NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
BUSINESS SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
July 29, 2026

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

Commission Members	Online Guests	Online Guests
Barbara Bleiweis, Chair	Lacie Millsap	Aaron Franks
Gail Hughes	JD Jorgenson	Heather Reichert
Porche Spence	Stephanie Alston	Rachel Smith
Matt Reynolds	Lorien Deaton	Emily F Bateman
Patrick Baker	Shelby Kaplan	Sam Edwards
James Lamb	Elise McLaughlin	Keith Larick
Stephen Harris	Mackenzie R Tenan	Shannon Biddy
Commission Counsel	Charles Bass III	Teresa Furr
Victor Unnone	Casey Turlington-King	Paula Day
Online Guests	Samantha Allbee	Amanda Sand
David Williams	Taryn Thompson	Brandi Talton (Wayne SWCD)
Julie Henshaw	Alexandra Dinwiddie	Vivien Zhong
Michael Shepherd	Amber Rights	Mellisa Patton
Bryan Evans	Julius George	Anne Coan
Matt Safford	Josh Vetter	Justin Nobles
Rick McSwain	Steven Porson	Kayla McCoy
Kristina Fischer	Chris Love	Daniel McClellan
Allie Dinwiddie	Lindsay R. Edwards	Josh Myers
Tinesha McNeil	Tracy Jenkins	Camryn Smith
John Beck	Lisa Fine	Mitch Peele
Tim Baumgartner	Darren Layton	Krishna Tiwari
Ken Parks	Jason Turner	

DRAFT Business Session

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:** Chair Bleiweis asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Matt Reynolds moved to approve the agenda, and Commissioner James Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chair Bleiweis asked for a vote for May 12, 2026, minutes, unless a correction was needed. Commissioner Gail Hughes moved to approve, and Commissioner Steven Harris seconded. Motion carried.

    - A. May 12,2026, Work Session Meeting Minutes

Chair Bleiweis asked for a combined vote for minutes B, C and D, unless a correction was needed. Commissioner James Lamb moved to approve all minutes, and Commissioner Porche Spence seconded. Roll call approval motion carried.

- 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:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. Director Williams provided a division update that included current staffing levels, new hire and vacancies, progress related to the USDA Block Grant, Cost Share Extension Request. The report also included previous training, while highlighting the positive feedback of the 2026 Applied Nutrient Management Training and showcasing upcoming training. Additionally, he shared information on the Yellow-Legged Hornet and the Spotted Lantern Fly.

    2026 Commission Meetings
    - September 16, Orange Co. (Virtual WS 9/8)
    - November 18, Location TBD (Virtual WS on 11/10)

    Dalton presented information on Biochar which will be included as an official part of the minutes. There were much conversation and excitement about the use of Biochar.

4. **Association Report:** Chair Bleiweis recognized President Hughes to present. President Hughes shared the following. NC Association will be hosting the SE NACD meeting August 9 -12 in Cherokee. She shared information on additional Cost Share Funding, Envirothon, Policies, Positions and Action Items as well as the Annual Meeting for 2027. Additionally, she thanked Bryan Evans for all his work on behalf of the association. The Association's written report (Attachment 4) is included as an official part of the minutes.

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5. **NRCS Report:** Chair Bleiweis recognized, Mr. Julius George to present. Mr. George stated that he is filling in at the request of the new state conservationist Mr. Matt Walker, who could not be in attendance today. Mr. George's report (Attachment 5) will be included as an official part of the minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

6. **Consent Agenda:** Chair Bleiweis noted that these items (A.B.C. and D.) were previously discussed in the work session and unless there were objections these items would be considered approved. No objections were noted. All items approved.

These items were presented in July 21, 2026, Work Session

A. Supervisor Appointments & Removal Hearing Update:

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

B. Supervisor Contracts: Presented by Lisa Fine

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 Management	$,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	
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

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C. Job Approval Authority Applicants for 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.

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. Mr. Beck presented updates and clarifications to the items discussed at the July 21, 2026, work session. Mr. Becks' report (Attachment 7A-D) will be included as an official part of the minutes.

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A. Consideration of ACSP Policy Revisions

1. **Grassed Waterway**

GWW policy 5c. was revised to clarify how the provision applies to USDA vs. non – USDA participants.

Commissioner Porche Spence made a motion to approved as written, which Commissioner Matt Reynolds seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed

B. Detailed Implementation Plan

Commissioner Porche Spence made a motion to approve, which Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

C. Average Cost List

Commissioner James Lamb made a motion to approve, which Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

D. District Financial Assistance Allocation – David Williams presented.

1. ACSP and impaired/Impacted Allocation

Commissioner Patrick Baker made a motion to approve Option 4 (Defer $300,000 to September), which Commissioner Matt Reynolds seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

2. Upper French Broad River Allocation

Commissioner Gail Hughes made a motion to approve, which Commissioner James Lamb seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

8. **Technical Assistance Allocation:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. Request Commission Action for the FY2027 Technical Assistance allocation. A copy of the report (Attachment 8) is included as an official part of the minutes.

   Commissioner Gail Hughes motioned to approve. Commissioner Patrick Baker second. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.

9. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. A copy of her report (attachment 9A-C) is included as an official part of the minutes.
   A. Detailed Implementation Plan

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Commissioner Patrick Baker made a motion to approve, which Commissioner James Lamb seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

B. Average Cost List

Commissioner Matt Reynolds made a motion to approve, which Commissioner Porche Spence seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

C. District Financial Assistance Allocation

Commissioner Patrick Baker made a motion to approve them, which Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

10. **Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Sam Alibee to present.

    A. Detailed Implementation Plan – Vote to approve the following changes to CCAP's DIP: Update CCAP Goals to update and develop JAA technical competencies for six BMPS, Allow FY 2027 Stream restoration designs to be completed by Division engineers or 3rd party engineers.

Commissioner Matt Reynolds made a motion to approve, which Commissioner Patrick Baker seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

B. Average Cost List – No changes are proposed to this year's cost list. Action item: Vote to approve CCAp's FY 27 Cost List

Commissioner Gail Hughes made a motion to approve, which Commissioner James Lamb seconded. A roll call was taken. The motion passed.

11. **Special Request –** John Beck stated that there are two special requests for consideration. The Commission Letters from each district explaining their request were presented. Representatives for each district spoke on their behalf.

    A. Caldwell SWCD Post-approval for contract 14-2026-801. Aaron Franks, Jessica Wilson and Supervisor John Clark represented the county for the explanation.

    Commissioner Patrick Baker motioned to approve. Commissioner James Lamb second. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.

    B. Iredell SWCD Post-approval for Contract 49-2026-401 Tracy Jenkins and Lacie Millsaps represented the county for the explanation.

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Commissioner Patrick Baker motioned to approve. Commissioner Gail Hughes second. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Director David Williams introduced the new Director Tim Baumgartner

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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