

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

WORK SESSION

Cabarrus District Office
715 Cabarrus Avenue West
Room 103
Concord, NC 28027
September 17, 2019
6:00 p.m.

BUSINESS SESSION

Cabarrus District Office
715 Cabarrus Avenue West
Room 103
Concord, NC 28027
September 18, 2019
8:00 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. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. July 16, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. July 17, 2019 Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. Division Report

Director Vernon Cox

4. Association Report

Mr. Myles Payne

5. NRCS Report

Mr. Tim Beard

6. Consent Agenda

A. Supervisor Appointments

Mr. Eric Pare

B. Supervisor Contracts

Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

C. Technical Specialist Designation

Mr. Jeff Young

7. Disaster Response Updates

A. Hurricane Matthew

Mr. David Williams

1. Consideration of Pond Repair Cost Share Greater than \$100,000

2. Allocation policy for Stream Debris Removal Funds

B. Hurricane Florence

Ms. Julie Henshaw

1. Consideration of Additional Allocations for Pasture Renovation

8. Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions

Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

A. Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production

B. Livestock Feeding Area

9. Structural Use Policy

Director Vernon Cox

10. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contracts

Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

11. District Issues

Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

A. Request for Exception to ACSP Component on Average Cost List

Caldwell SWCD

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

**NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
 RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
 BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA
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 - 2. Allocation policy for Stream Debris Removal Funds
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- 8. Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
 - A. Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production
 - B. Livestock Feeding Area

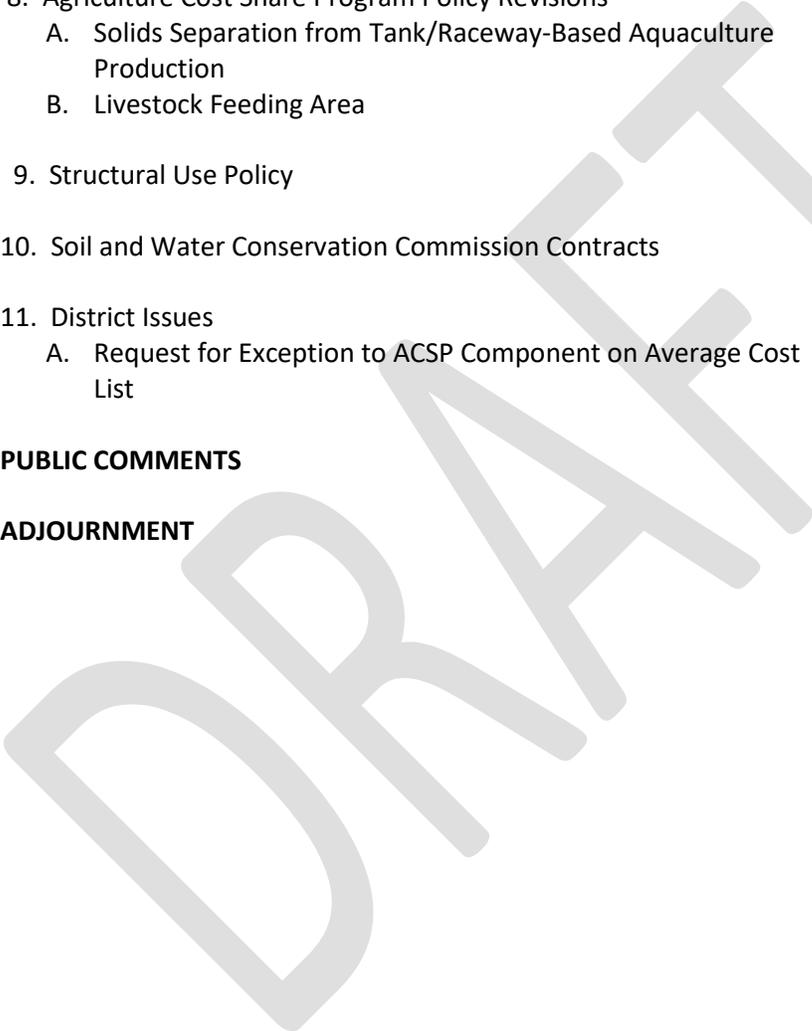
- 9. Structural Use Policy Director Vernon Cox

- 10. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contracts Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth

- 11. District Issues Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth
 - A. Request for Exception to ACSP Component on Average Cost List Caldwell SWCD

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT





**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
September 17, 2019**

Cabarrus District Office
715 Cabarrus Avenue West – Room 103
Concord, NC 28207

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	David Williams	Kristina Fischer
Wayne Collier	Jeff Young	Ken Parks
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Helen Wiklund	Tom Ellis
Myles Payne	Ralston James	Allie Dinwiddie
Derek Potter	Julie Henshaw	Daniel McClellan
Mike Willis	Kelly Hedgepeth	Rick McSwain
Commission Counsel	Michael Shepherd	Bryan Evans
Phillip Reynolds	Sandra Weitzel	Michelle Lovejoy
Guests	Bill Yarborough	
Vernon Cox	Blount Knowles	

Chairman Langdon thanked Ms. Vicky Porter, chairwoman of Cabarrus SWCD, for hosting the Commission. Ms. Porter welcomed the Commission and staff and stated that she previously served on the Commission as a member and as Commission chair. Chairman John Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 10A and will recuse himself. Commissioner Collier declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 10A and will recuse himself. Commissioner Willis declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 11 and will recuse himself.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded everyone of the cell phone policy.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. Mr. Reynolds stated Agenda Item 10 will be separated into Items 10A and 10B.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. Commissioner Collier stated the minutes are in order.

2A. July 16, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. July 17, 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 tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne. Commissioner Payne 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.
5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present tomorrow. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard will be presenting the report at the Business Meeting tomorrow and NRCS Chief Lohr will be in attendance.
6. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. David Williams, Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth, and Mr. Jeff Young to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

6A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Richard N. Reid, Alamance SWCD, filling the appointed term of Fred Bowman for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Jordan K. Jones, Forsyth SWCD, filling the appointed term of Edward C. Wall for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 13 contracts; totaling \$122,036

6C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Mr. Carl Kirby, USDA, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

7. **Disaster Response Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Hurricane Matthew:

7A.1. Consideration of Pond Repair Cost Share Greater than \$100,000: The Commission had previously delegated the Division the authority to approve pond repair contracts not to exceed \$100,000. Duplin County submitted a pond repair project exceeding \$100,000 that included two ponds. A design was developed and the cost estimates to repair the ponds totaled \$500,000. To reduce costs, the project was redesigned to include only one pond embankment, and the low bid received was for \$397,032. USDA originally pledged to contribute \$179,939 towards the project, however, USDA increased the funding to the maximum amount of \$200,000. The Division recommends the Commission authorize this contract up to \$150,000, and also recommends the Commission increase the cap up to \$150,000 for Division-approved disaster pond repair. Due to construction and engineering oversight costs for pond repair contracts, the Division is likely to have several more pond repair contracts that are in excess of \$100,000.

7A.2.a. Allocation Policy for Stream Debris Removal Funds: The current policy of the Commission is to approve additional allocations only for those local sponsors who have already spent at least 60% of their previously allocated funds. The Division recommends revising the policy to also allow local sponsors to request additional funds to address the stream segments in their existing contracted scope of work for which they have received bids exceeding their existing allocation.

7A.2.b. Hurricane Florence Stream Debris Removal Funding: There are five priorities being managed for Hurricane Florence Stream Repair Funding. The Division proposes to allocate \$3.87M to address the vegetative debris removal needs not being covered by EWP, using a similar allocation methodology as used for Hurricane Matthew. The funds requested by local sponsors to address vegetative debris removal needs to restore drainage and prevent flooding is \$14.7M. The procedures and funding amounts do not need Commission approval. This is for informational use only.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 7:04 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:12 p.m.

Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7B. Hurricane Florence Update: Ms. Henshaw highlighted the Just-in-Time allocations approved by the Director since the July Commission meeting totaling \$337,498.

7B.1. Consideration of Additional Allocations for Pasture Renovation: Several districts have inquired to receive additional funds for the Disaster Pasture Renovation BMP. The Division requests using a Just-in-Time allocation process through October 31, 2019, with the Division Director's approval. The allocations will be reported at the next Commission meeting.

8. Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production: The BMP updates were highlighted, and the changes are on pages 2 and 3. The Technical Review Committee (TRC) has advised that the trout fisheries in the western part of the state need help with their waste management BMPs. The TRC is proposing changes to the BMP for Tank/Raceway-based Aquaculture Production to address the needs of these trout operations. The proposed changes include an increase of the lifetime cap from \$15,000 to \$35,000, which aligns the cap with the other waste management practices.

8B. Livestock Feeding Area: *This item has been removed from the agenda.*

Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- 9. Structural Use Policy:** Item 9 shows a list of Best Management Practices (BMPs) that include structures. The existing policy regarding the use of structures includes some restrictions on the use of the facilities, as it relates to allowing various types of equipment to be stored in the facilities. The Commission has the authority to revisit the policy to align the policy with current practices.

Chairman Langdon stated the times, industry, and cultures change and an analysis needs to be done to decide what will benefit the staff, districts, and customers. All aspects should be reviewed and ironclad, even if this policy does not change.

Director Cox stated Agenda Item #8 was removed because the Livestock Feeding Area is a BMP listed in the Structural Use Policy and the BMP will be revisited later.

- 10. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contracts:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Collier recused himself from Item 10A.

10A. Commission Contract: Contract #26-2019-309 is for a non-field farm road repair for \$6,321 and ranked 9 out of 12.

Chairman Langdon recused himself from Item 10B and passed the gavel to Commissioner Collier.

10B. Commission Contract: Contract #51-2020-401-09 is for a non-field farm road repair – supplement for \$1,014 and ranked 2nd out of 2 contracts.

Commissioner Collier passed the gavel back to Chairman Langdon.

- 11. District Issues:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Willis recused himself from Item 11A.

11A. Request for Exception to ACSP Component on Average Cost List: Caldwell SWCD is requesting the Commission grant permission to pay 75% of actual cost for 60 feet of HDPE pipe. With multiple cost estimates collected, the differences between the bids warrant a comparison between the average cost and actual cost. The average cost has not been adjusted since 2001.

Public Comments: Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth stated the Technical Review Committee (TRC) is reviewing the incentives with regards to Agenda Item #8. The Technical Review Committee (TRC) plans to look at the practices and the caps, and whether these BMPs should remain incentive practices. The TRC would like a member of the Commission to participate in the work group. The meetings will be in Raleigh starting in the fourth quarter of 2019 and should be finished during the first quarter of 2020.

Mr. Bill Yarborough stated the Commission should consider taking this opportunity to inform NRCS Chief Lohr what the state is able to do in support of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, when properly administered. Chief Lohr and his staff need to establish a pilot program that will work

like EWP was intended and what the authority says it can do. Mr. Yarborough stated the problem with EWP is with the policies, not the statutory authority of the program.

Commissioner Collier thanked the NC Farm Bureau for the opportunity to attend the ground-breaking ceremony for the Plant Science Lab Building on Centennial Campus at NC State University.

Commissioner Collier watched a documentary, *Human Nature*, featuring Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou. The documentary is about the greatest scientific discovery in the 21st century, which shows how to develop a process to split DNA and put a gene in a specific place. It has revolutionized the genetics process. It is called CRISPR-Cas9. The row crop farmers, animal science researchers, and human medicine will be affected by this process.

Mr. Bryan Evans stated Mr. David Harris visited with Commissioner Green, and his speech is improving. Commissioner Green is at home and receives physical therapy and uses a modified walker.

Chairman Langdon reminded everyone the meeting is at 8 a.m. tomorrow.

Ms. Michelle Lovejoy stated the address for the luncheon tomorrow is at The Farmstead located at 8063 Mauney Road in Mount Pleasant.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:55 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 November 20, 2019.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2019**

Cabarrus District Office
715 Cabarrus Avenue West – Room 103
Concord, NC 28207

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Kelly Hedgepeth	Rob Baldwin
Wayne Collier	Helen Wiklund	Daniel McClellan
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Kristina Fischer	Odessa Armstrong
Myles Payne	Ralston James	Bryan Evans
Derek Potter	Michael Shepherd	DeWitt Hardee
Mike Willis	Lisa Fine	Tom Ellis
Commission Counsel	Ken Parks	Rick McSwain
Phillip Reynolds	Sandra Weitzel	Bill Yarborough
Guests	Brad Moore	Randy Trevor
Vernon Cox	Dick Fowler	Allie Dinwiddie
David Williams	Blount Knowles	Tammi Remsburg
Julie Henshaw	Jack Adams	Tim Beard
Jeff Young	Bill Davis	Matthew Lohr

Chairman John Langdon called the meeting to order at 8:01 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 declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 10B and will recuse himself. Commissioner Collier declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 10A and will recuse himself. Commissioner Willis declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 11A and will recuse himself. Chairman Langdon reminded everyone to silence their cell phones.

Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Tim Beard to introduce Chief Lohr. Mr. Beard introduced Mr. Matthew Lohr, the new Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Mr. Bill Bailey, the Southeast Regional Coordinator for the USDA Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Business Center. Chief Lohr stated he is a fifth-generation farmer from Harrisonburg, Virginia. Secretary Perdue and Under Secretary Northey both recognize that the commitment to America's farmers and ranchers begins with putting people in leadership positions who understand farming and ranching. Chief Lohr's farm won the Virginia Clean Water Farm Award and he and his family raise chickens, cattle, and sweet corn. Chief Lohr is a former Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture and he also spent four years working for Farm Credit of the Virginias. North Carolina is the

30th state Chief Lohr has visited to demonstrate his commitment to see conservation practices on the ground and supporting the needs of the producers. NRCS plays an important role to help the farmers in crisis. Chief Lohr stated President Trump signed the Farm Bill in December and NRCS is writing the rules and regulations that will guide implementation of the Farm Bill conservation programs.

Chairman Langdon asked Commissioner Potter and Special Assistant to Commissioner Troxler, Mr. Bill Yarborough, to share some concerns to take back to Washington.

Commissioner Potter stated his concern is with the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP). North Carolina has had back-to-back disasters over several years. In the eastern part of the state, the EWP Program has been advertised but with little to no results. During an emergency, something needs to be done immediately. EWP has not gotten on the ground quick enough to repair the resources, which are deteriorating. The Farm Service Agency responded very quickly by providing emergency money through the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) after last year's storm.

Chief Lohr stated the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) is aimed at helping communities and the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is meant to help farmers. EWP also requires a local sponsor, which is usually a county or municipality. There must be a way to improve EWP because communities are depending on the resources. Tim Beard's staff is working to improve the process, so it is quicker and more efficient the next time.

Commissioner Potter stated it is about preparing for the next storm and the coast needs help through EWP with stream debris removal and erosion repair. Chief Lohr stated Secretary Purdue wants to serve the farmers and ranchers and the Southeastern states are on his radar, and he is looking at the program.

Chairman Langdon called Mr. Bill Yarborough, special assistant to the Commissioner and past Commission member to share his views on EWP. Mr. Yarborough stated that with all the devastation experienced in North Carolina in the past years, NRCS should use North Carolina as a pilot program to demonstrate that with the right policies and the right partnerships, including the local sponsors, the State of North Carolina, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), we are able to respond in a timely manner and successfully implement EWP the next time a disaster happens. Chief Lohr asked for a proposal for improving EWP. Chief Lohr is willing to look at and implement a proposal that identifies a process to bring the right resources together. Chairman Langdon thanked Chief Lohr for his time.

Mr. Bill Bailey stated he is the Southeast Regional Coordinator for FPAC and was also a 20-year soil and water district supervisor. Mr. Bailey represents Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Puerto Rico that all sit in the bullseye of hurricanes. We have been in a reactionary role rather than a response role, when it comes to disasters. Through Chief Lohr, Secretary Perdue, and Under Secretary Northey, we are looking internally to make things better by eliminating redundancy and having one common goal to serve our producers.

Mr. Reynolds stated Agenda Item 10 is now separated into two items 10A and 10B and Agenda Item 8 was removed from the agenda at the work session.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the amended 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. July 16, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. July 17, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox. Director Cox addressed the following items in his report. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
 - Personnel Updates
 - 2019 Budget Act Updates
 - Governor Cooper vetoed the budget and we will continue to operate under the terms of the 2018 budget until resolved
 - 2019 Farm Act (SB 315) Updates
 - Regulations of Industrial Hemp are being reviewed
 - Job Approval Authority Update
 - Cost Share Program Average Cost Review Update
 - Will hire a temporary position to review the average costs components
 - AgWRAP Survey submitted for Well Use to the districts and will present the results at the November Commission meeting
 - Interim Performance Milestones in the Cost Share Program Contract Policy for Wells
 - November Commission meeting is at the Fairgrounds and March 2020 Commission meeting is in downtown Raleigh; visit the Legislature, Governor's mansion, etc.
4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne. Commissioner Payne addressed the following items in his report. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
 - All Legislative actions continue to progress
 - State Conservation Farm Family celebration will be at Whitaker Farms on September 24
 - August SE NACD Meeting was in Gatlinburg and Commissioner Kilpatrick was inducted into the SE NACD Hall of Fame
 - Room block at the Hilton in Charlotte for the Annual Meeting will open October 1
 - 2019 NCF Envirothon was a success and the North Carolina Envirothon team finished in 2nd place
 - A new building is being built on the State Fairgrounds that will provide space for the Soil and Water Conservation and Forestry Service displays during the North Carolina State Fair

5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Odessa Armstrong. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- Personnel Updates
- Two agreements are in process
 - Division agreement for \$750,000 for technical assistance
 - RC&D agreement for \$1M administration
- 2018 Farm Bill gives the USDA opportunities for non-competitive renewals of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects totaling \$50M due by September 30
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) application deadline is September 30
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) has been allocated \$12M
- Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) will replace Toolkit
- NRCS is revising MOUs and they will be in place by the end of the year
- EWP easement applications are under consideration
- One Hurricane Florence EWP project has been completed
- Need to identify EWP weak links at the state and national levels

Chairman Langdon stated an EWP pilot program needs to be created with a dedicated manager that can identify the weaknesses and make it successful as a prototype for the Southeast.

Mr. Bill Yarborough stated NRCS needs to identify the weak links in EWP and develop new policies to implement the program effectively.

Ms. Armstrong stated a timeline needs to be created to identify where the application is in the process so people are held accountable and can identify how long NRCS is taking to process the contracts.

Deputy Director Williams stated Chief Lohr and Under Secretary Hubbard need to know the number of NRCS employees in North Carolina is too few.

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:

- Richard N. Reid, Alamance SWCD, filling the appointed term of Fred Bowman for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Jordan K. Jones, Forsyth SWCD, filling the appointed term of Edward C. Wall for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 13 contracts; totaling \$122,036

6C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Mr. Carl Kirby, USDA, NRCS Soil Conservationist, Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

Chairman Langdon asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Chairman Langdon called a break at 9:22 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:28 a.m.

- 7. Disaster Response Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Hurricane Matthew:

7A.1. Consideration of Pond Repair Cost Share Greater than \$100,000: The Division is dealing with pond repairs. The Division received one pond repair contract that will be over \$100,000 and several more contracts at or above \$100,000. The Division needs approval for this one contract and is also asking for approval to increase the Division's delegation authority up to \$150,000.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Collier motioned the Commission authorizes the Division to contract up to \$150,000 on pond repair contracts and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

7A.2.a. Allocation Policy for Stream Debris Removal Funds: In July, the Commission approved reapportioning the disaster funds for Hurricane Matthew for stream debris removal. One district is receiving some bids that are \$100,000 higher than the funds allocated. The Division wants to expand the opportunity to include not only those that spend 60% of their funds, but also to include the local sponsors that do not have enough money to cover the bids on their existing scope of work. The Division recommends adding the provision by revising the policy to also allow local sponsors to request additional funds to address the stream segments in their existing contracted scope of work for which they have received bids exceeding their existing allocation.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the Division's recommendation to revise this policy to also allow local sponsors to request additional funds to address the stream segments in their existing contracted scope of work for which they have received bids exceeding their existing allocation and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

7A.2.b. Hurricane Florence Stream Debris Removal Funding: The Division will have \$11M, if the Governor signs the mini budget bill, for Hurricane Florence stream repair. The Division has calculated that \$5.63M is needed to provide the non-federal match for EWP. The Division intends to allocate the remaining funds to meet the requests that did not qualify for EWP. The requested funds under Priority 2 address vegetative debris removal, and the Division has more requests than funds to cover this item. The Division will allocate \$3.87M for Hurricane Florence stream debris removal and hold \$500,000 to cover additional sites that may be approved for EWP funding.

Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7B. Hurricane Florence Update: Ms. Henshaw highlighted the \$337,498 in Just-in-Time allocations that have been approved by the Director since the July Commission meeting.

7B.1. Consideration of Additional Allocations for Pasture Renovation: Several districts have asked to receive additional funds for the Disaster Pasture Renovation BMP. The Division requests approval to use a Just-in-Time allocation process through October 31, 2019 for this BMP, with the Division Director's approval. The allocations will be reported at the next Commission meeting.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Collier motioned to give the Division authority for the Just-in-Time allocation process through October 31, 2019, for Disaster Pasture Renovations. Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

8. Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production: The trout farms in western NC want to use this practice, but there are issues within the practice that make it prohibitive to use the system. The main change is the cost share cap was raised from \$15K to \$35K.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the changes as presented. Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion Carried.

8B. Livestock Feeding Area: *This item was removed from the agenda.*

Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

9. Structural Use Policy: Director Cox stated the Division may need to revisit the policies surrounding the acceptable use of storage structures and similar practices, as it relates to the storage of machinery and tools. The Cost Share staff noted an issue while conducting spot checks of some of the practices and there are other practices that may also be impacted. A list of the six Best Management Practices (BMPs) that could be impacted by a policy change was provided. It is recommended that the Cost Share Committee review the policy and make sure the policies are relevant for the operations.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Collier motioned to direct the Cost Share Committee to review the policies for the acceptable use of the listed structural BMPs. Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon will represent the Commission along with Commission Counsel Phillip Reynolds and Vicky Porter or Tom Porter.

10. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contracts: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present.

10A. Commission Contract: Commissioner Collier recused himself from this item. Contract #26-2019-309 is for a non-field farm road repair for \$6,321 for Commissioner Collier and ranked 9 out of 12.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve Contract #26-2019-309 and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Commission Contract: Chairman Langdon recused himself from this item and passed the gavel to Commissioner Collier. Contract #51-2020-401-09 is for a non-field farm road repair – supplement for \$1,014 for Chairman Langdon and ranked 2nd out of 2.

Commissioner Collier asked for a motion. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve Contact #51-2020-401-09 and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Collier returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

11. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth. Ms. Hedgepeth stated that the Caldwell SWCD is requesting a variance from the Average Cost List for a 48” pipe because all estimates received by the District for this item have exceeded the average cost. Mr. Jack Adams and Ms. Savannah Starnes from the Caldwell District were introduced to present the request. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Willis recused himself from this item.

11A. Request for Exception to ACSP Component on Average Cost List: Mr. Adams stated Contract #14-2019-002 was originally for a 74-foot pipe with an average cost of \$2,553, but the pipe was reduced to a 60-foot pipe with an average cost of \$2,070. The district is asking for 75% of the actual cost of \$3,200, based on estimates from three local companies.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion and stated the Division will be revising the average cost list. Chairman Langdon thanked Mr. Adams and Ms. Starnes for appearing before the Commission and identifying the need for an analysis of the average cost list. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the request to pay 75% of the actual cost for this item. Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Ms. Hedgepeth stated that all the incentive practices within the Agriculture Cost Share Program are being reviewed. The Technical Review Committee (TRC) created a subcommittee called the Incentive BMP Workgroup and is requesting a Commission member to participate in the workgroup. The workgroup will convene on October 8-9 and should be completed by Christmas. Chairman Langdon stated the nominee’s name will be submitted later.

Chairman Langdon thanked Cabarrus Soil & Water Conservation for hosting the Commission. Director Cox stated the NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation is hosting a 20th anniversary celebration luncheon at Tom and Vicky Porter’s at 11 a.m. Chief Lohr and Commissioner Troxler will be speaking at the luncheon.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10 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 November 20, 2019.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2019**

NC State Fairgrounds
Gov. James G. Martin Building
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	David Williams	Kelly Hedgepeth
Wayne Collier	Jeff Young	Kristina Fischer
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Helen Wiklund	Tom Ellis
Myles Payne	Ralston James	Keith Larick
Mike Willis	Josh Vetter	Rob Baldwin
Commission Counsel	Michael Shepherd	Jim Chandler
Shawn Maier	Tom Hill	David Harris
Guests	Eric Pare	Rick McSwain
Vernon Cox	Julie Henshaw	Bryan Evans

Chairman John Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:04 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. Commissioner Collier declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 14 and will recuse himself.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

2A. May 14, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. May 15, 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 tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne. Commissioner Payne 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.
5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present tomorrow. Director Cox stated Ms. Odessa Armstrong will be presenting the report at the Business Meeting tomorrow.

Chairman Langdon stated Commissioner Potter is not in attendance and shared a concern expressed by Commissioner Potter with regards to the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) that \$2M is not enough for EWP. Director Cox stated the process is ongoing, and the Division anticipates that additional EWP funding will be received.

Chairman Langdon asked the Commissioners if they mind reviewing the blue attachments the day of the work session. Chairman Langdon stated the blue attachments could be submitted on a more-timely basis.

6. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare, Ms. Lisa Fine, and Mr. Jeff Young to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

6A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Jason Belcher, Clay SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Tammy Mull for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- George Myron Edwards III, Cleveland SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Michael Underwood for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Lloyd E. Phillips, Jr., Davidson SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Kevin Briggs for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Bill Bess, Lincoln SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Pamela Stroupe for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Hermes Goudes, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Brad Johnson for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- James Hampton Wally, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Eric Spengler for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Franklin W. Byrd, Montgomery SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Larry Scarborough for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Scott Shoulars, Rockingham SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of David Price for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 12 contracts; totaling \$218,852; over half are disaster contracts

6C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Mr. Josh Pate, Wilson SWCD, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

- Mr. Josh Parker, Pitt SWCD, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Mr. Adam Gaines, Agri-Waste Technology, Inc., for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Ms. Sara Sweeting, USDA, NRCS Soil Conservationist, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

7. Disaster Response Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Hurricane Matthew Update: Deputy Director Williams stated that additional progress has been made with the Disaster Response Program and some activity is winding down. A summary of the practices was highlighted for stream debris, road repair, and pond repair.

7A1. Allocation Strategy for FY2020: Some activities have been identified to reappropriation some of the funds that were appropriated for Hurricane Matthew; see the table on page 4 of the revised distribution of funding in red. The recommendation is to shift the remaining available funding, in the amount of \$1,573,662, to stream debris removal, with the provision that additional stream debris removal funds will only be available to those local sponsors who have already expended at least 60% of their allocated funds. There are 9 local sponsors that have not submitted reimbursement requests for any completed stream projects.

Commissioner Kilpatrick stated the Craven County Manager received a letter from Mr. Robert Mills after Hurricane Florence hit with regards to EWP. Mr. Mills stated his appreciation for the assistance from EWP and commended Mr. Patrick Baker, with Craven SWCD, for his work in coordinating the response with all involved at the local, district, state, and federal levels to stabilize the property.

Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7B. Hurricane Florence Update: Ms. Henshaw highlighted how the Division is administering the funds, the counties that are eligible, where the BMPs were contracted, and how money has been spent to date. The necessary actions are stated below.

7B1. Revisions to Emergency BMPs: The Division will request to change the Emergency Pond Repair BMP reimbursement rates to actual cost based on receipts. This request is for the Emergency Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit and the Emergency Auxiliary Spillway Repair/Retrofit BMPs.

7B2. Allocation Strategy for FY2020: This strategy is for pond and road repair projects. Last year, three BMPs were designated for a one-year enrollment. These were the Disaster Lagoon Management Incentive with over \$1.3M in contracts, the Disaster Winter Forage Crop Incentive with \$128,000 allocated, and the Disaster Pasture Renovation Incentive,

which contracted almost \$1M. There are fewer pond and road repair related practices. Last year, an online form was created for the districts to request funding. The Commission granted the Division Director the authority to approve these BMP allocations. The Division recommends the Division Director continue to have this authority. Mr. Jeff Young and his team are working to expedite the engineering process. The base allocation is \$7,500 for road repairs and additional funds per project will be available once the cost estimates are received.

8. **Agriculture Cost Share Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Detailed Implementation Plan: The changes were already approved for the FY2020 DIP.

8B. Average Cost List: This year there are no additional changes to the Average Cost List. Every three years, the Division requests receipts from the districts to compare the average costs among the districts. The costs for some of the components have not changed for years.

8C. District Financial Assistance Allocation: The table shows how much each county has requested for regular ACSP Cost Share (CS) and Impaired and Impacted (II) Earmark funds. On page 4, there is a summary of the funds for FY2020 totaling \$5.1M. The estimated \$100K CREP money will be matched for the CREP (CE) projects. The state budget has not yet passed so the Division proposes the Commission approve only 75% for the Cost Share (CS) allocations. When the state budget is signed, the remaining 25% Cost Share (CS) funds will be available. For the CREP (CE) and Impaired and Impacted (II) funds, the Division recommends the full allocation be made.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 7:11 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:28 p.m.

Chairman Langdon asked Commission Payne and Mr. Bryan Evans to provide an update on the health of Commissioner Green. Commissioner Payne stated Commissioner Green continues to improve through therapy and is in good spirits. Mr. Bryan Evans added he and Commissioner Kilpatrick visited Commissioner Green today, and he has a ways to go, but the Association is excited to have Commissioner Green serve as President in January 2020. Commissioner Kilpatrick stated he is showing improvement.

Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

9. **Technical Assistance Allocation:** The Division is maintaining the recurring appropriation of \$2.44M for District technical assistance and there is an additional \$25K from CCAP appropriations to help support two positions. Carry forward from FY2018 is just under \$100K resulting in a total of approximately \$2.57M to allocate for District Technical Assistance. The upcoming allocation rule changes are effective January 1, 2020 and will be used for allocations next July.

10. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan: For FY2020, the AgWRAP Review Committee recommends two separate allocations for district allocations and regional allocations with a 70/30 split. There is \$1.39M available for BMP funding.

- \$974,386 for districts
- \$417,594 for regional applications

10B. Average Cost List: The AgWRAP Review Committee recommends revising the cost type for the conservation irrigation conversion component and micro-irrigation system component from average cost to actual cost. The cost share percentage is 75% of actual cost based on receipts, not to exceed \$25K for regular cost share, or \$30K for limited resource farmers. All other items remain the same on the list.

10C. District Financial Assistance Allocation:

FY2020 BMP Funds	\$ 827,500
Rollover from cancellations, releases, and unencumbered funds (AG, AP, TVA)	\$ 564,480
Total BMP Funds	\$1,391,980

The list shows each district’s funding request for all BMPs and the minimum district allocation of \$7,500, except those districts that requested less than \$7,500. Ninety-two districts received a total allocation of \$974,386.

Chairman Langdon inquired about wells and the percentages of operations using drip tape irrigation vs. center pivot irrigation vs. linear irrigation and to identify the demands and available options and present it at the September meeting. Mr. Vetter will provide a survey to the districts and ask the districts to identify the purpose of the wells, the types of irrigation systems being used, and the growing need for water ten years from now.

10D. Revisions to Water Supply Well: A Well Workgroup convened to review well policies. Every well installed must meet certain criteria to get a cost share contract approved. The AgWRAP Review Committee edited the Water Well Policy to reflect the recommendations. The revised policy was highlighted.

11. Community Conservation Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

11A. Detailed Implementation Plan: The proposed FY2020 Allocation Strategy is highlighted on page 3. The CCAP Advisory Committee recommends a regional application process with a funding level of \$136,000 plus any funds returned to the Division from previous years’ contracts. In FY2018, the Commission authorized the ability to cost share on repair contracts. However, no repair contracts were funded in 2019 and \$10,000 remains in the repair account for use as needed. The recommendation for the Technical and Administrative Assistance strategy is to fund Dare and New Hanover districts at a quarter FTE staff person each, totaling \$25,320. Due

to funding limitations, the recommendation is zero funds to be spent for Education and Outreach Purposes.

11B. Average Cost List: There are no changes from last fiscal year.

12. Cost Share Programs Spot Check Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ken Parks to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Hedgepeth stated Mr. Parks is unable to present but will be in attendance tomorrow. The FY2019 spot check report highlighted the following:

- ACSP: 98.5% in compliance, 1.5% out of compliance, 4.2% needs maintenance
- CCAP: 97.6% in compliance, 2.4% out of compliance, 6% needs maintenance
- AgWRAP: 98.8% compliance, 1.2% out of compliance, 4.1% needs maintenance

13. Agriculture Cost Share Program: Stream Protection BMP Policy Revisions: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. The proposed changes were highlighted.

14. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contract: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. This contract is a non-field farm road repair for \$6,241 for Commissioner Collier for Contract #26-2019-203.

15. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

15A. Contract Extension Requests: There are four contracts that do not meet the guidance criteria that the Commission provided at the May Commission Meeting. These districts are required to appear in person and request an extension. The contracts that met the criteria are not required to appear before the Commission for a one-year extension, which are listed on page 1.

On page 2, four contracts were presented with two contract extension requests from Cumberland SWCD and two contract extension requests from Wilkes SWCD. Contract #62-2017-002 from Montgomery SWCD has been removed.

Mr. Rob Baldwin, from Wilkes SWCD, stated both contracts are valid extension requests and Mr. Barry Greer and Mr. Claude Shew, Jr., from Wilkes SWCD, will present the two requests tomorrow.

16. Draft Job Approval Authority Policy: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Jeff Young to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. The Job Approval Authority Workgroup is working to create standards that mirror the same standards as NRCS. The proposed JAA policy is strictly for district staff and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation staff. The policy will cover both Ecological Sciences (ECS) and Engineering (ENG) practices, as designated by NRCS. Under the Practice Phase, there are three categories called Inventory and Evaluation (I&E), Design (D), and Construction and Certification (C&C). The JAA Workgroup

recommends incorporating the same criteria as shown on page 4 under Item D. On page 6, JAA Quality Assurance spot checks will coincide with program reviews by the Division staff. The procedures for maintaining and/or reissuing JAA will be subject to review and approval.

Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked Director Cox and Deputy Director Williams to be mindful of the need to limit the use of blue sheets for last minute additions to the information packets that are provided to the Commission on the day of the work session.

Chairman Langdon stated hurricane season is underway and there is an article in the NC Pork Report reporting about African Swine Fever. We need to protect our swine producers; we do not want the threat coming into the U.S., when 40% of the swine production is exported. Chairman Langdon stated we need to be mindful of our responsibility and adjust the policies to make our products better. It is also important to be aware of avian influenza.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 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 September 18, 2019.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 17, 2019**

NC State Fairgrounds
Gov. James G. Martin Building
1025 Blue Ridge Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Kristina Fischer	Rick McSwain
Wayne Collier	Helen Wiklund	Joe Hudyncia
Dietrich Kilpatrick	Ralston James	Ken Parks
Myles Payne	Josh Vetter	Sandra Weitzel
Mike Willis	Michael Shepherd	Rob Baldwin
Commission Counsel	Tom Hill	Tom Ellis
Shawn Maier	Eric Pare	Paula Day
Guests	Chester Lowder	Brad Moore
Vernon Cox	Odessa Armstrong	Mitchell Miller
David Williams	David Harris	Barry Greer
Jeff Young	Clifton McNeill	Jason Byrd
Julie Henshaw	Claude Shew Jr.	Rodney Wright
Kelly Hedgepeth	Tom Gerow	

Chairman John Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:01 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.

Commissioner Collier declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 14 and will recuse himself.

Commissioner Kilpatrick declared a conflict of interest for Agenda Item 14 and will recuse himself.

Chairman Langdon welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all those in attendance.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Commissioner Payne 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 Payne seconded. Motion carried.

2A. May 14, 2019 Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. May 15, 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

- 3. Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox provided the following highlights:

- Personnel Updates
- 2019 Budget Act Updates
 - Acting under the 2018 Budget Act until the 2019 Budget Act is passed
- 2019 Farm Act (SB 315)
 - Bill passed the Senate and approved by the House Agricultural Committee and being reviewed by the House Finance Committee
 - Farm Act includes authorization for the Commission to implement a program for issuing Job Approval Authority (JAA) for district and Division employees
- Federal Disaster Relief Bill (HR 2157) was signed by President Trump for \$19.1B for supplemental appropriations
- September Commission Meeting will be in Cabarrus County at the SWCD's Office starting at 8 a.m.
 - Immediately following the Commission Meeting, there will be a luncheon to celebrate the NC Foundation's 20th anniversary
- Mr. Bryan Evans, Ms. Michelle Lovejoy and Director Cox visited Commissioner Green

Chairman Langdon commended Director Cox and his staff. Chairman Langdon welcomed those that arrived late to the meeting and asked for introductions.

- 4. Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Commissioner Payne to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- Mr. Bryan Evans is at a House Finance Committee Meeting
- Whitaker Farms in Randolph County is the State Conservation Farm Family winner and the celebration is on September 24
- Hotel block is open for the 2020 Annual Meeting in Charlotte
- Ten days until the North American Envirothon
- Commissioner Kilpatrick will be inducted into the Southeast National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Hall of Fame in August

- 5. NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Odessa Armstrong, Assistant State Conservationist, to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

- Mr. Bill Bailey was appointed as one of eight USDA's Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) Regional Coordinators. As Southeast Regional Coordinator, he covers North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and Puerto Rico
- Open enrollment is available for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Grassland Conservation Initiative (GCI), which was created by the 2018 Farm Bill

- FSA will determine eligibility for the program and the deadline has been extended to July 19 with 117 applications received worth \$1M
- Feral Swine Eradication and Control Pilot (FSCP) Program was created by the 2018 Farm Bill with total funding for the program at \$75M
 - One project site located in Sampson County has been selected for the pilot program due to high population of swine in the county and disease risks associated with feral swine
- Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program has over 400 projects worth \$31M
- Most of the \$2M in emergency EQIP funds has been allocated for Hurricane Florence; more funds have been requested, due to applications received
- Personnel Updates
 - Four positions filled: Financial Resources Specialist (Raleigh), two Supervisory Soil Conservationists (Team 7 – Burlington and Team 10 – Raleigh) and an Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations (Salisbury)
 - No hiring freeze but a hiring ceiling; cannot hire more than 128 employees in North Carolina; currently NRCS has 112 full-time employees

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

6A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Jason Belcher, Clay SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Tammy Mull for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- George Myron Edwards III, Cleveland SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Michael Underwood for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Lloyd E. Phillips, Jr., Davidson SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Kevin Briggs for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Bill Bess, Lincoln SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Pamela Stroupe for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- Hermes Goudes, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Brad Johnson for 2016-2020 with an attached resignation letter
- James Hampton Wally, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Eric Spengler for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Franklin W. Byrd, Montgomery SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Larry Scarborough for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter
- Scott Shoulars, Rockingham SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of David Price for 2018-2022 with an attached resignation letter

6B. Supervisor Contracts: 12 contracts; totaling \$218,852

6C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Mr. Josh Pate, Wilson SWCD, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

- Mr. Josh Parker, Pitt SWCD, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Mr. Adam Gaines, Agri-Waste Technology, Inc., for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Ms. Sara Sweeting, USDA, NRCS Soil Conservationist, for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

- 7. Disaster Response Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Deputy Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Hurricane Matthew Update: The list of approved and implemented practices for Hurricane Matthew's response was provided. The Division has allocated \$22.9M for Stream Debris Removal to 57 local sponsors in 39 counties. To date, the Division has approved payments totaling \$9,113,500 to 48 project sponsors. For Non-Field Farm Road Repairs, the Division has approved 157 cost share contracts, with 120 contracts completed totaling \$431,531. Resource Institute has completed engineering assessments for 50 pond repair projects, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) has approved \$2.1M for 22 ponds. The Division solicited pasture renovation funding requests from the 20 western counties that were eligible for pasture renovation funding. To date, 261 cost share contracts for 4,595 acres have been submitted, totaling \$995,415. Renovation is complete for 3,250 acres, with \$668,552 paid out on these contracts.

7A1. Allocation Strategy for FY2020: The General Assembly appropriated \$32.2M for Disaster Recovery funds. The Division recommends that the Commission re-apportion the funding for Hurricane Matthew by increasing the funding for Stream Debris Removal to \$24.8M. In addition, it is recommended that eligibility for additional stream debris removal funds be limited to new sponsors or to currently funded sponsors that have already expended at least 60% of their contracted funds. There are 22 out of 56 local sponsors that are currently eligible for additional funding. Nine sponsors have not submitted any reimbursement requests.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Allocation Strategy for FY2020. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the Allocation Strategy for FY2020 and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

7B. Hurricane Florence Update: Ms. Henshaw presented a map of the counties eligible for Hurricane Florence Recovery assistance. The General Assembly appropriated a total of \$28.5M for this effort. The Best Management Practices (BMPs) available for funding were highlighted. The following actions were requested for the Hurricane Florence Disaster Response Program:

7B1. Revisions to Emergency BMPs: The recommendation is to revise the cost share rate for the Emergency Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit and the Emergency Auxiliary Spillway Repair/Retrofit from average cost to actual cost based on receipts

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Revisions to Emergency BMPs. Commissioner Kilpatrick motioned to approve to the Revisions to Emergency BMPs and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

7B2. Allocation Strategy for FY2020: The recommendation is to continue using the just-in-time allocation process with the Director's approval, for pond repair retrofit projects and road repair projects.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Allocation Strategy for FY2020. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the Allocation Strategy for FY2020 and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

- 8. Agriculture Cost Share Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Detailed Implementation Plan: This DIP reflects the changes approved for the BMPs in May, and the BMPs selected to be approved today. The plan also removes the cost information and puts it all in one place on the cost list to make it easier to update.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan and Commissioner Collier seconded. Motion carried.

8B. Average Cost List: There are no changes to the list. The Division will request the districts to provide documentation so the Division can update the average costs, which occurs every three years. Due to the large increase in workload, the Division may request a part-time employee in the year ahead.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Average Cost List. Commissioner Kilpatrick motioned to approve the Average Cost List and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

8C. District Financial Assistance Allocation: This allocation is for Best Management Practices (BMPs) for regular Cost Share (CS) and Impaired/Impacted Earmark (II) funds. The summary on page 4 states the appropriated amount is \$4M, the rollover amount is \$1.3M, and the available funds transferred for the Impaired/Impacted Streams Initiative (II) totals \$500K. The total amount allocated is \$5.1M with 75% available immediately for districts and 25% available once the state budget is passed.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the District Financial Assistance Allocation. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the District Financial Assistance Allocation and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 10:05 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

- 9. Technical Assistance Allocation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. This is a request for the proposed 2020 allocations. The maximum salary/benefits received is \$25,500 and the minimum allocation for a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) position is \$20,000 with an additional \$1,735 in operating expenses. Dare and New Hanover SWCDs will continue to fund their positions at 50% ACSP/50% CCAP. Johnston and Orange SWCDs did not request funding for two FTE positions that were funded in FY2019. Duplin and Sampson SWCDs each have two positions funded as non-recurring, Henderson has ½ a position funded as non-recurring, and Wayne has ¼ of a position that is funded as non-recurring.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Technical Assistance Allocation. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the Technical Assistance Allocation and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

- 10. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan: The AgWRAP Review Committee recommends a 70%/30% split between district allocations and regional applications, respectively, and the voluntarily return of AgWRAP funds with Just-in-Time Allocations beginning February 1, 2020.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Average Cost List: The AgWRAP Review Committee recommends revising the cost type for Conservation Irrigation Conversion and Micro-Irrigation System from average cost to actual cost, based on the feedback from the districts. All other items remain the same.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Average Cost List. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the Average Cost List and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

10C. District Financial Assistance Allocation: The FY2020 AgWRAP BMP funds total \$1.3M. The FY2020 Strategy Plan AgWRAP requests are from 92 districts totaling \$7.2M. The BMP fund allocations were presented by county, with a minimum allocation of \$7,500, average allocation of \$10,591 and maximum allocation of \$47,535.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the District Financial Assistance Allocation. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the District Financial Assistance Allocation and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

10D. Revisions to Water Supply Well: A clean version and revised version of the policy were presented. The AgWRAP Review Committee recommends changes to the Water Supply Well with regards to Job Approval Authority.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Revisions to the Water Supply Well. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the Revisions to the Water Supply Well and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Vetter to provide an analysis of the purpose of the wells and the types of wells being used and present it at the September Commission Meeting.

11. Community Conservation Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

11A. Detailed Implementation Plan: The proposed FY2020 Allocation Strategy is shown in Figure 3 on page 3. The CCAP Advisory Committee recommends a regional allocation for the BMP Implementation strategy. Available funds include the recurring appropriation of \$136,000, with \$29,951 in rollover funds which totals \$165,951 or \$55,317 per region. No additional funds will be allocated statewide for repair contracts as no repair contracts were funded in fiscal year 2019 and \$10,000 remains in this account. The district allocation for the Technical and Administrative Assistance activity is to fund a total of \$25,320 with a ¼ FTE position each for Dare and New Hanover districts.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

11B. Average Cost List: There are no changes to the list. In the past two to three years, the Division has implemented several marsh sill projects along the coastline, which exceeded the current cost, so an update will be presented at the September Commission Meeting.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the Average Cost List. Commissioner Kilpatrick motioned to approve the Average Cost List and Commissioner Collier seconded. Motion carried.

12. Cost Share Programs Spot Check Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ken Parks to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. The report is for FY2019.

- In 2019, 220 supervisors participated in spot checks vs. 226 in 2018 vs. 237 in 2017
 - Five districts had all five supervisors participate in spot checks
- Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP):
 - 98.5% in compliance, 1.5% out of compliance, 4.2% needed maintenance
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)
 - 97.6% in compliance, 2.4% out of compliance, 6.0% needed maintenance
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)
 - 98.8% in compliance, 1.2% out of compliance, 4.1% needed maintenance

The most common BMPs needing maintenance are ponds, heavy use areas, grass waterways, and vegetation. The most common BMPs out of compliance are cropland conversion grass, dry

stacks and grass waterways. The Division routinely receives non-compliance letters from the districts, and the districts work with the cooperators to either re-implement the BMP or ask the cooperator to repay funds by following the non-compliance policy. Any funding repaid is allocated to the district for additional projects.

Chairman Langdon commented on the summer issue of the NC Pork Report. North Carolina is the second largest pork producer in the nation. It is a large part of the agricultural economy, as well as our poultry operations. Chairman Langdon stated the policies created have worked, but now there is a threat of African Swine Fever (ASF) entering the U.S. and 40% of our pork products are exported. We need to work with our partners with regards to how we do our spot checks, all while maintaining the integrity of our programs and our biosecurity levels. Chairman Langdon stated our mode of operation may have to change and will take the necessary steps to review the policy with Director Cox to improve it.

- 13. Agriculture Cost Share Program: Stream Protection BMP Policy Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. The eight BMP policy changes are summarized on the cover page that include updated references to the rules, updates to policy to reflect current standards, and updates to clarify the policy for Job Approval Authority (JAA) for Stream Protection Wells.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve the ACSP Stream Protection BMP Policy Revisions. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve the ACSP Stream Protection BMP Policy Revisions and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

- 14. Soil and Water Conservation Commission Contract:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Collier recused himself from this item. Ms. Hedgepeth stated Contract #26-2019-203 is for \$6,241 for non-field farm road repair due to Hurricane Florence.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve Contract #26-2019-203 and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Hedgepeth stated a contract submitted by Commissioner Kilpatrick, which did not make the mailout will be presented. Commissioner Kilpatrick recused himself from this item. Ms. Hedgepeth stated Contract #25-2019-301 is for \$3,824 for emergency access restoration due to Hurricane Florence at 40% cost share rate and ranked first out of two.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve Contract #25-2019-301 and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

- 15. District Issues:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kelly Hedgepeth to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

15A. Contract Extension Requests: One hundred and twelve contract extension requests were submitted and met the requirements based on the guidance from the May Commission Meeting; the district staff does not have to appear before the Commission.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve the 112 contract extension requests and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Hedgepeth stated four contracts did not meet the criteria. Mr. Clifton McNeill and Mr. Mitch Miller from Cumberland SWCD presented two contracts. Mr. Clifton McNeill stated Contract #26-2017-802 was not fulfilled due to the weather, personal, and contractor issues on the hog farm.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve Cumberland SWCD Cost Share Contact #26-2017-802 and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Clifton McNeill stated Contract #26-2016-801 has been delayed because it is in the path of the Outer Loop (highway). The DOT has imposed restraints on the property. Also, in 2018, a well came up dry, and well prices have skyrocketed. Mr. Click cannot find a well driller and would like to reduce the size of the wells.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Payne motioned to approve Cumberland SWCD Cost Share Contact #26-2016-801 and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Hedgepeth stated Montgomery County will not present Contract #62-2017-002; it has been removed.

Mr. Claude Shew, Mr. Barry Greer, and Mr. Rob Baldwin from Wilkes SWCD presented two contracts. Mr. Claude Shew stated Contract #97-2017-805 has been delayed due to financial hardship and unforeseen personal circumstances. The plan is to drill a well by November and well drillers have been contacted.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Collier motioned to approve Wilkes SWCD Cost Share Contact #97-2017-805 and Commissioner Payne seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Claude Shew stated Contract #97-2017-808 has been delayed because Mr. Zach Myers had an accident and his recovery has been difficult, as well as the wet weather in the county. Mr. Myers sold the farm and the new landowner is willing to take the responsibility of the contract. The land sale is in the closing stages. The well should be completed by November.

Commission Counsel Maier stated there are no legal issues to extend the contract while the closing is in process. The Commission can approve the contract extension and once the closing is complete, transfer the ownership of the contract.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Willis motioned to approve Wilkes SWCD Cost Share Contact #97-2017-808 and Commissioner Payne seconded. Mr. Greer stated he will prepare the contract transfer into the new owner's name. Motion carried.

Commissioner Collier asked for Ms. Hedgepeth to explain the new extension request form. Ms. Hedgepeth stated the districts utilized Formsites to upload the documentation rather than use

conventional mail to send the forms to Raleigh, which allows the staff to organize the forms quickly for review.

16. Draft Job Approval Authority Policy: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Jeff Young to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Young presented the findings from the Job Approval Authority (JAA) Workgroup. A JAA policy was crafted for the Commission to define the scope of this new system and borrowed the origins from NRCS. In 2017, NRCS created a JAA handbook. The Division will mimic the NRCS system for the Division and district staff. In keeping with NRCS, the policy will reference all the conservation practice standards as Ecological Sciences (ECS) or Engineering (ENG) JAA. These conservation practice standards will be subdivided into different practice phases, and an individual can get JAA for one or all phases, i.e., Inventory and Evaluation (I&E), Design (D) and Construction and Certification (C&C). The technical competency and quality assurance requirements will be the same as with the NRCS standards. Mr. Young will request feedback through the District Listserv.

Commissioner Collier thanked the members of the workgroup. Mr. McSwain, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Byrd and Mr. Young agree it is great idea and recognize the importance of the policy. Commissioner Collier thanked Director Cox for his help.

Public Comments: Mr. Bryan Evans stated Soil and Water is included in the Farm Act with Job Approval Authority (JAA) and Hemp is in the Farm Act and is dominating the discussion. The House Finance Committee approved the Farm Act and the Judiciary Committee will consider the Farm Act next. The Farm Act added a confidentially provision for soil and water conservation districts that mirrors Section 1619 of the 2008 Farm Bill. The NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts continues to monitor any Farm Act related questions, along with the NC Department of Agriculture and the Division.

Chairman Langdon stated the September 17 and 18 Commission Meeting will be in Cabarrus County and to keep Commissioner Green in your prayers, as the Association moves on in its leadership.

Commissioner Kilpatrick stated Kirkland Farms is hosting a farming event in Craven County at 5255 NC 55 West in Culver City, and this event will bring publicity to North Carolina and help promote funding for struggling farmers. Commissioner Kilpatrick received a thank you letter from Mr. Robert Mills, who lives in Craven County. Director Cox read the letter dated June 25, 2019 addressed to Mr. Dietrich Kilpatrick and Mr. Jack Veit, Craven County Manager, which thanked everyone involved to help restore his home after Hurricane Florence. A special thank you went to Mr. Patrick Baker with Craven Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mr. Chester Lowder with the NC Farm Bureau appreciates the sacrifices and decisions the Commissioners make to govern these programs, since North Carolina has experienced many challenges. The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation is celebrating 20 years of locally led conservation in September. Mr. Lowder is looking forward to the North American Envirothon next month and showcasing NC.

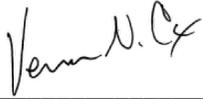
Mr. Tom Ellis stated the local employees do a fantastic job.

Deputy Director Williams stated the Division employees are working hard, including the Cost Share and Technical Services staff.

Commissioner Collier thanked the Division staff for streamlining the contract waiver process and Mr. Vetter for filtering out the projects for the engineering staff.

Chairman Langdon thanked the Recording Secretary.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:34 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 September 18, 2019.

Personnel

- **New Hire:**

- **Engineer Tech. I (Fletcher) – Taryn Hendrickson**
- **Engineer Tech. I (Raleigh) – Matthew Hall**
- **Admin Specialist I (Raleigh) – Bria Wortham**
- **Regional Coordinator (Raleigh) – Allie Dinwiddie**

- **Vacancies:**

- **Envir. Specialist (CREP – Corey Klamut) – Interviewing**
- **Regional Coordinator (Western NC) – Interviewing**
- **Envir. Specialist (CREP – Bryan Colvard) – Interviewing**



2019 Budget Act

- Two additional engineering positions.
- No Change to Existing Programs (ACSP, AgWRAP, CCAP)
- Hurricane Florence Stream Debris - \$1,000,000
- Swine Biogas Cost Share - \$450,000
- Innovative Lagoon Sludge Treatment Cost Share - \$450,000
- ***Vetoed by Governor – will continue to operate under 2018 budget until resolved.***



2019 Farm Act (SB 315)

- Authorize the SWCC to implement JAA
- Includes exception for licensing by the P.E. Board.
- District Records: Confidentiality
- Other topics including:
 - Industrial Hemp
 - Sweet Potato Marketing
 - Utility Easements, etc.
- History:
 - Senate Version Passed
 - House Version Passed
 - Legislative Conference to resolve differences (Industrial Hemp)



Job Approval Authority Update

- **Draft JAA policy sent through District listserv for comments on July 18, 2019.**
- **Comments received from NRCS and Duplin County.**

Duplin comments were limited to formatting and grammatical changes.

A meeting with NRCS is planned after the General Assembly takes action on SB 315 (NC Farm Act) to discuss how the federal Job Approval Authority and Certified Conservation Planner credentials will be conducted in NC.

- **The JAA workgroup will convene to review JAA policy comments and make final recommendations. Members will also prepare supporting reference documents (technical competency, plan review process, spot checks) for conservation practices.**
- **A revised JAA policy will be presented to the SWCC at the November 2019 meeting.**



Cost Share Program Average Cost Review Update

- Hire temporary staff to review component cost.
 - Job description has been finalized and funding has been requested.
- The position will
 - Collect estimates from vendors in the three geographic areas of NC
 - Analyze the data collected to determine average cost
 - Review actual cost components to determine they can become average cost
 - Report cost findings at stakeholder meetings



AgWRAP Well Use Survey

- A survey has been created on Formsite to gather information about AgWRAP wells
- The survey includes questions regarding the use of AgWRAP wells that have been installed
- Also questions concerning anticipated trends and future uses of AgWRAP wells
- A link to the survey has been distributed to all Districts via email with a survey deadline of October 25
- Summary of the results will be presented at the November SWCC Meeting
- Please encourage participation from your Districts.

https://fs3.formsite.com/ncdswc/AgWRAP_Well_Use_Survey/



AgWRAP Well Use Survey 2019

Please complete the short survey below regarding AgWRAP well use. We are interested to know how wells installed through AgWRAP are being utilized. Please provide accurate estimates for each question. We are NOT asking you to review all of your District's AgWRAP well contracts since 2012 just provide an estimate. Thanks!

District *

The majority of AgWRAP well projects in this county have been contracted to address inadequate water supply for: *

- Livestock
 Irrigation
 Both livestock and irrigation equally
 Other:

Estimate the number of well projects installed for each type of operation *

Row Crop	<input type="text"/>
Specialty Crop (Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs)	<input type="text"/>
Green Industry (Greenhouse, Nursery, Floriculture, Turf Crops)	<input type="text"/>
Hay/Pasture	<input type="text"/>
Beef	<input type="text"/>



Interim Performance Milestones in Cost Share Program

Contracts Policy: Wells

It is the policy of this commission that all CSPs contracts shall include an interim performance milestone for at least 1/3 of the work required to be implemented on a contract to be completed within twelve months of the date the contract receives final division approval. District Boards of Supervisors may grant up to an additional six months for the work to begin if the cooperator requests an extension in writing or by appearance before the District Board.

Determination of what constitutes 1/3 of the work required by the contract shall be at the discretion of the District Board of Supervisors.

Program	BMP	Definition
ACSP	<u>Stream Protection Well</u>	A well is a component of a stream protection system. Installation of any of the BMPs in the contract could meet this requirement.
AgWRAP	<u>Water Supply Well</u>	A well is a standalone BMP contracted to provide water for an operation in need of water. 12 – 18 months should be sufficient to complete installation and provide needed water for the agricultural operation.



November SWCC Meeting

- Location: Martin Building (NC State Fair Grounds)
- Work Session: November 19th
- Meeting: November 20th





Association Report to the Commission

September 18, 2019

Legislative Actions

At the time of this report, things are still progressing in the Legislature with the Farm Act. The JAA language needed for the Commission to be added to the granting authority has not changed nor has it met opposition. There is another provision within the Farm Act that would affect Districts. It is a confidentiality rule that would mirror the Federal Section 1619 language for State District files.

There has been no success in getting any funding increases for our existing cost share programs. We continue to have a presence in committee meetings and through NC Forever.

State Conservation Farm Family Celebration

This year's State Conservation Farm Family is Whitaker Farms of Randolph County. The State celebration will be held on September 24 at the farming operation. The Randolph SWCD is working hard to plan and carry out a great event. It is hopeful that Commission members will be able to attend.

SE NACD Meeting

The SE NACD regional meeting was held in Gatlinburg, TN August 10-12, 2019. As part of this meeting, an NACD listening session was held. Ian Cunningham (NACD Treasurer), Gary Blair (NACD SE Board Member), Franklin Williams (SE NACD Rep) and Candice Abanati (NACD SE Coordinator) gave updates on NACD actions and fielded questions and concerns from the SE states concerning NACD. North Carolina was represented well throughout the meeting, with 25 members in attendance.

2020 Annual Meeting

We are actively planning for the 2020 Annual meeting which will be held at the University Hilton in Charlotte, NC. The room block is open, and registration will start around October 1.

Planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting is starting as well. We continue to focus on training and District awareness.

2019 North American Envirothon

The NCF Envirothon, that many worked so hard on for the past two and half years, took place July 28 – Aug 2. We received tremendous support from all the partners and would not have been able to make it the huge success it was without them. There were 53 teams with over 270 students representing the United States, Canada and China. We are currently in the final stages of billing and reporting to wrap it all up. Thanks to the financial contributions of Districts, partners, non-profits and businesses, we were able to provide a great experience for our visitors. In addition, countless volunteers worked long, hot hours to keep things running smoothly. The Association thanks all those involved in this event.

State Fair Building

There are plans to build a 40' X 80' building on the State Fairgrounds that will house Soil and Water Conservation and NC Forestry. We will be working with NC Forestry to coordinate layout and flow of the building as well as updating our Soil and Water Conservation displays. At this time, it appears that the concrete pad with a tent may be available for the 2019 State Fair. The location will be just up the hill from our existing location.

Conservation Education License Plate

The Association is still collecting applications for a new specialty license plate for North Carolina. Additional information on the plate can be found at: www.ncaswcd.org/index.php/conservation-education/specialty-conservation-license-plate/



Natural Resources Conservation Service

North Carolina - The Update



Announcing Lee Holcomb as Area 2 Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

Lee Holcomb has been selected to serve as the assistant state conservationist for field operations in Area 2. Lee has worked for more than 13 years in the North Carolina Conservation Partnership. First, he served for more than five years as a district technician for the Alexander County SWCD. Lee became an NRCS employee in 2012 and served as a district conservationist and a supervisory soil conservationist. Lee, his wife Der, and daughter live on a 20-acre farm in Alexander County where they raise hair sheep.

State Program Updates

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) - Renewals

The 2018 Farm Bill gives USDA the opportunity for noncompetitive renewals of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) projects. NRCS intends to provide up to \$50 million for renewals in fiscal year (FY) 2020. Noncompetitive renewals are reserved for the most successful projects that continue to present compelling approaches to addressing natural resource challenges. North Carolina NRCS will be notifying all current RCPP partners of the 2020 renewal opportunity.

Partners interested in renewals will need to complete a renewal worksheet, which will be reviewed by the NRCS State Office and submitted to National Headquarters by September 30, 2019, for review. Selected project for renewal will be announced by the Chief on November 15, 2019.



Conservation Innovation Grants

The National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Team is looking to states for review of relevant national CIG projects. State reviews ensure there is no duplication with state conservationist and area director ongoing activities and ensure state conservationist and area director support of proposed projects that may impact staffing commitments related to servicing potential projects.

This year, NRCS is proposing to invest up to \$37.5 million in high quality innovative projects. Of this amount, up to \$25 million will be dedicated to On-Farm Trials; and up to \$12.5 million will be dedicated to CIG- "Classic" Projects. The solicitation period for proposal submission has closed for both forms of competition and has yielded more than 150 projects for consideration. The CIG Team has compiled these proposals, and the peer review process at the state level is ready to begin.

North Carolina NRCS is in the process of reviewing CIG proposals and the state conservationist will submit recommendations by September 30, 2019. After national review, the Chief will be announcing awards selections early in FY 2020.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program — Floodplain Easement (EWP-FPE)

The Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Act, 2019 was enacted on June 14, 2019, which provides NRCS \$435 million for Watershed and Flood

**North Carolina
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**



Prevention Operations, EWP related to the consequences of Hurricanes Michael and Florence and wildfires occurring in calendar year 2018, tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019, and other natural disasters.

NRCS may purchase EWP Floodplain Easements (FPE) on floodplain lands that have been impaired or impacted within the last 12 months, have flooded at least twice during the past ten years, would be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach, or have been damaged by a specific natural disaster for which Congress appropriated disaster funding. Under FPE, a landowner voluntarily sells a perpetual conservation easement to NRCS that provides the Agency the full authority to restore and enhance the floodplain's natural functions and values.

The Agency decided to split the appropriated EWP funds with half used for watershed recovery activities and half for FPEs. Initially, \$98.3 million of the \$217.5 million will be made available for purchasing and restoring FPEs in 10 States recently impacted by flooding. The States include the following: Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

North Carolina NRCS has received an initial FPE allocation of \$12,352,902. The Agency will be prioritizing those initial funds to address potential FPE projects with agricultural lands. NRCS anticipates requesting additional funds to address FPE projects that may not get funded through the initial allocation.

Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART)

March 5, 2019, National Bulletin 440-19-09 was published to introduce the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) as an Information Technology (IT) application. CART is designed to modernize and streamline NRCS's conservation planning and

ATTACHMENT 5

program delivery, reduce field staff workload, and improve customer experience with an efficient application process. CART will assist conservation planners as they assess site vulnerability, existing conditions, and identify potential resource concerns on a unit of land.

Although CART does not directly rely on planning criteria for resource assessment, it utilizes similar inputs to provide thresholds to document whether planning criteria have been achieved, or if additional conservation practices are necessary to meet them. CART results are then used to support conservation planning for the client. CART also captures this information to prioritize programs and report outcomes of NRCS investments in conservation. CART, in its first iteration, will not complete component plans or practice designs.

CART provides a streamlined framework to assess any of the 47 resource concerns identified by NRCS. Assessment of resource concerns is determined by the planner's interaction with a client and considers the client's conservation objectives. CART assessment questions are not meant to document every question, criteria, and consideration that may be evaluated on a land unit. One of the primary goals of CART is to give field staff more time to provide technical assistance to producers. CART is scheduled to be deployed nationwide in FY 2020.

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





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
 B.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Forsyth Soil and Water Conservation District of Forsyth 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 ~~October 1, 2019~~ and ending December 7, 2020 to fill the expired or un-expired term of Edward C. Wall Sept 18, 2019

Name of nominee: Jordan K. Jones
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 8595 Jefferson Church Road, Rural Hall NC 27045-9227
 Email address of nominee: jkjones1202@yahoo.com
 Home phone: N/A
 Mobile phone: 336-345-8569
 Business phone: 336-345-8569
 Occupation: Grounds Supervisor - UNCSEA
 Age: 34
 Education: Horticulture Certificate - Surry Community College
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Farm Bureau Board, Staff Council - UNCSEA
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Ag background

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 Toby D. Bost
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated)
 Printed name: Toby D. Bost

8/26/19
 Date

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

Jordan K. Jones
 Individual recommended for appointment
 Printed name: Jordan K. Jones

8/26/19
 Date

Toby Bost, Chair
Wes Schollander, Vice Chair
Ed Wall, Secretary/Treasurer



Tim Disher, District Supervisor
Beth Tucker, District Supervisor

FORSYTH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2-13-2019

Toby Bost
1450 Fairchild Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27105

Toby,

At this time, I regret to inform you that I must resign from my position as a District Supervisor serving on the Forsyth Soil & Water Conservation District Board. Due to health related concerns, I can no longer effectively discharge my duties as a Supervisor. I have enjoyed serving on the board for the past 18 years and I feel as though we have made a huge impact on the overall natural resource protection for the citizens of Forsyth County. I wish you much success as a board on your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

Edward C. Wall



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INTERNAL USE ONLY:
Appointed / Elected Seat
 Current Term: 2018-2022 *JFW*

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISOR

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

The supervisors of the Alamance Soil and Water Conservation District of Alamance 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 9-16-2019 and ending 12-31-2022 to fill the expired or un-expired term of FRED BOWMAN 18 *JFW* 5 *JFW*

Name of nominee: Richard N. Reid
 Address of nominee, City, State, Zip: 3392 NC 87 N, ELON, NC 27244
 Email address of nominee: rickynreid@yahoo.com
 Home phone: N/A
 Mobile phone: 336-516-0989
 Business phone: N/A
 Occupation: Farmer
 Age: 51
 Education: College graduate
 Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Board member to Alamance County Farm Bureau
 Former occupations or positions of leadership contributing to nominee's qualifications: Secbelow

answer:
 Other pertinent information: Board member to Alamance County Farm Bureau, Past city exec @ Vantage South; VP of Vantage South & CCB/Suntrust Bank; Board member Cattleman's Board; Salvation Army Board

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 Roy J. Stanley Jr 9-16-19
 SWCD Chair (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated) Date
 Printed name: Roy J. Stanley Jr.

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.
 X Richard N. Reid 9-16-2019
 Individual recommended for appointment Date
 Printed name: Richard N. Reid

Nannie Bowman Wooten
6774 McPherson Clay Rd.
Liberty, NC 27298
August 14, 2019

Alamance County Soil and Water
209 N. Graham-Hopedale Rd.
Burlington, NC 27217

RE: James Fred Bowman - Confidential

Dear Soil and Water Department Head and District Board Members:

I am writing this letter as the daughter and legal Power of Attorney for my father, **James Fred Bowman**. Mr. Bowman has been in fragile health since falling at his home in September of last year. He would very much like to continue his service to the people of Alamance County as an elected member of Alamance County Soil and Water. Unfortunately, due to health reasons, he has not been able to be sworn in or to carry out the responsibilities and duties of this office. As his Power of Attorney, I would respectfully ask that this board move in the direction needed for his position on the board to be replaced. I also would ask that out of respect for Mr. Bowman's personal health situation and privacy, that the actions of Alamance SWCD to replace his position on the board not be made any more public than is absolutely necessary. Mr. Bowman is not in favor of being removed from this position to which he was elected. I am acting on his behalf as his Power of Attorney and in the best interest of his health and of the people of Alamance County.

Mr. Bowman has served for many years as a member of this board and has been and always will be committed to service to the people of Alamance County. He appreciates and will always cherish the dedicated members of Alamance County Soil and Water that he has had the privilege of working with.

Thank you for supporting him through these years and for giving him the opportunity to serve the citizens of Alamance County through the workings of Alamance County Soil and Water Conservation.

Should you have any questions for me in this matter or have the need to view my POA legal documents, please feel free to reach me through my email address.

Sincerely,

Nannie Bowman Wooten

Nannie Bowman Wooten

Power of Attorney for James Fred Bowman

Email: wootennan@gmail.com

CC: Clyde Albright, Alamance County Attorney
Kathy Holland, Alamance County Board of Elections

NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Duplin	31-2019-695	Thomas Uzzell	disaster - emergency access restoration	\$7,231	supervisor in Wayne County
Lenoir	54-2018-319	Rodney Smith, Jr	disaster - non-field farm road repair	\$2,600	
Lenoir	54-2019-314	Rodney Smith, Jr	disaster - emergency access restoration	\$14,947	
Lenoir	54-2019-315	Rodney Smith, Jr	disaster - emergency access restoration	\$3,925	
Lenoir	54-2019-331	Gregory Rouse	disaster - emergency access restoration	\$6,612	
Lenoir	54-2019-332	Gregory Rouse	disaster - non-field farm road repair	\$4,675	
Mitchell	61-2020-003	Donald Masters	stock trail, ag road repair stabilization, stream crossing, watering tanks	\$32,060	
Mitchell	61-2020-004	Steve Wilson	livestock feeding pad, pasture renovation	\$9,562	
Person	73-2020-001	Russell G. Horton	cropland conversion	\$7,043	
Warren	93-2020-002	Herman Collier	3-year sod-based rotation - 17 months	\$1,037	contract in Rebecca Collier's name
Wayne	96-2020-701	Thomas Uzzell	disaster - non-field farm road repair	\$10,037	
Wayne	96-2020-706	Ronald W. Parks	disaster - non-field farm road repair	\$7,308	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 12

Total \$107,037

NCDA&CS
DSWC

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

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Duplin Wayne 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 Assistance Program

Best management practice: Emergency Access Repair

Contract number: 31-2019-695 Contract amount: \$ 7,231

Score on priority ranking sheet:

Cost Share Rate: 40 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

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

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied?

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

Supervisor name: THOMAS UZZELL

Thomas Uzzell
(District Supervisor's signature)

6/3/19
Date

Approved by:

Franklin Williams
(District Chairperson's signature)

6/3/19
Date

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

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

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

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

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Lenoir 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 Relief - NFFR

Best management practice: ~~Critical Area Planting~~ Non-field farm road

Contract number: 54-2018-319 Contract amount: \$ \$2,600

Score on priority ranking sheet: 55

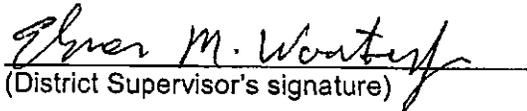
Cost Share Rate : 75 If different than 75%, please list % percent:

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

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? N/A

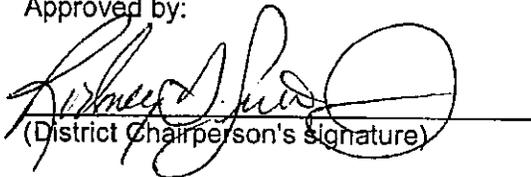
If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name: Rodney Smith Jr


(District Supervisor's signature)

6-25-19
Date

Approved by:


(District Chairperson's signature)

8-12-19
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 Lenoir 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 Relief Program 2018

Best management practice: Emergency Access Restoration

Contract number: 54-2019-314

Contract amount: \$ 14,947

Score on priority ranking sheet: 60

Cost Share Rate: 40 % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason: 40% was paid for grading and earth fill

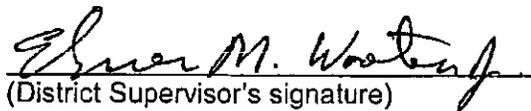
Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): N/A

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? N/A

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

All 2018 DRP contracts have been funded.

Supervisor name: Rodney Smith Jr


(District Supervisor's signature)

6-25-19
Date

Approved by:


(District Vice Chairperson's signature)

8-12-19
Date

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

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

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the _____ Lenoir _____ 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 Relief Program 2018

Best management practice: Emergency Access Restoration

Contract number: 54-2019-315

Contract amount: \$ 3,925

Score on priority ranking sheet: 45

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

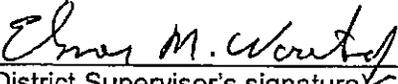
Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): N/A

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? N/A

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

All 2018 DRP contracts have been funded.

Supervisor name: Rodney Smith Jr



(District Supervisor's signature)

6-25-19
Date

Approved by:



(District Vice Chairperson's signature)

8-12-19
Date

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

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

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWCNC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Lenoir 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 Relief -- Florence Farm Road Repair

Best management practice: Emergency Access Restoration

Contract number: 54-2019-331 Contract amount: \$ 6,612

Score on priority ranking sheet: 60

Cost Share Rate: 40% If different than 75%, please list % percent:

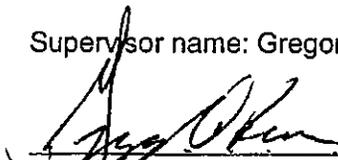
Reason: 40% was used to pay for emergency access restoration

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

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? N/A

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

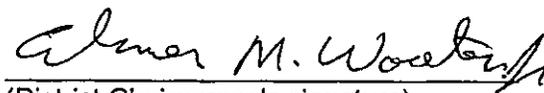
Supervisor name: Gregory Q Rouse



(District Supervisor's signature)

7-26-19
Date

Approved by:



(District Chairperson's signature)

7-9-19
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 Lenoir 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 Relief – Florence Farm Road Repair

Best management practice: Non Field Farm Road

Contract number: 54-2019-332 Contract amount: \$ 4,675

Score on priority ranking sheet: 100

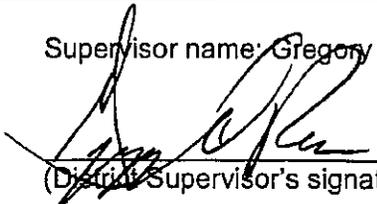
Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

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

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? N/A

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

Supervisor name: Gregory Q Rouse

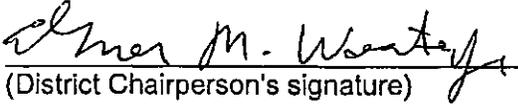


(District Supervisor's signature)

7-26-19

Date

Approved by:



(District Chairperson's signature)

7-9-19

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 Mitchell 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: Stock-trail, Ag. Rd. Stab/repair, Stream Crossing, Water Tanks

Contract number:61-2020-003

Contract amount: \$32,060.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 35

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

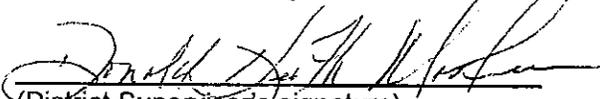
Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered):1 out of 5

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:

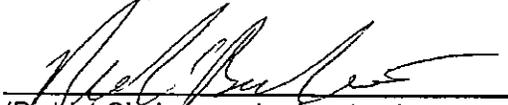
Supervisor name:

Donald Masters


(District Supervisor's signature)

8-22-19
Date

Approved by:


(District Chairperson's signature)

8-22-19
Date

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

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

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

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

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

Program: NCACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Feed Pad - Pasture Renovation

Contract number: 61-2020-004 Contract amount: \$ 9,562 Needs supplement of 11,000.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 35 # 9562

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

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 5

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: STEVE WILSON

[Signature]
(District Supervisor's signature)

8-22-19
Date

Approved by:

[Signature]
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-22-19
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 Person 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: **ACSP**

Best management practice: **Cropland Conversion**

Contract number: **73-2020-001**

Contract amount: ~~\$ 7042.50~~ [#] 7043

Score on priority ranking sheet: **275/875**

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

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): **5th out of 5 projects considered**

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: **Russell G. Horton (Sec-Treasurer)**

Russell G. Horton
(District Supervisor's signature)

8-21-19
Date

Approved by: **Bruce R. Whitfield (Chairman)**

Bruce R. Whitfield
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-21-2019
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} 1 Water _____ 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: ^{3yr} ~~3 yr.~~ Sod-based Rotation ^{17 months}

Contract number: 93-2020-002 Contract amount: \$ 1037

Score on priority ranking sheet: 190

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

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 5 of 5

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: Herman Collier

Herman Collier
(District Supervisor's signature)

8-13-19
Date

Approved by:

Charles Lynch
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-13-19
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 **Wayne** 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 Response Program

Best management practice: Non-Field Farm Road Repair

Contract number: 96-2020-701

Contract amount: \$10,037

Score on priority ranking sheet: NA everyone was funded

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

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

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 Uzzell Farms Inc

Thomas Uzzell Farms Inc
By Thomas Uzzell Dist
(District Supervisor's signature)

8-14-2019
Date

Approved by:

Ronald W Parks
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-14-19
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 **Wayne** 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 Response Program

Best management practice: Non-Field Farm Road Repair

Contract number: 96-2020-706

Contract amount: \$7,308.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: NA everyone was funded

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

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

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: Ronald W. Parks

Ronald W. Parks
(District Supervisor's signature)

8-14-19
Date

Approved by:

Thomas P. Uzzell
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-14-2019
Date

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

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

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWCNC -CSPs-1B
(11/2012)

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Union 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: Cover Crop

Contract number: 90-2020-006 Contract amount: \$ 14,999

Score on priority ranking sheet: 127

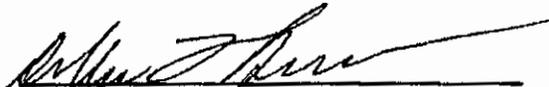
Cost Share Rate: % If different than 75%, please list % percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 5th out of 11

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: Allan Baucom


(District Supervisor's signature)

8/28/19
Date

Approved by:


(District Chairperson's signature)

8-22-19
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

September 18, 2019

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.

Mr. Carl Kirby, USDA, NRCS Soil Conservationist, has requested to be designated technical specialist for the Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) and Wettable Acres categories. He has successfully completed the required training and technical proficiency has been verified by DSWC and NRCS staff. Therefore, I recommend this designation for approval.

7A.1 – Approval of Pond Repair Contract greater than \$100,000.

The Commission has delegated to the Division authority to approve disaster related contracts for pond repair up to \$100,000. Most of the pond repair projects for Hurricane Matthew are being completed as a turnkey project through Resource Institute. For one project in Duplin County, the lowest bid received is for \$397,032. The Division and Resource Institute have worked to reduce the repair cost by redesigning the project to combine two ponds into a single larger pond. We have solicited bids three times, but the current bid is the lowest received to date.

USDA is pledged to contribute \$179,939 toward the project, but the state cost share amount will be \$146,115. There is a possibility that the USDA funding will increase to \$200,000, but the state cost share will still exceed \$100,000. **The Division recommends authorizing this contract up to \$150,000.**

7A.2. – Allocation Strategy for Stream Debris Removal

- a. **Hurricane Matthew funding** - At the July meeting the Commission approved a recommended reapportionment of Disaster funding for Hurricane Matthew and a policy to limit requests for supplemental allocation to the local sponsors who have already spent at least 60% of their contracted funds. After hearing back from local sponsors, **the Division recommends revising this policy to also allow local sponsors to request additional funds to address the stream segments in their existing contracted scope of work for which they have received bids exceeding their existing allocation.**

- b. **Hurricane Florence Stream Debris Removal funding** – Stream debris removal funding for Hurricane Florence is being managed according to the following priority matrix.
 1. Funds needed to provide the non-federal match for local sponsors with sites approved for USDA Emergency Watershed Protection Program funding. **(\$5.63 M requested)**
 2. Funds needed to address vegetative debris removal needs to restore drainage and prevent flooding. **(\$14.7M requested)**
 3. Funds needed to address vegetative debris removal AND sediment removal to restore drainage and prevent flooding. **(\$32.9M requested)**
 4. Funds needed to address vegetative debris removal, sediment removal, AND to stabilize streambanks needed to restore drainage and prevent flooding. **(\$6.1M requested)**
 5. Funds needed to address other watershed impacts affecting drainage and flood prevention. **(\$2M requested).**

To date, NRCS has submitted for approval sites requiring \$26.2 million in EWP funding. Of the \$10 million of state funds apportioned for stream debris removal related to Hurricane Florence, the local sponsor match required for these sites is estimated to be \$5.63 million.

Now that the Division has an estimate on what funding is needed to meet the local match for EWP (**Priority 1**), the Division proposes to begin allocating remaining funds apportioned for stream debris removal to address **Priority 2** needs for which local sponsors have submitted allocation requests. **The Division proposes to allocate \$3.87M to address the vegetative debris removal needs not being covered by EWP, using a similar allocation methodology as used for**

Hurricane Matthew. This will leave \$500,000 to cover additional sites that may be approved for EWP funding.

HURRICANE FLORENCE DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAM UPDATE**Allocations made from last Commission meeting**

County	Best Management Practice	Allocation
Chatham	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 12,346
Chatham	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 5,290
Cumberland	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 135,000
Durham	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 9,663
Greene	Pond Repair	\$ 9,797
Johnston	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 4,000
Jones	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 30,000
Lenoir	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 25,000
Lenoir	Pond Repair	\$ 7,384
Lenoir	Pond Repair	\$ 42,982
Sampson	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 35,000
Sampson	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 2,438
Wayne	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 3,578
Wayne	Non-Field Farm Road Repair	\$ 15,020
Total (July 19 - September 6, 2019)		\$ 337,498

B1. Consideration of Additional Allocations for Pasture Renovation

Since the July Commission meeting, several districts have inquired about the opportunity to receive additional funds for the Disaster Pasture Renovation BMP. In order to meet this need, the Division requests using a just-in-time allocation process through October 31, 2019, with Director's approval. Allocations will be reported at the next Commission meeting.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture ProductionDefinition/ Purpose

A system for the removal, storage and dewatering of solid waste from the effluent of tank or raceway-based aquaculture production systems. (DIP)

To capture organic solids from the effluent stream of fish production systems. These solids come from uneaten feed and waste generated by fish within the aquaculture production systems.

Policies

1. By signing the Cost Share Agreement (NC-ACSP-2), the cooperators and/or landowner acknowledges and agrees that they are responsible for the maintenance or replacement of all equipment cost shared as a component of waste management measure(s) at their expense.
2. Items for reimbursement under the maximum are all equipment, materials, construction, installation, vegetation, and pumps.
3. A maximum of two geotubes and a year supply of polymer per system will be eligible for reimbursement.
4. For all operations, cost share payments are limited to a \$35,000 lifetime cap.
5. Cost share will not pay for any motorized vehicles used in transporting/applying waste.

SOLIDS SEPARATION from TANK/RACEWAY-BASED AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	Animal type (species) Animal number (lbs per year)
JAA/NRCS Standard unless otherwise noted	ENG - 632 - Waste Separation Facility
Supporting Practices	ECS - 590 - Nutrient Management
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads Operation and Maintenance Plan Statement (OMP) form Waste Management Plan (WMP) form
Additional Spot Check Requirement	Waste BMPs must be spot-checked annually for the first 5 years after installation.

Agriculture Cost Share Program

Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture ProductionDefinition/ Purpose

A system facility for the removal, storage and dewatering of solid waste from the effluent of intensive tank-based or raceway based aquaculture production systems. (DIP)

To capture organic solids from the effluent stream of intensive fish production systems, ~~that would otherwise flow to effluent ponds for storage and further treatment.~~ These solids is waste comes from uneaten feed and wastefeces generated by fish within the aquaculture production systems. ~~while being fed within a tank or raceway based fish farm.~~

Policies

1. By signing the Cost Share Agreement (NC-ACSP-2), the cooperator and/or landowner acknowledges and agrees that they are responsible for the maintenance or replacement of all equipment cost shared as a component of waste management measure(s) at their expense.
~~— Operation and Maintenance Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-OMP) is required.~~
1. ~~and that any cost shared component will not be sold or used as collateral for the life of the practice must be included in the contract.~~
2. Items for reimbursement under the maximum are all equipment, materials, construction, installation, vegetation, and pumps.
- 2-3. A maximum of two geotubes and a year supply of polymer per system will be eligible for reimbursement.
3. ~~For all operations, cost share payments are limited to a \$135,000 lifetime cap. If a reef is required, it is not part of the lifetime cap.~~
- 4.
5. ~~Receipts must support reimbursable items.~~
6. ~~Waste Management Plan Statement (NC-ACSP-WMP) is required.~~
- 7-5. Cost share will not pay for any motorized vehicles used in transporting/applying waste.
8. ~~BMP soil impact is not required on this BMP. Include the waste nitrogen and waste phosphorus units, which will be generated and properly managed under the waste management system. Also include the number of acres affected, animal type, and animal units. Animal type (species) animal units (lbs per year)~~
- 9-6.
10. ~~Minimum life of the BMP is ten (10) years.~~

Standards

Agriculture Cost Share Program

N.C. NRCS Technical Guide, Section IV, Standards [JAA: #632](#) (Waste Separation Facility); [Supporting Practice #590](#) (Nutrient Management)

Best Management Practice	Purpose	Policy Statement
Livestock Feeding Area	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.	8. Any 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. 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.
Feeding/Waste Storage Structure	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.	7. A signed statement is required stating the cost shared portion of the structure will be used only for animal feeding and waste storage.
Dry Stack	A Dry Stack means a fabricated structure for temporary storage of animal waste.	7. A signed statement is required stating the cost shared portion of the dry stack will be used only for waste storage. (Waste handling equipment may be stored in the dry stack provided it does not cause a displacement of waste.)

Manure Composting Facility	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.	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.
Livestock Mortality Management System	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.	17. Any 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. 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.
ADDENDUM TO NC-ACSP-2	Waste Storage Structure Operation and Maintenance Statement	2. At no time will the cooperators store any tools, equipment, livestock or materials other than animal waste in the structure. (Waste handling equipment may be stored in the facility.)

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC-CSPs-1A
(11/12)

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

As a Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member, I have applied for or stand to benefit* from a contract under the commission's cost share programs. 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 to improve water quality or water resources.

Program: *NCACSP - FRR*

Best management practice: *Non Field Farm Road Repair*

Contract number: *26-2019-309* Contract Amount: *\$6,321.00*

Score on priority ranking sheet: *100*

Cost share rate: *75%* If different than 75%, please list percent:
Reason:

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): *9*

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? *No*

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

Commission member name: *Wayne Collier*

* *Wayne Collier*
(Commission member's signature)

2/11/2019
Date

Approved by:


(District Chairperson's signature)

3/8/2019
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

Approved by:

(Commissioner of Agriculture)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-4(e)(2))

Date

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

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC-CSPs-1A
(11/12)

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

As a Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member, I have applied for or stand to benefit* from a contract under the commission's cost share programs. 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 to improve water quality or water resources.

Program: NCACSP

Best management practice: Now Field Farm Road Repair- Supplement

Contract number: SI-2020-401-09 Contract Amount: \$1,014

Score on priority ranking sheet: 50

Cost share rate: 75 % If different than 75%, please list percent:
Reason:

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

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? No

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

Commission member name:

[Signature]
(Commission member's signature)

8-20-19
Date

Approved by:

[Signature]
(District Chairperson's signature)

8-20-19
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

Approved by:

(Commissioner of Agriculture)
(Pursuant G.S. 139-4(e)(2))

Date

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

CALDWELL COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

120 HOSPITAL AVENUE NW., LENOIR NC 28645

August 29th, 2019

NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation
1614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1614

Dear Chairman Langdon,

This year one of our cooperators, Jimmy Hall, contract number 14-2019-002, began his project to replace a culvert and stream crossing on his property. His project called for 60 feet of HOPE pipe or as phrased on the ACSP average cost sheet, PIPE- Stormwater Pipe 48in/smooth in/corex. Jimmy voiced his concern multiple times about the cost of the pipe alone in comparison to the contract total. The average cost for this particular pipe is set at \$46 per foot which comes to \$2,070 after the cost share deduction. After collecting multiple cost estimates for the same pipe in our area, we have concluded that the pipe alone, not including installation, will sell no less than \$3,000.

Our estimates from the surrounding areas concluded the following:

Name	Location	Number	Estimate\$
Watson Concrete Pipe Co.	Lenoir, NC	(828)754-6476	\$3,301.78
Mid-Atlantic Drainage	Conover, NC	[828]324-0808	\$3,100
Sipe Lumber Co.***	Taylorsville, NC	(828) 632-4679	\$3,200.24

***Sipe Lumber Company was the chosen supplier due to proximity to project and product transportation costs.

We would like to request that the commission review these estimates in comparison with the average costs listed for ACSP and grant permission to pay this component at 75% of actual cost. We are most likely not the only county experiencing the same situation regarding the HOPE pipe used on our projects. We will be happy to answer any related questions, and we look forward to any improvements made through commission efforts.

Sincerely,



Jack Adams- District Secretary/Treasurer

Caldwell County Soil and Water Conservation District