

**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
Special Called
BUSINESS SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
June 16, 2026**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Virtual Through Microsoft Teams

Commission Members	Guests	Online Guests
Barbara Bleiweis, Chair	James Errante	
Gail Hughes	Paula Day	
James Lamb	Duane Vanhook	
Matt Reynolds	Stephanie Y Alston	
Patrick Baker	Lorien R Deaton	
	Spencer Stock	
	Anne Coan	
Commission Counsel	Sheila M. Mode	
Philip Reynolds	Heather Reichert	
Victor Unnone	Pabitra Aryal	
Guests	Steven Porson	
David Williams	Casey L Turlington-King	
Julie Henshaw	Tyler Ross	
Michael Shepherd		
Bryan Evans		
Matt Safford		
Rick McSwain		
Joshua Vetter		
Rachel Smith		
Tinesha McNeil		
John Beck		

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bleiweis called the meeting to order at 10:00 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. **Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Round 3 and Deferred Round 2**
Allocations: Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. Matt Safford to present. His report (Attachment 2) is included as an official part of the minutes.

Recommendation:

Award Haywood SWCD funding for their approved sites that are NOT on FEMA's list for consideration (total: \$869,801).

Reserve the balance of county cap (\$626,449) so that remaining Haywood SWCD can revise their requests as FEMA completes its work.

The Division requests that the Commission approve the following awards:

- \$10,528,845 in funding to selected applications in Round 3 counties.

Commissioner Gail Hughes motioned to approve. Commissioner Matt Reynolds second. Motion carried.

Other items of discussion will be revisited at a Special Called meeting in July 2026.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: David shared that the Block Grant Application has closed. There were 521 applications that involved roads, bridges and culverts and there is a lot of work ahead. Additionally, he will send out a list for districts to be able to get a list of the applicants for Block Grant.

VI. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

David B. Williams, 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.