North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee



March 3, 2020

Agenda

1:30 pm	Welcome and Introduction ➢ Committee Member Roll Call ➢ Steve Troxler, Commissioner, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services ➢ Ariel Aponte, Assistant Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs ➢ Reid Wilson, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources ➢ Gordon Myers, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission ➢ Dr. Myron F. Floyd, Interim Dean, College of Natural Resources, NCSU ➢ Chester Lowder, Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture Veronica Jamison ADFP Trust Fund Office Manager
1:35 pm	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.	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
1:36 pm	Approval of Minutes for December 5, 2019	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
1:40 pm	Committee Member Reports Pertaining to NC Sentinel Landscape Activities ➢ NCDA&CS Report ➢ NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report ➢ NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Report ➢ NC Wildlife Resources Commission Report ➢ College of Natural Resources - NCSU Report ➢ Sentinel Landscape Partnership Report	Dewitt Hardee Farmland Preservation Director Ariel Aponte Assistant Secretary Reid Wilson Deputy Secretary Gordon Myers Executive Director Dr. Myron F. Floyd Interim Dean Chester Lowder Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison
2:30 pm	EEG Grant Award and REPI Challenge Grant Application Status	Evan Davis Farmland Preservation Assistant Director
2:50 pm	Additional Sentinel Landscape Committee Business Items	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
3:00 pm	Public Comments	Public Attendees
305 pm	Next Meeting, Assignments & Adjournment	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture

Committee Member Roll Call

- **Steve Troxler**, Commissioner, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- **Ariel Aponte**, Assistant Secretary, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- **Reid Wilson**, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- **Gordon Myers**, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- **Dr. Myron F. Floyd**, Interim Dean, College of Natural Resources-NCSU
- **Chester Lowder**, Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison

Ethics Reminder

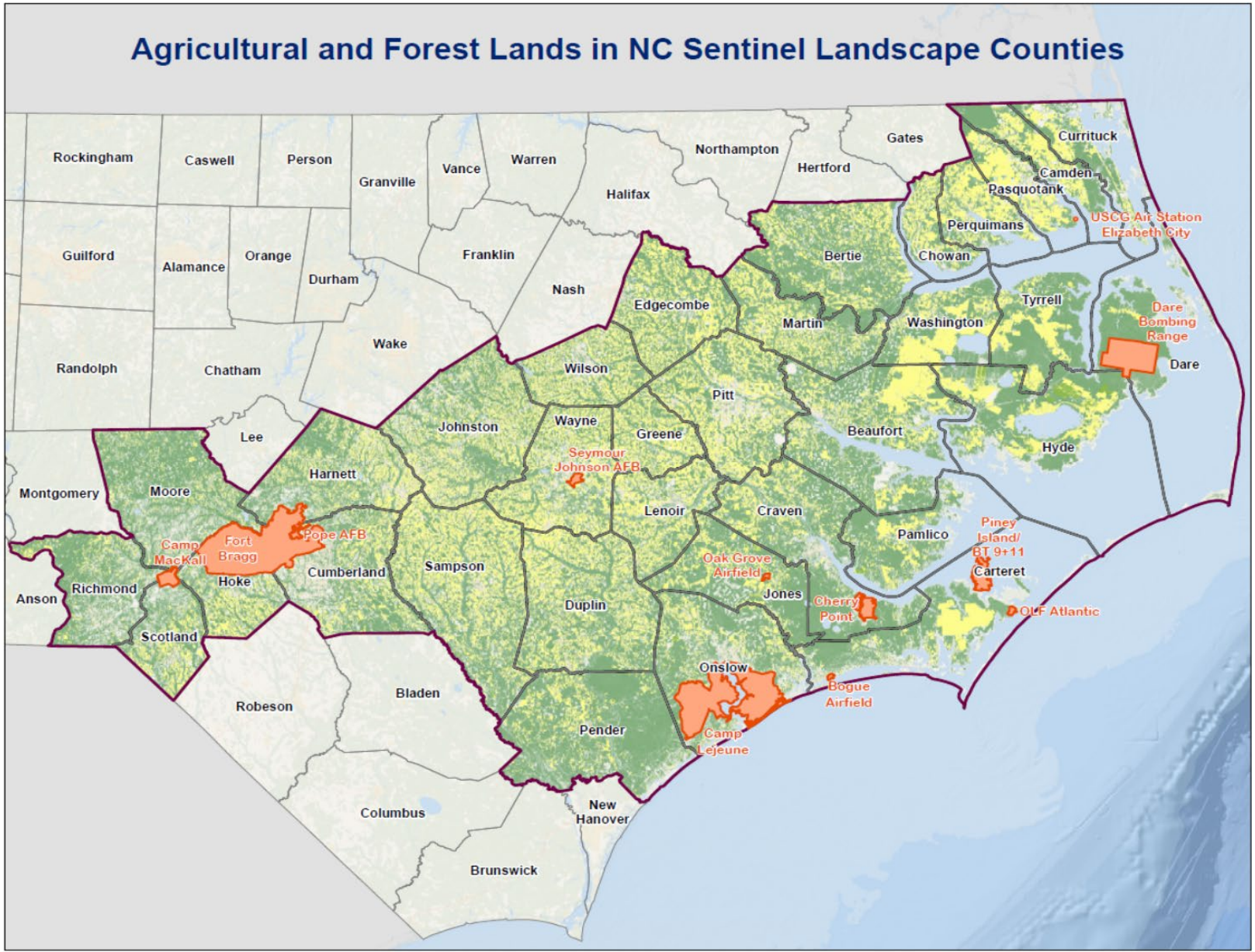
- *Under the State Government Ethics Act, the chairman is required to remind all members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest or appearances of conflicts of interest. If you have any conflict or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any item on the agenda, please state this for the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

Approval of Minutes

- December 5, 2019

NCDA&CS ENCSL Program Updates

Eastern NC Sentinel Landscape





NCDA&CS joins USDA and Air Force for historic conservation partnership

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has recently partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service and the U.S. Air Force to record five conservation easements in eastern North Carolina. This marks the first ever easements to use funding from these three sources at the state and federal levels, and a first for a streamlined approach to conservation restrictions.

"This project represents a new level of coordination between state and federal agencies, and protects land that benefits us all," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "Agriculture is North Carolina's biggest industry followed by the military, and it is more important than ever that we work to protect the farmland that produces our food and fiber and maintains our military readiness."

Conservation easements set restrictions on uses of land to help preserve it and prevent overdevelopment. Previous easements with multiple funding sources would have each signatory's restrictions recorded separately, requiring landowners to consult each agency individually to keep track of their obligations. The five new easements, the last of which was recorded on Jan. 8, use a "common template" in which all partners agree on a single list of restrictions in order to simplify the process.

"The Natural Resources Conservation Service uses the Farm Bill's Agricultural Land Easement Program and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program to secure conservation easements within the project's scope," said Timothy Beard, USDA NRCS State Conservationist. "The Agricultural Land Easement Program helps landowners and other entities protect, restore and enhance wetlands, grasslands and working farms through conservation easements. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that help expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed and regional natural resource concerns."

The five easements recorded by the Working Lands Trust include one in Hyde County and four in Tyrrell County. All five easements are located beneath airspace important to the mission of Seymour Johnson Air Force base in Goldsboro. These easements protect Air Force training operations and reduces the potential of incompatible land uses.

The easements are also part of the federal Sentinel Landscape program, which designates 33 counties in eastern North Carolina as areas of mutual interest to the USDA, United States Department of Defense and United States Department of the Interior.

2016 RCPP Conservation Easement Projects

- 2,028 acres
- 5 easements
- 3 Landowners
- First time for ALE-ADFP-USAF

9:30 am	Coffee, Juice, Sausage Biscuits	Sponsored by NC State Grange
10:00 am	Welcome	Steve Troxler *Commissioner of Agriculture*
10:10 am	Overview of North Carolina Farm Preservation Options and Today's Panel Sessions	Dewitt Hardee *Farmland Preservation Director*
10:25 am	What is and How to Be a Member of a Voluntary Agricultural District	Evan Davis *Farmland Preservation Assistant Director*
10:40 am	The Fundamentals of an Agricultural Conservation Easement	Greg Walker *NRCS Assistant State Conservationist*
11:00 am	Conservation Easement from the Eyes of the Landowner & Conservation Easement Holder–Panel Conversation	Moderator: Dewitt Hardee Landowners: Lin Andrews *Chatham County Landowner* Randy Hubers *Hyde County Landowner* Faylene Whitaker *Randolph County Landowner* Easement Holders: Garrett James Budds *Working Lands Trust Executive Director* Angie B. Quinn *Duplin County Soil & Water Department Head*
11:30 am	What is the Landowner's Legal Interests by Participating in VAD, EVAD, PUV or Conservation Easement?	Moderator: Evan Davis Panel: Jon Lanier *NCDA&CS Assistant General Counsel* Stephen A. Woodson *NC Farm Bureau Associate General Counsel* Jeremy Stone *Chief, Easement Acquisition Branch, USDA-NRCS* Mark Megalos, PH. D, NCRF #728 *NCSU Extension Professor – Forestry Resources*



Southern Farm Show Farmland Preservation Forum – February 5, 2020

Regional Conservation Easement Workshops

NCDA&CS ADFPTF & USDA NRCS Conservation Easement Workshop - 2020		
Location & Date		
Time	**Session**	**Session Lead**
9:30 am	Welcome & Program Overview	ADFPTF Regional Coordinator
9:40 am	USDA and NCDA&CS Conservation Program Conservation Easement Objectives, Fundamentals & Funding	Dewitt Hardee *Farmland Preservation Director* Greg Walker *NRCS Assistant State Conservationist*
9:55 am	Conservation Easement Terms and Definitions	Laura Brookshire *Farmland Preservation Document Specialist* Terry Foreman *NRCS Easement Program Specialist*
10:05 am	The Who, When, How and the Application / Selection Process	Evan Davis *Farmland Preservation Assistant Director* Brian Loadholt *NRCS Easement Specialist*
10:25 am	Break and Stretch	
10:35 am	Securing the Grant Contract	Laura Brookshire *Farmland Preservation Document Specialist* Terry Foreman *NRCS Easement Program Specialist*
10:55 am	Contractual Progress & Budget Reporting Requirements	David Mitchell *ADFPTF Budget Officer* Veronica Jamison *ADFPTF Office Manager* Terry Foreman *NRCS Easement Program Specialist*
11:15 am	Ask the Expert from Previous Presenters	ADFPTF Regional Coordinator
11:30 am	Overview on the Recommended Steps to Develop and Close a Conservation Easement	Dewitt Hardee *Farmland Preservation Director* Greg Walker *NRCS Assistant State Conservationist*
12:00 pm	Lunch	Farm Credit – NC State Grange – NC Farm Bureau
12:45 pm	Development of Required Conservation Easement Documents (Survey, Easement Language, Appraisal, Baseline, Environmental Reports, Land Conservation Documents)	Dewitt Hardee *Farmland Preservation Director* Greg Walker *NRCS Assistant State Conservationist*
1:05 pm	Development of Required Legal Documents and Legal Approval Steps (Title Search, Title Opinion, Title Policy, Easement Language, HUD)	Janine McLawhorn *NCDA&CS Paralegal II* Jon Lanier *NCDA&CS Assistant General Counsel* Brian Loadholt *NRCS Easement Specialist* Terry Foreman *NRCS Easement Program Specialist*
1:35 pm	Ordering Your Easement Closing Funding and Final Grant Contract Funding	David Mitchell *ADFPTF Budget Officer* Terry Foreman *NRCS Easement Program Specialist*
1:50 pm	Reports and Monitoring Following Conservation Easement Recording	Evan Davis *Farmland Preservation Assistant Director* Brian Loadholt *NRCS Easement Specialist*
2:05 pm	Ask the Expert from Previous Presenters	ADFPTF Regional Coordinator
2:30 pm	Adjourn	

Six Farmland Preservation Workshops Being Held Throughout North Carolina

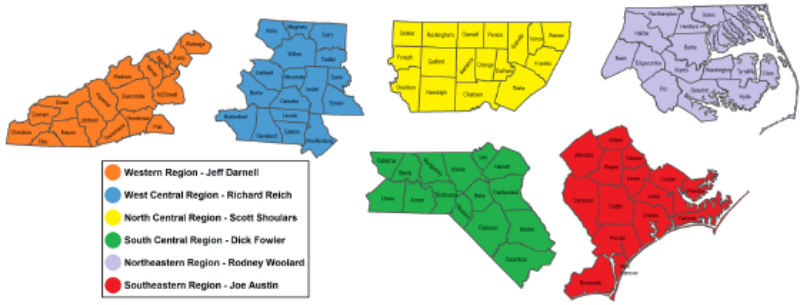
The NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund will host six workshops throughout the state for landowners, local governments, and nonprofits interested in protecting their communities' agricultural lands. The workshops are open to the public.

Regional workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on the following dates and locations:

- **Feb. 20 – Maxwell Regional Ag & Convention Center, 3114 Wayne Memorial Dr, Goldsboro, NC 27534**
- **Feb. 25 – Bob Martin Eastern Ag Center, 2900 NC-125, Williamston, NC 27892**
- **Mar. 5 – Iredell County Center, 444 Bristol Dr, Statesville, NC 28687**
- **Mar. 10 – Chatham County Ag Center, 1192 US-64 BUS, Pittsboro, NC 27312**
- **Mar. 17 – Owens Ag Center, 455 Caton Rd, Lumberton, NC 28360**
- **Apr. 1 – Virginia Boone Building, WNC Ag Center, 765 Boylston Hwy, Fletcher, NC 28732**

Workshops are free, but advanced registration is required. For more information and to register, go to www.ncadfp.org.

NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Regional Staff



Please contact your regional staff member for more information on the preservation workshops or for more information on farmland preservation and NC ADFP Trust Fund's programs. You can also contact our main office at (919) 707-3071 or at ncadfp@ncagr.gov or visit www.ncadfp.org.

Western Region	Jeff Darnell	jeffrey.darnell@ncagr.gov
West Central Region	Richard Reich	richard.reich@ncagr.gov
North Central Region	Scott Shoulars	scott.shoulars@ncagr.gov
South Central Region	Dick Fowler	dick.fowler@ncagr.gov
Northeastern Region	Rodney Woolard	rodney.woolard@ncagr.gov
Southeastern Region	Joe Austin	joe.austin@ncagr.gov

ADFPTF Easement Priority Projects

- Military
  - 2017 REPI Funding (USAF)
  - Completion of 1st ADFP- NAVY Easement
    - Spring Creek Farm (target)
- 2018 RCPP Parcels
  - Finalize USDA NRCS eligibility of selected ADFP/military parcels
- ADFPTF grant contracts ending on September 30, 2020

NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Report

NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Report

NC Wildlife Resources Commission Report

College of Natural Resources-NCSU Report

Sentinel Landscape Partnership Report

Partnership Funding Update

- NC Attorney General Office Environmental Enhancement Grant (EEG) Program
  - Awarded $46,292 for the Wooten Farm Easement
- Department of Defense Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge
  - Submitted pre-proposal of $10M on 1-24-20
  - Notification for full proposal expected 2-21-20
- USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - Submitted proposal of $8,506,494 on 12-3-19

Additional Business Items



Public Comments



Next Meeting, Assignments, & Adjournment

