North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee



September 12, 2023

Agenda

1:00 pm	Welcome and Introduction ➢ Committee Member Roll Call ➢ Steve Troxler, Commissioner, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services ➢ Rick Long, Installation Coordinator, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs ➢ Jeff Michael, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources ➢ Cameron Ingram, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission ➢ Dr. Myron F. Floyd, Dean, College of Natural Resources, NCSU ➢ Chester Lowder, Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture Veronica Jamison Farmland Preservation Office Manager
1:05 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
1:06 pm	Approval of Minutes for June 20, 2023	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
1:10 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	Evan Davis Farmland Preservation Director Rick Long Installation Coordinator Jeff Michael Deputy Secretary Cameron Ingram Executive Director Dr. Myron F. Floyd Dean Chester Lowder Sentinel Landscape Partnership Liaison
2:10 pm	2023 North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee Annual Report	Corey Hoilman Farmland Preservation Assistant Director Sarah Weavil Farmland Preservation Document Specialist
2:20 pm	Additional Sentinel Landscape Committee Business Items	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture
2:25 pm	Public Comments	Public Attendees
2:30 pm	Next Meeting, Assignments & Adjournment	Steve Troxler Commissioner of Agriculture

Committee Member Roll Call

- **Steve Troxler**, Commissioner, NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
- **Rick Long**, Installation Coordinator, NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
- **Jeff Michael**, Deputy Secretary, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
- **Cameron Ingram**, Executive Director, NC Wildlife Resources Commission
- **Dr. Myron F. Floyd**, 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

- June 20, 2023

NCDA&CS ENCSL Program Updates

Current Contracts

Farm Name	Military Partner	County	Grantee	Length	Acres
G&H Properties	USAF-SJAFB	Hyde	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	291.60
Futral Farm	MCIEAST	Onslow	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	485.01
Jenkins Farm	MCIEAST	Jones	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	197.30
Small Farm I	MCIEAST	Jones	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	138.68
Small Farm II	MCIEAST	Jones	Working Lands Trust	Perpetual	31.04
				Total Acres	1,146.63

Military Partnership Agricultural Conservation Easements Since July 2016

Military Partner	Acres Conserved	Easements Recorded	Counties
USAF-SJAFB	10,614.754	19	Bertie, Hyde, Tyrrell, Washington
Navy/MCIEAST	2,214.591	3	Jones, Pamlico
TOTAL	**13,393.735**	**22**	**6**

MOU with NC MAC

Project	Award	Expenses thru August 2023	Balance
NCDA&CS Project	$375,000	$230,604.75	$144,395.25
NCSU Project	$200,000	$94,983.23	$105,016.77
NCFSWC Project	$175,000	$93,553.18	$81,446.82
TOTAL	**$750,000**	**$419,141.16**	**$330,858.84**

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

Research of Interest

Climate Change Is Increasing Wildfire Risks for Forests. What Can We Do About It? written by Laura Oleniacz and based on her interview with researcher Robert Scheller (Aug 14, 2023). College of Natural Resources at NC State University

Recent wildfires in Hawaii and parts of Canada underscore the importance of wildfire prevention and management. Research from NC State is helping to better understand and possibly mitigate – increased risks for forests associated with climate change, including from wildfires. While wildfires are not necessarily new, their frequency, size, duration and intensity are "*pretty readily*" linked with a changing climate, according to Robert Scheller, associate dean of North Carolina State University's College of Natural Resources and professor of forestry and environmental resources.

Scheller reports that the frequency of wildfire events, and the area burned, is closely linked to temperature and precipitation such as higher temperatures and drought. And uses computer modeling to understand risks for forests from wildfires, drought and insects in the future under climate change. He has been involved in studies on everything from estimating tree mortality by wildfire in the Southern Appalachian mountains to projecting the benefit of efforts to reduce fuel loads in forests of California. For the complete article and insights about costs and benefits of solutions for mitigating these wildfire risks, please visit: ***https://news.ncsu.edu/2023/08/climate-change-is-increasing-wildfire-risks-for-forests-what-can-we-do-about-it***

NC STATE UNIVERSITY College of Natural Resources

For Two Backyard Bird Species, More Light Pollution Is Linked to Lower Survival
written by Laura Oleniacz (Aug 14, 2023) and based on the following study Using citizen science data to investigate annual survival rates of resident birds in relation to noise and light pollution. Published: July 27, 2023, Urban Ecosystems. Pharr, L. Cooper, C., Evans, B., Moorman, C., Voss, M., Vukomanovic, J., and Marra, P. College of Natural Resources at NC State University.

A new study, led by North Carolina State University researchers, finds artificial light at night is linked to lower survival for two backyard bird species (house wren and gray cat bird) living year-round near Washington D.C., while artificial light is linked to increased survival for the American robin. While light pollution at night is known to be a deadly hazard for migratory birds, disorienting them and increasing collisions with buildings, this new research could be significant in understanding whether backyard birds or specific species of backyard birds, can thrive around cities as urbanization expands.

"This study focused on more generalist bird species that are more abundant in metropolitan areas than others," said the study's lead author Lauren Pharr, a graduate student in NC State's Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology program. "These findings are raising awareness about our use of light and suggest there may be things we can do to help backyard birds that live around us. When it comes to light pollution specifically, there may be things we can do as humans to increase bird survival and help them thrive." For the complete article and additional information on the study: https://cnr.ncsu.edu/2023/08/14/for-two-backyard-bird-species-more-light-pollution-is-linked-to-lower-survival/

Publications of Interest

Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF), & Partners Release New Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the South

A team of forestry Extension professionals from Southern Regional Extension Forestry (SREF), North Carolina State University (NCSU), University of Georgia (UGA), Auburn University, The Nature Conservancy, Piedmont Council, and the Alachua Conservation Trust have recently released the “Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region.” The "Guidebook” is designed to help burners of all experience levels set and meet their goals. This Guidebook proceeds step-by-step through the processes involved in planning, preparing for, and conducting a prescribed burn on your land. The Guidebook is available as a PDF: Guidebook for Prescribed Burning in the Southern Region — Southern Regional Extension Forestry (sref.info)

Workshop of Interest

Roanoke Cooperative’s Sustainable Forestry and Land Retention Project annual Forest Landowner Conference will be held October 25-26, 2023, at the Event Center in Rocky Mount NC (285 NE Main Street, Rocky Mount, NC). The conference runs 8:30 am-3:30pm each day. Expect 125-175 participants. Agencies can work with conference hosts to exhibit as well as attend the conference. Registration is required and exhibit needs as soon as possible. Registration Deadline October 16 COB at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-forest-landowner-conference-tickets-698474214177?aff=oddtdtcreator
Contact Sherwynn Best SFLRP’s Administrative Assistant(252-539-4614) sbest@roanokecooperative.com) for additional information.

Position of Interest

NC Forestry Extension welcomes Jameson Boone, the Forest Management Specialist to NC State University. Before joining NC State Extension, Jameson was a service forester with the NC Forest Service for six years, providing technical assistance to landowners. Jameson graduated from NC State University with a B.S. in Forest Management in 2015 and an M.S. in Forestry in 2017. Jameson is a registered forester with the State of North Carolina. In his Extension role, Jameson plans to provide forestry knowledge and resources that help landowners make informed decisions about managing and improving their forest resources. Jameson can be reached at: jdboone3@ncsu.edu or 919-515-9563.

Sentinel Landscape Partnership Report



National Sentinel Landscape Partnership

- July 10-13, 2023: The ENCSL Partnership Coordinator and the ENCSL Coastal Climate Adaptation and Resilience Coordinator attended the **Department of Defense (DOD) Climate Resilience workshop** in St. Louis, MO. The workshop provided a forum for DOD stakeholders and partners to explore the many facets of climate change, a national security threat that has tangible impacts to military readiness. Installations, environmental organizations, and climate change professionals were broadly represented to help inform the Military Departments on data, tools, and resources for addressing and combatting climate change threats. Workshop attendees shared lessons learned on built and natural infrastructure solutions and set the course for new and improved partnerships to connect missions, resources, and communities in support of military installation resilience.

- Sept 5-9, 2023: The ENCSL Partnership Coordinator and the ENCSL Coastal Climate Adaptation and Resilience Coordinator attended the **National Land Trust Rally** in Portland. The workshop provided a forum for 2,100 conservation specialists and leaders to build new competencies and share knowledge and concepts about current and emerging conservation practices that can be utilized back at home-base.

  Both Coordinators attended a full day workshop developed by the REPI Team and Legacy Works. The session was in part, communications about FY23 Funding Obligations, FY24 Projected Budget (Presidential Budget for REPI $179M), and Unliquidated Obligations.

- *Continued from Rally Workshop ….*

Unliquidated Obligation was a critical discussion point; even more important now to execute dollars long before the 5-year fund cancellation deadline. For those transactions taking longer than anticipated, needs to be a clear plan for expending the funds with frequent status updates to OSD. The REPI Program received 22 FY24 REPI Challenge full proposals requesting over $54M (up from 17 Full Proposals received last year requesting $51M). In addition to match of those proposals that will be selected, $25M will be allocated from the REPI Program. The FCC received 10 interest forms for the 2024 Sentinel Landscape Designation Cycle. Following the review process, an April 2024 announcement is expected.

Eastern NC Sentinel Landscape Partnership

The Principals help coordinate the delivery of the Partnership goals, aiming to optimize the benefits of federal, state, local and other assistance to private landowners whose working and natural lands, including lands managed for wildlife and habitat conservation, serve to protect the military mission and natural infrastructure areas of the North Carolina. Highlighted this reporting cycle is the development of a DRAFT Strategic Plan (DRAFT) to be reviewed by the Principals, eventually the broader Partnership, and our Legacy Partners. The Principals are tasked with development of the vision statement that will allow each subsequent 5-year plan to contribute overall to the long-term vision, mission, and goals of the ENCSL.



Eastern NC Sentinel Landscape Partnership

ENCSL Progress Summary:

In addition to the program highlight, efforts this quarter focused on the development or completion of new projects while enhancing current efforts and deliverables to produce organizational or cross-sector results and outcomes.

This quarter included the following:

1. final design and launch of the new ENCSL Partnership website that will improve outreach and communication about the ENCSL and provide access to the Principals of archival Partnership information. Several of you provided feedback to help shape the development of the website.

2. ongoing administration and facilitation support of the current landscape Partnership network and infrastructure which has included in-person as well as virtual meetings to provide discussion and engagement between the members about specific topics and support collaborative decision-making.

3. continuing to work with military partners and willing landowners to secure options and/or easements that provide a broader base of compatible landuse near installations and where appropriate, are coupled with natural lands.

4. working with installation points of contact to secure steps for the development of a MIR or off-base climate resilient plan (connecting community and the installation).

5. revised ENCSL Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) operational through 2026.

SENTINEL LANDSCAPES

- 6. North Carolina submitted 3 full proposals this year to America the Beautiful, and 1 full proposal to the Land Water Conservation Fund with REPI Match. Other funding proposals are being developed before December 2023.
- 7. continued development of the Neuse Urban and Rural Partnership for Seymour Johnson AFB (Johnston County) and the development of resilience projects (Wayne County). Lou is working directly with Johnston County; Chris with Wayne County.
- 8. boundary extension request to the Federal Coordinating Committee to include MOTSU and Camp Butner is expected to be submitted in October, 2023.
- 9. presentations on the ENCSL are being provided at the upcoming NC Defense Summit and being scheduled with local commissions.

2023 North Carolina Sentinel Landscape Committee Annual Report

Additional Business Items



Public Comments



Next Meeting, Assignments, & Adjournment

