

78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS  
**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022**

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
- C. COMMITTEE ELECTIONS
  - 1. Review of Voting Procedures
  - 2. Election of Vice Chairman
  - 3. Election of Representative for the Annual Meeting and Southeast Region Meeting of the NACD
  - 4. Election of Alternate Representative for the Annual Meeting and Southeast Region Meeting of the NACD
- D. EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION – DELIVERABLES AGREEMENT AND STATE MATCH
  - David Williams, Deputy Director, NC DA&CS, Division of Soil and Water Conservation
  - James F (Jim) Kjelgaard, PE, PhD, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS
- E. AQUATIC WEEDS IN NORTH CAROLINA
  - Andrew (Drew) Gay, Aquatic Weed Specialist, NC DEQ, Division of Water Resources
- F. POLICIES & POSITIONS UPDATE
  - 1. The Association supports continuation of Drainage/Service Districts and the creation of new districts as needed. **2019**
  - 2. The Association urges the State and Federal Water Quality Organizations to continue funding and working together in ongoing comprehensive, integrated water quality and water quantity planning at the watershed and basinwide scale. **2020**
  - 3. The Association recommends that local Districts become actively involved in developing and implementing targeted ag sediment and stormwater management projects to identify and deal with problems in identified watersheds and impaired stream segments. The Association urges the Division of Water Resources and Division of Soil and Water Conservation, to support and assist District's efforts by providing additional funding, guidance and coordination of sediment projects with accelerated technical assistance and cost-share funding. **2010**
  - 4. The Association actively supports the Aquatic Weed Control Program of the NC Division of Water Resources and encourages management alternatives that can minimize aquatic weed infestations. **2020**
  - 5. The Association supports the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of PL-566 Small Watershed Program Structures. The Association:

- a. Encourages Federal and State funding to address rehabilitation, restoration and repair or removal of older watershed structures which have reached their design life-span and/or no longer meet safety requirements based on a change in land use, new dam safety requirements, or other factors not associated with inadequate operation and maintenance. The Association shall support NACD, World Environmental and Water Resources Congress, and the National Watershed Coalition in their work with Congress to obtain and sustain funding to support restoration and maintenance of PL-566 structures. **2020**
    - b. Encourages Districts to work with other local sponsors of PL-566 structures to assess the maintenance needs of these structures to enable them to continue to safely provide the benefits for which they were initially installed. **2013**
  6. The Association supports the increase of recurring funding for AgWRAP, to expand water efficiency BMPs and farm pond improvements to increase resiliency against damage from future storms and it encourages the use of this program for conservation of our fresh water resources while providing fresh water for farm production and improving the water quality. **2020**
  7. The Association strongly encourages Districts to develop and implement strategies for improving water use efficiency. **2013, 2021**
  8. The Association supports the responsible construction and maintenance of farm ponds and the 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, Section 111 which requires the Clean Water Act, Section 404(f)(2) to be less burdensome for agricultural activities. **2015**
  9. The Association encourages the authorization of funding to support scientists, engineers and health professionals to continue testing and ensure water protection statewide. Additionally, the Association encourages adequate understanding of environmental and public health implications prior to any discharge of wastewater. **2020**
- G. ACTION ITEMS UPDATE\*

\*Action items #1, #2 and #3 are the top three priorities of this committee

1. The Association supports the creation of a statewide Voluntary Water Management Initiative to (1) provide non-reverting seed funds and technical assistance for critical restoration and maintenance for aging watershed structures for flood control and prevention (such as PL-566 Structures), (2) provide funding for drainage, flooding and safety concerns that may include removal of storm debris from streams and drainageways resulting from severe storm events, and (3) provide technical assistance to develop and implement regional voluntary water management improvement plans. The Association requests \$5,000,000 in recurring appropriations for cost-share and for three new Division positions to implement and maintain this program. The Association further requests \$66,700 in non-recurring funds to equip these positions. **2016**

2. The Association is committed to the proper drainage while maintaining water quality in all areas of the state. The Districts are available to assist the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in assessing the drainage needs within the supervisors' individual communities. The Association urges the NCDOT to continue to work on the drainage issues throughout NC and seek additional funds if needed to work on the problem areas. **2019**
3. The Association encourages and requests the State of North Carolina, in conjunction with US EPA, to establish and enforce water quality standards on the discharge of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), to protect the environment and public health. **2020**
4. The Association urges Districts to become active participants and leaders for local nonpoint source planning and implementation activities using a watershed approach. Individual Districts are encouraged to consider multiple programs and funding sources (such as 319, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, CREP, Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements, Division of Mitigation Services, Community Conservation Assistance Program, etc.) when addressing water quality issues. **2017**
5. The Association President, Water Resources Committee chair, NRCS State Conservationist and the Directors for Energy, Minerals and Land Resources, Water Resources, and Soil and Water Conservation are encouraged to meet and begin efforts to develop a comprehensive long-range strategy to address the restoration, maintenance and safety concerns associated with PL-566 Small Watershed Program structures in North Carolina. **2014**
6. Join with NACD, NASDA, NASCA, Farm Bureau Federation, NC State Grange, and other agricultural interests to seek resolutions and actions from their organizations in support of revising and strengthening the NRCS policy for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for use with removal of storm-related stream debris affecting agricultural land. **2020**
7. The Water Resources Committee authorizes the Chair to form a subcommittee to comment on active Interbasin Transfer proposals during public comment on an as needed basis. **2011**

#### H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### I. ADJOURNMENT