North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes Committee Minutes
June 22, 2022 1:30 p.m. – 2:30p.m.
Hall of Fame , NCDA&CS
Conference Call: 984-204-1487
Conference: 43651512#

Attendees:
Committee members present:

- Weston McCorkle, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- Ariel Aponte, Assistant Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- Kyle Briggs, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- Robert Bardon, College of Natural Resources, NCSU
- Chester Lowder, Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison

Other Attendees: Steve Troxler, David Smith, Joe Austin, Jonathan Lanier, Janine McLawhorn, Evan Davis, Laura Brookshire, Rodney Woolard, Denise Evans, Chris Baille, Sabrina Shaffer, Nancy Richardson, Mary Lou Addor, Jon Shaw, Ethan Brogden, Malcolm Charles, Marty Korenek, Amanda Sands, Carmen Lombardo, Rhonda Murray, Veronica Jamison, Will Best, Tom Potter, Edward Davis, Michelle Lovejoy, Grace Lawrence, Steve Woodson, Will Summer and Allison Rodriguez.

Reading of Ethics Reminder ETHICS REMINDER: Under the State Government Ethics Act, the chairman is required to remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts of interest. If you have any conflict or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda, please state this for the record and refrain from inappropriate participation on that item.

March 10, 2022 Approval of Minutes Bob Barton moved to approve and Chester Lowder second the motion. The Minutes were approved.

Evan Davis gave the report for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and reported on current military contracts totaling 1,771.08 acres:

Farm Name	Military Partner	County	Grantee	Length	Acres
Riggs Farm	Navy/MCIEAST	Jones	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	63.1
G&H Properties	USAF-SJAFB	Hyde	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	291.6
Columbia NC Farm	USAF-SJAFB	Washington	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	679.14
Linden Carolina Farm	USAF-SJAFB	Washington	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	737.24

Davis reviewed upcoming contracts with military partners:

Farm Name	Military Partner	County	Grantee	Length	Acres
McCotter Farm Phase I	Navy/MCIEAST	Pamlico	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	1,217.87
Armstrong Farm	USAF-SJAFB	Hyde	The Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	650

Davis reviewed the military partnership agricultural conservation easements since July 2016:

Military Partner	Acres Conserved	Easements Recorded	Counties
USAF-SJAFB	8,541.224	15	Bertie, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington
Navy/MCIEAST	936.211	1	Pamlico
TOTAL	**9,477.435**	**16**	

Davis reviewed the MOU with the NC Military Affairs Commission:

Project	Award	Expenses through May 2022	Balance
NCDA&CS Outreach	$300,000	$113,705.61	$186,294.39
NCSU Project	$160,000	$84,072.71	$75,927.29
NCFSWC Project	$140,000	$79,615.09	$60,384.91
TOTAL	**$600,000**	**$277,393.41**	**$322,606.59**

Ariel Aponte gave the report for the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs which included an announcement of a July public hearing in Chatham County, as well as an announcement of the Warfighter Summit & Exposition in Fayetteville on July 27th and 28th. Ariel also gave updates on the growth in Fort Bragg and joint efforts with Department of Transportation to secure funding to fix road conditions.

Will Summer provided an update for the NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources. He stated that since the last meeting the board approved $15M in grants with the North Carolina Land and Water Fund.

Kyle Briggs with the NC Wildlife Resources Commission spoke about the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker and the goals to protect their habitat. Kyle mentioned Bear Garden and the 500 acres to be cleared. He also spoke about the Green Growth Toolbox, which helps communities develop in ways that protect wildlife habitats.

Robert Bardon gave the report for the NC State University of College and Natural Resources

- Since the last update, the NCLWF Board has approved guidelines and a rating system for our Flood Risk Reduction Program.

- The goal is to reduce flood risks through the design, implementation, and preservation of nature-based infrastructure.
- $15 million available
- Letter of Interest forms are available on our website: nclwf.nc.gov
  Deadline: August 31stNorth Carolina Department of Natural Resources gave a update on the NC Land and Water Fund. North Carolina Land and Water Fund (NCLWF) Recap of stats for the recent grant cycles: • 2021 – Over $60 million awarded • 16 in ENCSL for $20.4 M and 19,712 acres • 2022 – 195 applications and $180 million requested • 24 in ENCSL for $19.8 M and 10,525 acres • Decisions on 2022 awards will be made in September • Approximately $70 million is anticipated to be available
  Cameron Ingram gave a update from the NC Wildlife Resources, Commission gave updates on up coming new year.
  Mary Lou and Robert Bardon reported on the NC State University College of Natural Resources She spoke on the resources programming in Support of Military Readiness for Marine Corps Installations East (MCIEAST) Rapid pine: Rapidly Advancing Decarbonization from Pine Systems
  Creating Equitable, Resilient Communities. Bob reports on the NC State Coastal Resilience and sustainability initiative.

Chester Lowder Sentinel Landscape Partnerships
1. Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Defense, the Department of Interior, and the Department of Agriculture signed. **FCC will be responsible for supporting an implementation plan among the FCC members.**

Initially, Sentinel Landscapes focused on immediate encroachment threats, the program and accompanying policy efforts has grown to include habitat and climate concerns and emerging threats. Adaption planning is a tool to promote resiliency in and around the installation while at the same time, the Sentinel Landscapes focuses on all encroachment risks as a complementary effort for long-term mitigation.

2. Federal Coordinating Committee selected three new Sentinel Landscapes (as of February 2022, which provides a total of 10 Sentinel Landscapes in the US including.
a. Camp Bullis (San Antonio Hill Country) Sentinel Landscape
b. Northwest Florida Sentinel Landscape
c. Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape
Under consideration by the FCC is the addition of Virginia and South Carolina Sentinel Landscapes based on revisions to their Sentinel Landscape Application

1. **FY 22 REPI Challenge Award - $1.8M allocated**
   a. $971K – Fort Bragg = implementation of a 4-year wildfire management plan, assessments of current surface water flooding issues, and the role of Climate Change on RCW productivity. Partners involved include TNC, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, NC State Parks, and other local initiatives.
   b. $800K – MCIEAST Climate Resilience Conservation easement to manage surface water runoff.
   c. SJAFB recognized by the REPI Office as part of the original pre-proposal and for tertiary benefits that the FY22 award provides to SJAFB.

2. **FY 23 REPI Challenge RFP**

a. planning underway for FY23

2. **FY 2023 –** Sentinel Landscape Recognition Event – number of partners/individuals to be recognized for their contributions in North Carolina's landscape-scale management**.**

4. ENCSL Strategic "Action" Plan

a. update of the ENCSL Strategic "Action" Plan (completed Sept 2021)

b. fold in Resilience Plan

c. expects to present July to Partnership with proposed committee assignments and monthly meetings until end of December.

Ariel Aponte and Dr. Mary Lou Addor gave an update on the MOTSU and Camp Butner Consideration as part of the ENCSL and 2022 REPI Challenge. They stated we did not do so well in the rankings and are going to have to possibly resubmit again with a new packet and see what they are looking for in submission to possibly get it approved this next time.

Additional Sentinel Landscape Committee Business Items no other business currently.

Meeting is Adjourned at 2:30 pm