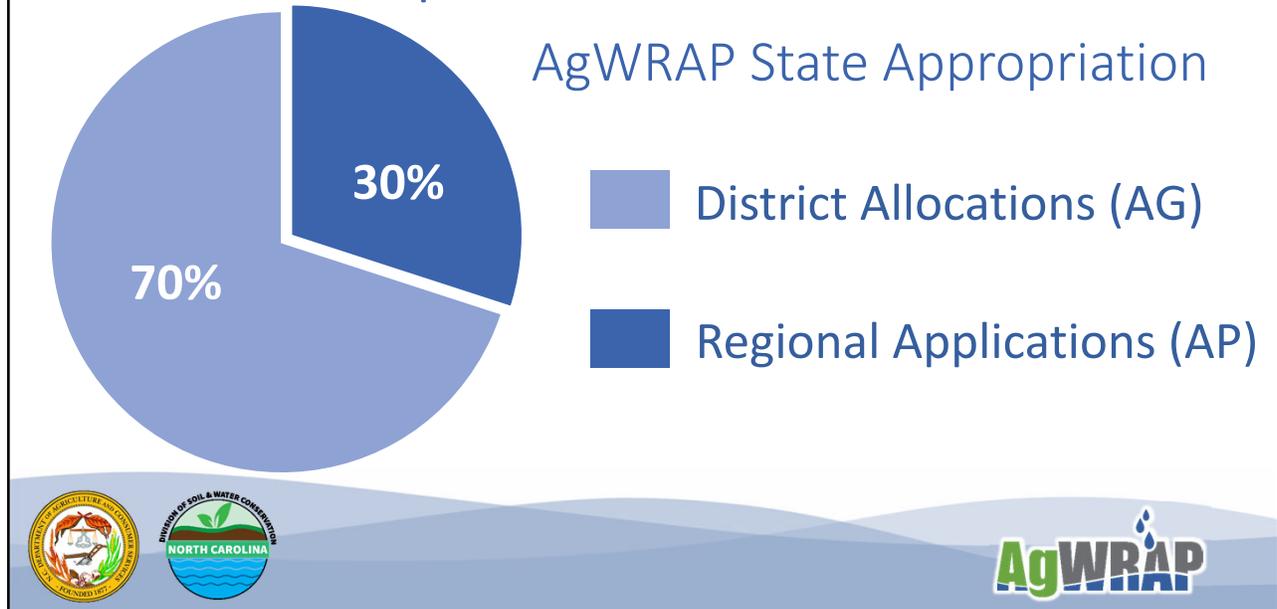
7

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision



8

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision



9

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

Total AP requests = \$225,000

AP Fund Balance = \$356,828

AP Surplus = \$131,825

As of March 9, 2020



10

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

ATTACHMENT 12B., Page 2

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. Should the regional pool not have enough ranked applications to encumber available funding, the commission will allocate the remaining funds through district allocations. The allocation process will follow the allocation process described on page 4, after February 1st.



11

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

ATTACHMENT 12B., Page 4

Districts may voluntarily return AgWRAP allocations at any time during the fiscal year. On February 1, 2020, districts may request additional funding for specific projects through an online application process.



12

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

Reallocation requests = 35

Reallocation Funds requested = \$263,012

AG balance = \$966

As of March 9, 2020



13

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

The proposed revision to the FY 2020 AgWRAP DIP will allow for the surplus AP funds to be reallocated to meet the existing requests for AG funds.



14

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

- TAKE ACTION to approve the revision to the FY 2020 AgWRAP Detailed Implementation Plan





Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) Regional Application Considerations

COOPERATOR	COUNTY	REGION	PRACTICE	OPERATION	BMP REQUEST
Gross Retrofit	Harnett	Central	Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit	IRRIGATION - Tobacco	\$ 25,000
Brian Lewis	Guilford	Central	Irrigation Conversion - Center Pivot	IRRIGATION - Tobacco	\$ 25,000
James Smith	Guilford	Central	Irrigation Conversion - Micro/Drip Irrigation	IRRIGATION - Corn and Soybeans	\$ 25,000
Byrum Irrigation Pond	Chowan	Eastern	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Corn	\$ 25,000
Hardison Irrigation Pond	Beaufort	Eastern	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Tobacco, Corn and Soybeans	\$ 25,000
Stuart Pierce Farms	Hertford	Eastern	Irrigation Conversion - Center Pivot	IRRIGATION - Cucumbers	\$ 25,000
English Pond	Mitchell	Western	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	IRRIGATION - Nursery	\$ 25,000
Hunt/Gold Cattle Pond	Cleveland	Western	Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit	LIVESTOCK - Beef	\$ 25,000
McCammon Pond	Rutherford	Western	Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond	LIVESTOCK - Beef	\$ 25,000
				TOTAL	\$ 225,000



Fiscal Year 2020 Detailed Implementation Plan July 17, 2019

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:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
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
2017	\$1,477,500: \$150,000 used to provide technical and engineering assistance, and to administer the program.
2018	\$1,227,500; \$1,067,500 available for BMP allocation. Remaining funding used to support two division engineering positions and district assistance.
2019	\$977,500; \$827,500 available for BMP allocation. Remaining funding used to support two division engineering positions and district assistance.
2020	\$977,500; \$827,500 available for BMP allocation. Remaining funding used to support two division engineering positions and district assistance.

Fiscal Year 2020 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.

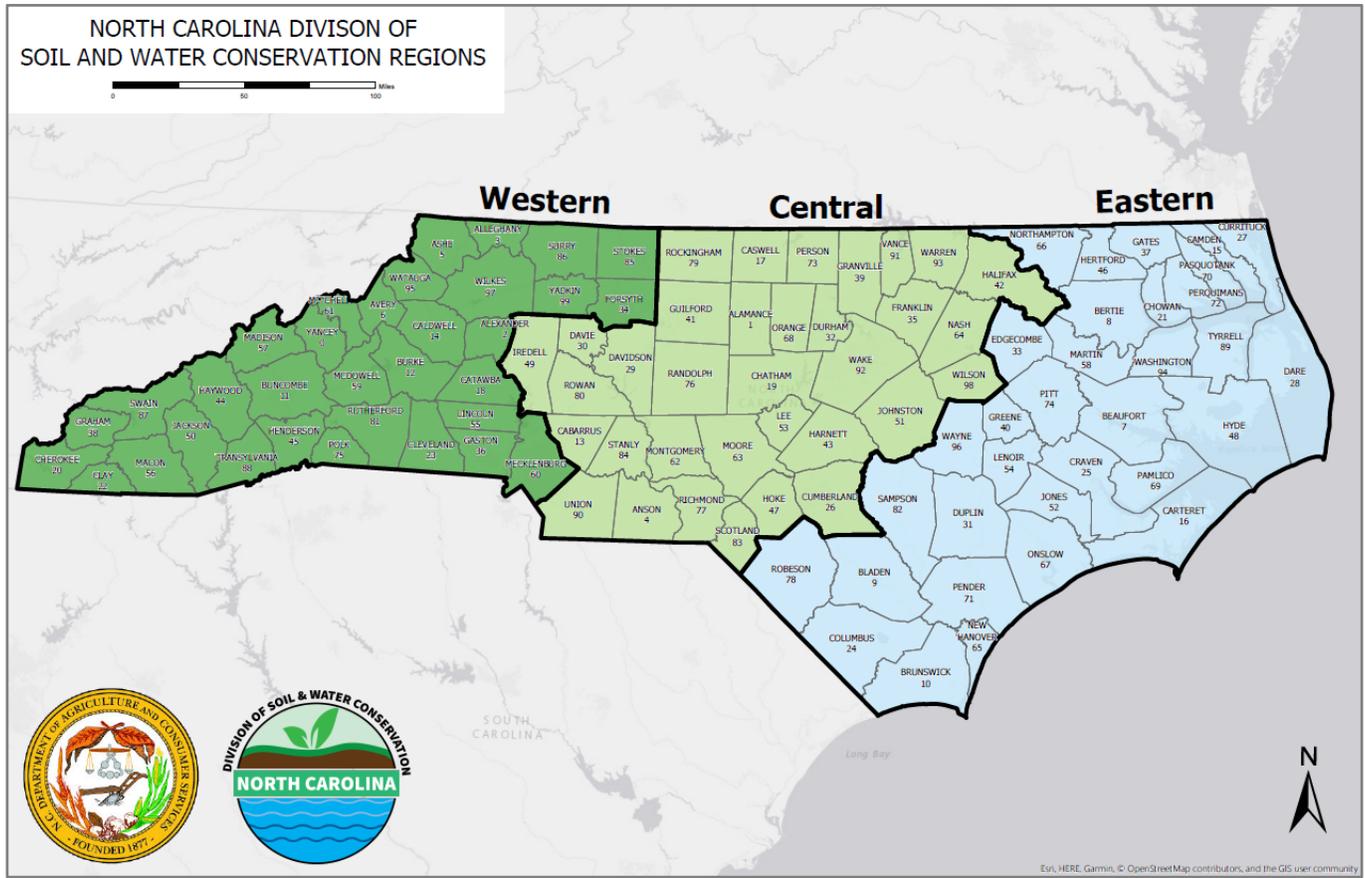
1. Competitive regional application process for selected AgWRAP conservation practices: 30% of available BMP funding.

The Commission will allocate FY2020 funding through a competitive regional application process for following program practices:

- Agricultural water supply/reuse pond
- Agricultural pond repair/retrofit
- Agricultural water collection and reuse system
- Conservation irrigation conversion
- Micro-irrigation system conversion

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. Should the regional pool not have enough ranked applications to encumber available funding, the commission will allocate the remaining funds through district allocations. The allocation process will follow the allocation process described on page 4, after February 1st.

Figure 1: Regions for AgWRAP allocations



2. District allocations: 70% of available BMP funding.

- a. Allocations will be made to all districts requesting funds in their FY2020 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	15%
Agricultural Water Use: NCDA&CS Agricultural Statistics Division, 3 year average of most recent NC Water Use Published Survey Data	25%
Population Density: State Demographics NC, Office of State Budget and Management, latest certified data available	20%

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 eighth year. Rule drafting is in the final stages, and rules are expected to be adopted this fiscal year and will be effective for FY2020.

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.

Districts may voluntarily return AgWRAP allocations at any time during the fiscal year. On February 1, 2020, districts may request additional funding for specific projects through an online application process.

Fiscal Year 2020 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.
- II. Allocate funds to soil and water conservation districts for all AgWRAP BMPs.
 - a. Award funds to all districts requesting an allocation.
 - b. Allocate funds to districts from all geographic areas of the state.
- 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](#) 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 conversion: 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) Water supply 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.

SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT MANDATORY SUPERVISOR TRAINING REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

In November 2018, the Commission adopted the *District Supervisor Training Program and Policy*. As part of this policy, the *UNC School of Government's Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors* is included as a mandatory course, required as an introduction for all Supervisors, and encouraged at least once every two terms.

Newly appointed and newly elected Supervisors are required to obtain the training at the next scheduled offering in their region, generally within the first year of appointment or election.

2018-2022 Terms

In November 2018, the Commission acted to place eleven newly appointed Supervisors on local soil and water conservation district boards; all eleven of these individuals have attended the mandatory training, as appropriate.

In December 2018, there were fifty-five newly elected Supervisors on local soil and water conservation district boards. Of these, fifty have attended the mandatory training. Correspondence has been sent to the five outstanding Supervisors, reminding them of the training requirement and encouraging them to attend the 2021 session. Follow-up correspondence will be sent when the dates and locations for the 2021 training is secured. Newly elected Supervisors who have not yet attended the mandatory training are as follows:

1. Buncombe SWCD – Aaron Sarver
2. Durham SWCD – Natalie Murdock
3. Lenoir SWCD – Chris Smith
4. Madison SWCD – Russell Blevins
5. McDowell SWCD – Randy Hollifield

Re-Appportionment of Disaster Recovery Act of 2016/2017 Appropriations (Hurricane Matthew) for Eligible Activities

Hurricane Matthew

The General Assembly has appropriated \$32.2 million for Hurricane Matthew Disaster Recovery funds in the Disaster Recovery Acts of 2016 and 2017. In July 2019 the Commission approved a distribution of those funds for the eligible activities described in the table below. The Division has determined that it can reduce the distribution for pond repairs by \$600,000 as some pond repairs have been completed and other repair requests have been withdrawn.

Stream debris removal continues to be a large need. The Division, therefore, proposes to reappportion the excess pond funds for Stream Debris Removal as shown in the following table. These funds will be allocated to supplement ongoing debris removal contracts, particularly for local sponsors not eligible for debris removal funding for Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Dorian.

Activity	2016 Appropriation	2017 Appropriation	Total
Stream Debris Removal	\$9,950,000	\$14,923,662 \$15,523,662	\$24,873,662 \$25,473,662
Agricultural Pond Repair (AgWRAP)	\$1,200,000	\$3,500,000 \$2,900,000	\$4,700,000 \$4,100,000
Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$550,000	\$76,338	\$626,338
Pasture Renovation		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Temporary Staff – TA	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
Total	\$12,200,000	\$20,000,000	\$32,200,000

Hurricane Florence/Michael/Dorian

The General Assembly has appropriated \$26 million for Hurricane Florence, Michael, and Dorian Disaster Recovery funds. The Division has determined that it can reduce the distribution for pond repairs by \$1,275,000, and it can reduce the distribution for lagoon management incentive, pasture restoration, and winter forage crop incentive by \$374,487 and BMP Repair/Renovation by \$350,513 (**\$2,000,000 total**).

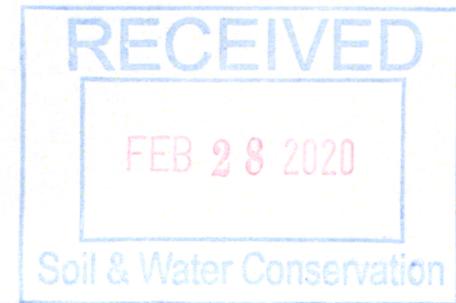
The Division has recently allocated \$16.1M of funding for debris removal funds to 69 local sponsors to address impacts for Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Dorian. Included in these allocations is \$6.8M allocated as non-federal match for USDA's Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Over \$74M has been requested to address needs relate to these disaster events. Given this large unmet demand for stream debris removal for these storm events, the Division proposes to reappportion the extra \$2 million for Stream Debris Removal as shown in the following table.

Activity	2018 Appropriation	2019 Appropriation	Total
Stream Debris Removal	\$10,000,000 \$12,000,000	\$6,000,000	\$16,000,000 \$18,000,000
Agricultural Pond Repair (AgWRAP)	\$5,000,000 \$3,725,000		\$5,000,000 \$3,725,000
Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000
Lagoon Management Incentive, Pasture Renovation, Winter Forage Crop Incentive	\$3,000,000 \$2,625,513		\$3,000,000 \$2,625,513
ECP Supplement funds	\$7,500,000		\$7,500,000
BMP Repair/Renovation	\$2,000,000 \$1,649,487		\$2,000,000 \$1,649,487
Total	\$28,500,000	\$6,000,000	\$34,500,000

These allocations plus those for Hurricane Matthew brings the total funding for debris removal to over \$40M



NASH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Room 107 • Ag. Center Drive • Nashville, NC 27856 • (252) 459-4116 Ext. 3



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

Dear Commission Members,

The Nash Soil & Water Conservation District respectfully request that the commission grant "Post Approval" for contract number 64-2018-801. The contract is for a water supply well. Due to miscommunication between the cooperator and staff, the BMP was installed prior to final approval from the Division of Soil & Water. The practice has been installed and meets standards and specifications.

The staff will do a better job of communicating with the cooperators to make sure this does not happen again.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Joe Fisher".

Bobby Joe Fisher
Chairman