

## SPRING 2021 District Employee Training Series

Registration closed. To obtain session meeting link contact your Division Coordinator.

### APRIL 2021

#### District Share Session: Organizing and Facilitating Remote Meetings & Outreach – Moderator, Allie Dinwiddie

April 7, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

*Is your district still struggling to hold successful entirely or partially remote meetings? Would you like to learn more about remote meeting equipment and facilitation? Come gain some working knowledge on remote meeting tools and facilitation tricks for online board meetings and other virtual outreach. During this district sharing session, Dru Harrison (New Hanover SWCD), Mikayla Renn (Wake SWCD), and Jessica Hughes & Jennifer Harrison (Buncombe SWCD) will be briefly presenting on how their districts have adjusted to operating more remotely since March 2020. Bring your questions and your experiences to share with the group!*

#### Wildlife Management – Presenters, Don Barker, and CES staff

April 7, 2021, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

*Join Don Barker, NRCS State Wildlife Biologist, and the NC Cooperative Extension Service staff for an introduction to wildlife management concepts, types of habitat, vegetation community management and resources for planners. While not covered by State Cost Share Programs currently, wildlife is a resource concern for federal programs and for your landowners. Please join this session for a good overview of what to look for when working with a cooperator on his conservation plan. – Certified Conservation Planner 1.5 hours ceu*

#### Local Work Groups Overview - Presenters, Julius George, NRCS, & Cayle Aldridge, DSWC,

April 14, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

*What are they, what are they designed to do, how can we make them better. The Local Workgroup convened by the Soil and Water Conservation District provides for grassroots conservation delivery by allowing the local landowner/user a chance to bring their needs to the District collectively. This input is vital for the development of the conservation priorities for the District. In addition, stakeholder participation can add resources to the District and landowner/user for implementing conservation priorities. – Certified Conservation Planner 0.5 hours ceu*

#### How to implement your district's Long-Range Planning through annual planning tools – Facilitator: Ralston James

April 14, 2021, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

*How to use the District's annual planning exercises (strategy plans, local work groups, etc.) in order to implement the District's local long-range plan for conservation and stewardship of its natural resources.*

#### Conservation Innovation Grants– Presenter, Rafael Vega

April 21, 2021, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

*Participants will receive an introduction to Conservation Innovation Grants and its opportunities. These opportunities provide private entities, Universities, state and local government with opportunities to assist NRCS enhance their processes and standards to ensure they are kept abreast of the latest technology, philosophies and techniques in conservation of agricultural systems in the nation. – Certified Conservation Planner 0.5 hours ceu*

#### Impaired/Impacted Stream Survey Benefits to Districts- Presenter, Ken Parks

April 21, 2021, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

*This special cost share program can be worth the effort of doing a stream survey every five years. New, and updated expired surveys are due by June 1, 2021. There is still time to do one! Impaired/Impacted Watershed Initiative (II) allocations are designed to help districts implement regular ag. cost share BMPs within the impaired/impacted watershed. But districts must request II funds on their annual Strategy Plan submittal in addition to their regular cost share request. Join Ken Parks, ACSP specialist, as he walks you through the process of becoming eligible for this funding stream.*

The Connections Between Forestry and Weather – Presenter, Tom Gerow

April 28, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

*Forestry requires a knowledge and awareness of many disciplines, including weather. This talk will highlight some areas of forestry which are directly influenced by weather, including wildfires, the use of prescribed fire, reforestation, timber harvesting, insects & disease, and others.*

What is Up with 5th Grade Weather? – Presenter, Erin Hines

April 28, 2021, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

*Understanding 5th grade weather standards is a challenge for students and educators alike. SWCD educators can help by providing support for teachers in the form of professional development and classroom programs about the weather. Considering the impact of stormwater runoff on water quality, it is easy to see how weather directly impacts our natural resources. Ultimately, helping students and teachers understand the weather system is one more way we can facilitate their understanding of the natural world. Join Erin Hines for an in-depth coverage of the content behind the 5th grade weather standards, as well as activity ideas for both teachers' professional development and classroom programs.*

## **MAY 2021**

Determine Peak Runoff from a Watershed Using EFH-2 and Other Tools – Presenter, Jeff Young

May 4, 2021, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

*Session will instruct participants in the use of Engineering Field Handbook, Chapter 2 (EFH-2) to determine runoff and peak flow from a given watershed. Topics include delineating a watershed, determining average watershed slope, using the runoff curve number method, and estimating watershed length. – CCP 1.5 hours ceu*

Cost Share Programs: RFPs and Receipts – Presenters, Josh Vetter & Paula Day

May 4, 2021, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

*A refresher on requirements and procedures for getting cooperators paid for their conservation BMPs.*

District Confidentiality/Closed Sessions – Presenters, Kristina Fischer & Josh Vetter, Patrick McLoughlin NRCS

May 11, 2021, 1:30-3:00 p.m.

*Recent changes in legislation have affected the information that is held confidential by local soil and water conservation districts. Join us to hear how these changes will impact the way cost share items are presented to your district board, and to learn the proper procedures for closed sessions in public meetings.*

New Employee Orientation (NEO) Training – Division and NRCS Staff

May 11-12-13, 2021, 9:00-11:00 a.m. each morning – You must sign up for all three sessions.

*A series of three mornings of training for district employees with less than three years of service. This NEO is usually held each May in Raleigh. Due to the current pandemic circumstances, it will be held virtually this year.*

Drones for Your District – Presenter, Kayla McCoy, Wilkes

May 18, 2021, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

*Have you been wondering if a drone is a good fit for your district? We will cover how Wilkes SWCD uses a drone in conservation planning. – Certified Conservation Planner 1.0 hours ceu*

Weeds and invasive plant species: From identification to management decisions – Presenter, Dr. Ramon Gonzalez,

NCSU – May 18, 2021, 1:30-2:30 pm

*We will discuss how weeds and invasive plant species are characterized and the different traits that are used to identify them taxonomically and functionally. Also, we will describe how to use different resources at the state and national levels to identify those plants. Finally, we will discuss how detailed the identification must be in order to have enough information to design appropriate management strategies. – Certified Conservation Planner 1.0 hours ceu*

Get to know AgWRAP Agricultural Water Supply Ponds, Pond Repair/Retrofit and Pond Sediment Removal BMPs –

Presenters, Sydney Mucha, Jeff Young – May 20, 2021, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

*Join Technical Services Section Chief, Jeff Young, and AgWRAP Coordinator, Sydney Mucha, as they highlight the three pond related AgWRAP BMPs. The training will cover the Commission's approved policy updates and the process to contract Water Supply Ponds, Pond Repairs/Retrofits and Pond Sediment Removals. It will include needed forms, cost share information, and Technical Services Section needs. Please tune in to the training if you have any questions related to the technical and policy needs for these AgWRAP BMPs.*

Irrigation Conversion & Micro Irrigation – Facilitator, Sydney Mucha; Presenter, Chad Poole, CES

May 20, 2021, 1:30-2:30 pm

*Please join Chad Poole, Assistant Professor and Water Resiliency Extension Specialist from NC State, for an introduction into conservation irrigation conversion and micro-irrigation. This session will cover the basics of irrigation conversion and micro irrigation systems as well as introduce districts to new and innovative ways to implement these water efficiency practices. – Certified Conservation Planner 1.0 hours ceu*

## **JUNE 2021**

Improving Soil Health While Grazing Cropland and Grassland– Presenter, Nathan Lowder

June 8, 2021, 9:00 – 10:30 am

*In this session, we will discuss how to implement a soil health management system in both cropland and grassland land uses. We will discuss the observations of soil health indicators both present and missing while addressing all the soil health planning principles for future management. – Certified Conservation Planner 1.5 hours ceu*

Understanding the Produce Safety Rule and its relation to AGWRAP and ACSP – Presenters Sydney Mucha & Sarah Cope (NCDA&CS Produce Safety Program Outreach Coordinator)

June 8, 2021, 1:30-2:30 p.m. – Certified Conservation Planner 0.5 hours ceu

*This training will cover the basics of the Produce Safety Rule as well as how the PSA will work with AgWRAP and ACSP. Emily Bateman and Mike Dupree of Durham District will also share how districts are adding the PSA to their conservation planning. The training will help districts understand the pros and cons of different sources of agricultural water as well as how to determine the best water system for cooperators while considering the Produce Safety Rule. Districts should attend if they work closely with produce farms that will have to adhere to the Produce Safety Rule.*

Job Approval Authority (JAA) Update – Presenter, Jeff Young

June 15, 2021, 9:00-10:00 am – Certified Conservation Planner 1.0 hours ceu

*An ongoing discussion on the progress of the SWC Commission's Job Approval Authority program, and how district employees can complete the required JAA requirements. Having Job Approval Authority for a common BMP in your district will enable you to expedite help to local cooperators and is a tool for your professional development.*

Sales & Use Tax Training – Facilitator, Kristina Fischer; Presenter, Dept of Revenue Speaker

Tentative June 15, 2021, 1:30-3:00 pm – NO RECORDING will be made.

*If your district sells something (seedlings, seeds, rain barrels, etc.), you need to attend this session.*

JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion) in Environmental Education – Facilitator, Allie Dinwiddie; Presenters, –

June 22, 2021, 9:00-10:30 a.m.

*How can districts reach their local, underserved community? How can district educators be more inclusive, relevant, and empowering to youth? Join this discussion with some outside professionals to explore this topic.*

District Share Session – Contests Roundtable – Facilitators: Erin Hines, Marybeth Watkins

June 22, 2021, 1:30-2:30 pm

*Are you struggling to recruit new teachers to participate in your Contests? Join us for a roundtable discussion as we consider barriers for teachers to participate in Conservation Contests. Topics may include which contests are assigned to which grades, how contest deadlines align with when subjects are taught, and more, as we put our heads together to determine how to best format SWCD contests for school participation.*