NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2026

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Virtual

Commission Members	Online Guests	Online Guests
Barbara Bleiweis, Chair	Lisa Fine	
Gail Hughes	JD Jorgenson	
Porche Spence	Stephanie Alston	
Matt Reynolds	Lorien Deaton	
Patrick Baker	Shelby Kaplan	
James Lamb	Elise McLaughlin	
Stephen Harris	Mackenzie R Tenan	
Commission Counsel	Caldwell SWCD	
Victor Unnone	Heather Reichert	
Online Guests	Samantha Allbee	
David Williams	Taryn Thompson	
Julie Henshaw	Anne Coan	
Michael Shepherd		
Bryan Evans		
Matt Safford		
Rick McSwain		
Kristina Fischer		
Allie Dinwiddie		
Tinesha McNeil		
Tim Baumgartner		
Ken Parks		

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I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bleiweis called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. PRELIMINARY: Chair Bleiweis charged the Commission members 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.

Welcome – Cell phones set to silent

III. BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Will take place at the Business Meeting

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Will take place at the Business Meeting

- A. May 12,2026, Work Session Meeting Minutes
- B. May 20, 2026, Business Meeting Minutes
- C. June 16, 2026, Special Called – Business Meeting Minutes
- D. July 9, 206, Special Called – Business Meeting Minutes

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. **Division Report:** Will take place at the Business Meeting

4. **Association Report:** Will take place at the Business Meeting

5. **NRCS Report:** Will take place at the Business Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

6. **Consent Agenda:** Chair Bleiweis called Kristina Fischer, John Beck (Lisa Fine presented in his absence), Joshua Vetter, and Michael Shepherd to present

A. Supervisor Appointments & Removal Hearing Update: Kristina presented the following

Stuart L. Baucom, Pender SWCD, filling the appointed position of Trent Talbert for remaining 2024 -2028.

A letter of resignation was received regarding the supervisor that came before the Inquiry committee for neglect of duty; therefore, a hearing is believed to not be necessary.

B. Supervisor Contracts: Lisa Fine presented the following chart**.** Chair, Bleiweis, stated these would be approved by consent at the business meeting unless there were questions. No questions or concerns.

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Bertie	08-2026-002	Ron Swain	Grass Waterway, Field Border	$17,500	
Currituck	27-2026-004	William Powell	Residue and Tilage Managment	$,2705	DBA: Powell Family Farms
Jones	52-2026-005	Kyle Koonce	Cover Crop	$15,000	
Orange	68-2026-005	Richal Vanhook	Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	$7,832	
Scotland	83-2026-004	Tracy Grice	Cropland Conversion to Grass	$2,142	
Warren	93-2026-014	Brandon Pernell	Cover Crop	$1,017	

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Warren	93-2026-014	Tom Traylor	Critical Area Planting	$12,561	
Wilson	98-2026-803	Adam Gardner	Water Supply Well	$10,483	

Total $69,240

C. Job Approval Authority Applicants for Consideration: Joshua Vetter shared the chart below for the commission's consideration.

APPLICANT NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED	JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
Dustin Brewer	Durham SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.
Tyler Cornett	Alexander SWCD	Submission of comparable NRCS JAA	Ag Road Repair and Stabilization
			Rooftop Runoff Management System
Joseph Huntley	Montgomery SWCD	Submission of comparable NRCS JAA	Rooftop Runoff Mgmt. System
Payton Lane	Johnston SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	Cover Crops
Mikey Woodie	Wikes SWCD	Submission of comparable NRCS JAA	All-Season Agricultural Access
			Heavy Use Area Protection
			Tank or Trough

D. Technical Specialist Designations: Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd**.** Mr. Shepard shared the following recommendation.

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

7. **Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Ms. Julie Henshaw presented the following in his absence: Subtopics A. B. and C.

    A. Consideration of ACSP Policy Revisions
        1. **Grassed Waterway**
    B. Detailed Implementation Plan
    C. Average Cost List
    D. District Financial Assistance Allocation
        1. ACSP and impaired/Impacted Allocation
        2. Upper French Broad River Allocation

    Subtopics A- C were discussed at length.
    A. SWCC requests clarification for 5c sentence one to ensure that it is not applicable if the cooperator is not an FSA participant.
    B. SWCC prefers to edit the stream restoration engineering language in the DIP. Add information about TA rule change.
    C. Ms. Henshaw stated that no changes were made, although footnotes were added. No questions were asked.

8. Technical Assistance Allocation: Will take place at the Business Meeting

9. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present.
    A. Detailed Implementation Plan
    B. Average Cost List
    C. District Financial Assistance Allocation

    Ms. Deaton explained the track changes to the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). Recommendation is 20/80 split, which is the same as last year. Clarification of the language was made.

10. **Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Sam Alibee to present. Ms. Alibee presented a power point with the track changes for the DIP.

    - Update CCAP Goals to update and develop JAA Competency exams for six BMP's
    - Allow FY2027 Stream restoration designs to be completed by Division engineers or 3rd party engineers

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A. Detailed Implementation Plan
B. Average Cost List

11. **Special Request –** Ms. Julie Henshaw gave a brief explanation and stated that there are two post approval actions needing consideration by the Commission. In each case, work began on the contract before receiving final approval. Letters from each district explaining their request were presented. Representatives for each district will be at the business meeting.

    A. Caldwell SWCD Post-approval for contract 14-2026-801
    B. Iredell SWCD Post-approval for Contract 49-2026-401

12. **Update from Cost Share Committee –** Chair Bleiweis recognized Commissioner Baker and Ms. Julie Henshaw to share and update of the committee. Commissioner Baker gave the make-up of the committee with an emphasis on problem solving. Ms. Henshaw shared the Cost Share Committee website and its new features. Monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of every month at 9:00am.

13. **Current Issues and Opportunities:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present.
    - A. Biochar Grant- Advancing Markets for Producers
      Total award

    Director Williams shared that we would be receiving a grant called Advancing Markets for Producers. This grant will support the application of biochar onto the land. He shared the hopes of the program and its affiliates.

    - B. UNC Policy Collaboratory Study

    David Williams announced an offer from the UNC Policy Collaboratory, to conduct an economic evaluation of North Carolina's Agricultural Cost Share Program.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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Tim Baumgartner, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Tinesha McNeil, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on July 29, 2026.

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