NC Soil and Water Conservation

New District Supervisor Quick Reference Guide



Provided by the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, a division of the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
(June 2016, v5)

Welcome!

Congratulations for being elected or appointed as a soil and water conservation district supervisor in North Carolina! Your role is very important to help implement soil and water conservation programs that positively impact the citizens of your community.

This quick reference guide is designed to give you a brief overview of your role and responsibilities, as well as help you become familiar with North Carolina's soil and water conservation program.

North Carolina has one of the top soil and water conservation programs in the country. You are now a part of an important team that will continue to lead and drive important initiatives that are critical to help protect our state's natural resources. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity -- welcome aboard!

What is a Soil and Water Conservation District?

In North Carolina, soil and water conservation districts are organized as governmental subdivisions of the state and as independent political units under **North Carolina General Statue 139.** Most people would think of a district as a territory or border, like that of a county. In the case of soil and water conservation, **the district is the board**, which has the authority to hire district conservation employees if they so choose to help assist them with implementing the state's soil and water conservation programs. It is important to remember that **district conservation employees are hired to assist the district boards**, not the other way around.

Districts work closely with county, state and federal governments and public/private organizations to carry out conservation programs that protect and improve the county's natural resources while assisting private landowners in using conservation practices. In North Carolina, some districts have taken on regulatory responsibilities, in which district law gives the board authority to pass and enforce local ordinances.

The Role of a District Supervisor

What is the role of a soil and water conservation district board and supervisor in North Carolina?

The role of a district board of supervisors is to **establish local soil and water conservation priorities and oversee implementation of programs based on the needs of the district.**

Boards of supervisors **meet regularly (generally monthly)** to address priorities through the installation and implementation of programs and best management practices that protect and improve the natural resources within the district.

> The work is accomplished by partnering with local, state, and federal agencies; businesses; and non-profit organizations for technical and financial assistance. The **board is also responsible for reviewing and approving contracts** for four key programs administered by the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation. These include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), which are described in more detail later in this quick reference guide. The North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation is part of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

How many districts and supervisors are there in North Carolina?

In North Carolina there are **492 soil and water district supervisors** that operate within **96 districts**. Why 96 districts and not 100 districts? It is true that most soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) in the state coincide with their county borders; however, there is one exception – the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District located in the eastern part of our state. This district encompasses a five-county area, including Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Pasquotank and Perquimans counties**.** The Albemarle district is one of four districts that have kept their original names, the other three being the Brown Creek SWCD (Anson County), Fishing Creek SWCD (Halifax County), and New River SWCD (Ashe County).

Key Points

- 492 soil and water district supervisors are in North Carolina
- North Carolina has 96 soil and water conservation districts
- Districts have five-member boards – three members are elected on a general ballot, two members are appointed
- District supervisors establish soil and water conservation priorities based on the needs of their district
- The board "is" the district

What is the governance of a board of district supervisors?

Each district is governed by a **five-member board** of supervisors. **Three supervisors are elected** on the general ballot as non-partisan candidates during the regular election of county officers, and **two are appointed** by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission upon recommendation of the local district board of supervisors. An exception to this is the Albemarle Soil and Water Conservation District, which is guided by a board of 17 supervisors (3 elected for each county, and two appointed at-large for the district). **All supervisors serve four-year terms** and are the key to the success of their local district.

How are district soil and water boards funded?

Local districts receive funding from local, state, and federal governments and independent fund-raising efforts. The following are examples of various funding:

LOCAL: Most districts receive funding from their county government that may include appropriations to fund office space, personnel and equipment, as well as specific conservation programs and projects.

STATE: North Carolina provides funding for cost sharing technical and administrative assistance and some equipment through the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation. It also allocates financial assistance funds to districts to enter into agreements with cooperating landowners and land users to implement conservation best management practices. Funding is available through:

- Matching funds to districts
- Agriculture Cost Share Program (Technical and Financial Assistance)
- Community Conservation Assistance Program (Technical and Financial Assistance)
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance program (Technical and Financial Assistance)
- Various grants
- Special project funds

FEDERAL: The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), which is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture, provides personnel, technical assistance and equipment in support of district conservation programs, and may also provide financial assistance through federally initiated conservation programs implemented through local districts.

INDEPENDENT FUND-RAISING: Many districts raise money through grant-writing or activities such as selling tree seedlings and conservation materials, or renting equipment such as no-till drills.

What is a district supervisor's purpose and function?

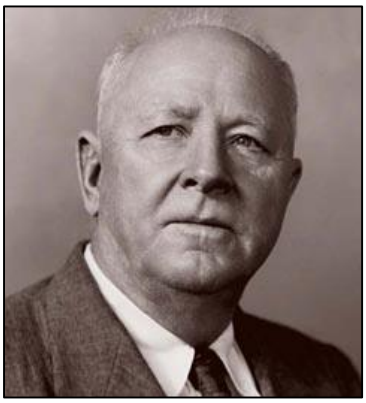
District law provides authority to districts to meet the needs of landowners and citizens in several ways.

- Deliver state programs administered by the division, including the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).
- Deliver federal Farm Bill conservation programs involving natural resource conservation practices, farmland protection, wetlands restoration and wildlife habitat enhancement.
- Assist communities in many areas of natural resource management such as erosion and sediment control, source water protection, storm water management, floodplain management and flood control, water use efficiency, stream restoration, open spaces and small-plot forestry management.
- Respond to natural disasters by helping local landowners and state and local governments with clean-up efforts and restoration including cropland and drainage system cleanup, repair of conservation best management practices, livestock mortality issues and waste management systems.
- Assist with projects of local interest such as conservation easements, environmental education centers, parks and demonstration farms.

ALL FUNDS RECEIVED BY A DISTRICT ARE PUBLIC MONIES. AS A GOVERNMENT BODY, EACH DISTRICT MUST PROPERLY ADMINISTER AND ACCOUNT FOR ALL FUNDS.

Soil and Water Conservation: Where did it all begin?

The Modern Soil and Water Conservation Movement



Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett

Dr. Hugh Hammond Bennett, a scientist who was educated at the University of North Carolina, is nationally and internationally known as the **"Father of Soil Conservation."** North Carolina can take great pride in the fact that Dr. Bennett is a native son, born and raised in Anson County only a few miles outside Wadesboro.

Beginning in the 1920's and continuing into the 1930's, Dr. Bennett became alarmed at what he observed across the national landscape -- the depletion of the soil resource because of erosion. Equally concerning was the lack of a concerted effort to do something about it.



The basis for Dr. Bennett's concern was the dust bowl of the West and Midwest, and the severe water erosion in the South. He observed the soil resource being depleted before his very eyes to the point that landowners would "wear out one field," abandon it, and move to another area -- eventually wearing it out, as well. A great challenge for Dr. Bennett was the fact most individuals considered the depletion of the soil resource to be caused by acts of nature – great wind storms and heavy rain events over which man had no control.

In 1933, he convinced Congress to appropriate $160,000 to fund soil erosion investigations. This was a major step as it created the national attention that he had been looking for and provided an opportunity to prove what he had been preaching for years – that soil erosion could be controlled, or at least greatly reduced, by the actions of man.

DR. HUGH HAMMOND BENNETT, A SCIENTIST FROM NORTH CAROLINA, IS KNOWN NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY AS THE "FATHER OF SOIL CONSERVATION."

North Carolina Implements the First Soil and Water Conservation District

North Carolina created and passed **General Statute 139** in **1937,** which laid the foundation for the creation of local soil and water conservation districts. Dr. Bennett is credited with saying, "I consider the soil conservation districts movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture."

Soon after the passage of NC General Statute 139, the first conservation district in the nation was established. Very fittingly the first district was the **Brown Creek SWCD**, which included **Anson County, NC**, the home of Dr. Bennett.

To learn more about the in depth history of the modern soil and water conservation movement, check out the **District Board Training Library** on the **NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation** website. There you will find a series of educational modules that highlight various aspects of our unique partnerships with different state and federal agencies and organizations serving soil and water conservation, as well as information about the legal basis for districts.

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation "Partners"

During your time as a district supervisor, you will come into contact with representatives from various soil and water conservation agencies and organizations in our state that are here to help you in your role. North Carolina is unique from this perspective. Through years of concerted effort to build a strong soil and water conservation program, we've established effective partnerships at various levels.

In 2016 at the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, a **Memorandum of Agreement** was signed between the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts; North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission; North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services – Division of Soil and Water Conservation; North Carolina Conservation District Employees Association; N.C. Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc.; North Carolina Resource Conservation and Development Association; and the United State Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The purpose of developing and signing an MOA is to foster strong leadership, partnerships and cooperation between parties, which in turn provides coordinated delivery and success of soil and water conservation programs.

The conservation partnership in North Carolina is complex and at times difficult to understand and explain. However, the following abbreviated list of partners and organizational map should help you better understand different focus areas among the groups and how they are interconnected. A more detailed presentation about the partnership is available in the **District Board Training Library** on the **NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation** website.

United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS is the conservation partner that focuses primarily on the technical aspects of the conservation program. This partner provides:

- Development and maintenance of the technical guide and technical standards used by all conservation programs
- Job approval authority for agricultural practices
- Technical training, guidance and supervision for all employees at the district level
- Engineering design approval for certain conservation practices
- Computer software such as that used for conservation planning and practice designs
- Cost share funding through Federal Farm Bill conservation programs

- Technical staff at the local district level
- Overall support to association committees, Ag Task Force, Technical Review Committees, and others.

North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation

The Division of Soil and Water Conservation is the key conservation partner at the state government level. This partner:

- Provides staff to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission
- Administers conservation programs and implements Commission policies for programs such as Ag Cost Share and Community Conservation Assistance Programs.
- Provides regional coordinators who provide direct assistance to local Districts
- Funds supervisor travel and processes vouchers
- Provides staff support for environmental education activities
- Facilitates state level contests and events
- Coordinates the Conservation Employees' Training (CET) and other regional and state wide training
- Chairs several committees that advise the Commission on policy and technical aspects of particular conservation programs
- Provides technical services involving engineering, soils, animal waste management, and watershed protection
- Provides planning assistance
- Provides staff support for the association's annual meeting and area spring and fall meetings

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission

The NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission is a critical member of the conservation partnership, especially as related to district supervisors, state cost share programs, and related issues. The Commission:

- Serves as the policy and rule-making board for state conservation programs
- Establishes cost share procedures and allocates funds
- Appoints supervisors after local board recommendations
- Approves watershed project agreements
- Settles cost share contract disputes
- Considers SWCD boundary change requests from local districts
- Provides overall supervision of districts
- Grants job approval authority for non-agricultural best management practices

- Designates individuals as technical specialists for water quality programs
- Approves best management practices (BMPs) for water quality protection

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD)

The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts is made up of 96 individual conservation districts and 492 supervisors. The Association:

- Is a 501 c (3) non-profit organization
- Represents districts' interests statewide, emphasizing consistency
- Recommends policies for legislation
- Works through eight standing committees
- Actively supports and seeks funding for districts
- Provides representatives to committees/commissions/boards such as:
    - Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC)
    - Technical Review Committee (TRC)
    - NC Ag Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee
    - NC Sediment & Erosion Control Commission
    - NRCS' State Conservationist's Advisory Committee
    - NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation Board of Directors
    - National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)
- Is politically active at the state and national levels, providing an advocacy for local districts and conservation funding.

NC Conservation District Employee's Association (NCDEA)

The NC District Employee's Association is a vital part of the conservation partnership and is extremely active across the state by coordinating their interests and efforts with all other members of the partnership. The DEA:

- Provides a personal/professional development vehicle for district employees
- Provides training and development workshops
- Works to improve the efficiency of statewide district offices
- Supports the Association's annual meeting
- Strengthens district programs by sharing information/assistance
- Helps SWCDs address challenges/opportunities
- Partners with the Association on joint projects such as the Gator Raffle and training initiatives

NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation

The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, although relatively new to the conservation partnership, has proven to be a critical part of the partnership. The Foundation:

- Is a 501 c (3) organization
- Enlists financial support for districts to:
  - Build overall capacity
  - Provide supervisor leadership development
  - Accelerate educational outreach opportunities
  - Improve the natural environment
- Is organized to include an independent, self-perpetuating board but has direct connection to the association by virtue of the association having three seats on the board
- Is organized for the sole purpose of supporting local conservation districts and raising funds to build their capacity

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

The National Association of Conservation Districts primarily has importance at the national level, as the name implies. NACD:

- Is a national voice for conservation, representing local conservation districts nationwide
- Is the primary lobby on Capitol Hill for national legislation such as the Federal Farm Bill, especially the conservation title of that bill

Local Government

Finally, we need to remember that local county government is very important to our soil and water conservation efforts. Districts work hand-in-hand with their local governments, as county commissioners provide:

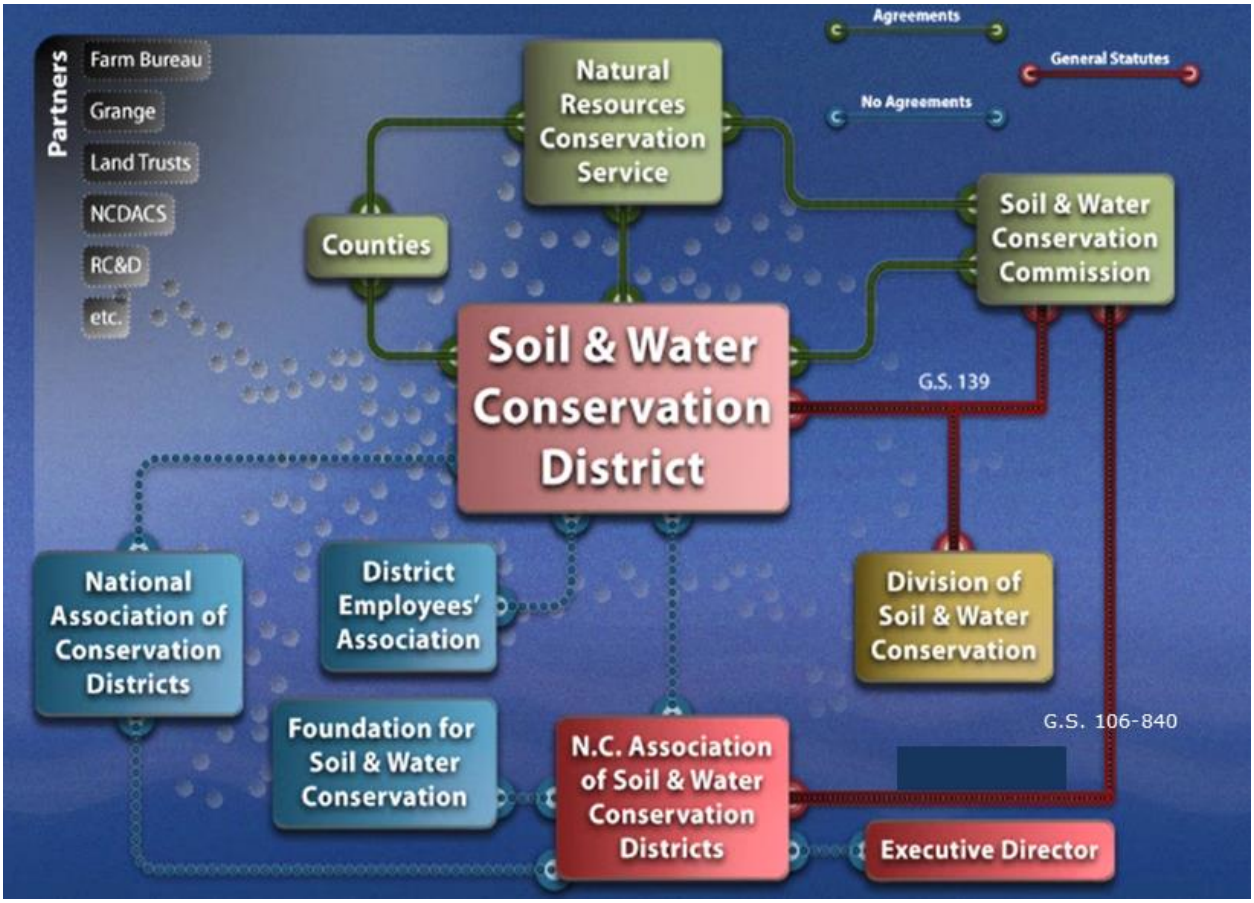
- Financial support to local districts
- Office space, vehicles, equipment, supplies, etc.
- District staff salaries and benefits
- Matching funds to qualify for state match
- Financial administration of district funds (for many districts, but not all)

Other Organization Partners

We are very fortunate to have several agencies and organizations in North Carolina that have a vested interested in soil and water conservation. Representatives from the following list often attend our state annual meeting, area and regional meetings and other important events.

- North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation
- North Carolina State Grange
- North Carolina Agriculture Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund
- Resource Conservation and Development

Soil and Water Conservation Partners Organizational Map



NC Soil and Water Conservation Programs

District soil and water conservation boards are responsible for reviewing and approving district contracts for four key programs, which the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation administers. These include the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Below is a brief overview of each program. Detailed information about each program can be found at the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation website.

Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

A major cause of water quality problems in North Carolina and in much of the United States is nonpoint source pollution. In many places damage to our water resources comes from soil erosion, excessive or improper fertilizer or animal waste use and improper use of agricultural chemicals. The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) helps address nonpoint source pollution by providing technical and financial resources.

Who is Eligible?
If you are a landowner or renter of an existing agricultural operation that has been operating for more than three years, you are eligible to participate in the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program.

What does it do?
The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program is successful because of the grassroots efforts of your local soil and water conservation district. Your district works with agricultural landowners and renters to:

- Develop and approve individual conservation plans
- Identify the best management practices (BMPs) best suited for your particular operation
- Design BMPs and help ensure their longevity
- Acquire preliminary approval of a cost share contract

The division provides administrative and technical assistance to districts. They also give final approval to cost share contracts and processes requests for payments to farmers participating in the program.

How does the program work?
The applicant submits an application to your local soil and water conservation district. The applications are ranked based on resource concerns identified and priorities in the district. Applicants

can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for each BMP installed. The applicant is responsible for 25 percent of the costs. This may include the use of existing material and labor. Applicants who qualify as a beginning farmer or limited resource farmer or who are participating in an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District may qualify for up to 90% cost share.

There are some cost share and acreage restrictions depending on the BMPs used, the type of operation involved, or policy set by the local soil and water conservation district or the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Cost share incentive payments are also available to encourage the use of certain agronomic management practices.

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)

The Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) was authorized through Session Law 2011-145. The program is administered by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission through local soil and water conservation districts.

Who is Eligible?
If you are a landowner or renter of an existing agricultural operation that has been operating for more than a year, you are eligible to participate in the North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program.

What does it do?
The purposes of AgWRAP are to:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources
- Increase water use efficiency
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes

How does the program work?
The applicant submits an application to their local soil and water conservation district. The applications are ranked based on resource concerns identified and priorities in the district. For some practices, applications may be ranked at a regional level. Applicants can be reimbursed up to 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for each BMP installed. The applicant is responsible for 25 percent of the costs. This may include the use of existing material and labor. Applicants who qualify as a beginning farmer or limited resource farmer or who are participating in an Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District may qualify for up to 90% cost share.

There are some cost share restrictions depending on the BMPs used or policy set by the local soil and water conservation district or the N.C. Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

The Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to improve water quality through the installation of various best management practices (BMPs) on urban, suburban and rural lands not directly involved with agriculture production.

Who is eligible?
Eligible landowners may include homeowners, businesses, schools, parks and publicly owned lands.

Why is this program important?
How rapid urbanization affects water quality becomes important as North Carolina's land use continues to change. CCAP can help educate landowners on water quality, storm water management and retrofit practices to treat storm water runoff.

How does CCAP work?
Interested landowners may apply to their local soil and water conservation district for financial and technical assistance for the installation of BMPs to protect water quality. Applications are ranked based on local water quality priorities and, if eligible, a conservation plan is prepared. Landowners may receive financial assistance of up to 75 percent of the pre-established average cost of the BMP.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

CREP is a voluntary program utilizing federal and state resources to achieve long-term protection of environmentally sensitive cropland and marginal pastureland. These voluntary protection measures are accomplished through 10-, 15-, 30-year and permanent conservation easements.

Who is eligible?
Landowners in the approved watersheds are eligible for CREP. Currently, this includes 76 counties in North Carolina. To be eligible, cropland must meet cropping history criteria and be able to sustain cropping as of the landowner's program enrollment date. Marginal pastureland may be enrolled provided it is suitable for use as a riparian buffer.

Why is this program important?
As water quality becomes a bigger environmental issue, this program improves and protects water quality while restoring and enhancing riparian habitat corridors next to stream, drainage ditches, estuaries, wetlands and other watercourses. In addition, this program provides a mechanism to help farmers comply with the Neuse and Tar-Pamlico Nutrient Reduction Rules and potential regulations or goals in other watersheds.

How does CREP work?
CREP encourages farmers to place environmentally sensitive land near streams or other approved water bodies into a vegetative cover for a period of time. In return, landowners

receive annual payments and are reimbursed for establishing the conservation practices. Landowners choosing to enroll in a 30-year or permanent easement will also receive a one-time state incentive payment and may also be eligible to receive a tax incentive.

What is a CREP conservation easement?
A CREP conservation easement is a written agreement between a landowner and the state of North Carolina in which there is an acquired interest in the land to install conservation practices that protect natural resources. The conservation easement exists for 10-, 15-, 30 years or permanently, depending on the landowner's choice. With CREP, the landowner voluntarily limits future use of the land for activities such as crop farming and development, yet retains private ownership.

Strategic Planning

Every district soil and water conservation board is required to complete a strategic plan for cost share programs to establish the district's priorities for addressing resource concerns in the district and to lay out the district's strategies for using available technical and financial resources to address those priorities. A template used for this process can be found on the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation website (click here). This is a helpful tool to keep district board members organized and effective financial stewards.

Districts who are most effective at strategic planning regularly engage local stakeholders to help them identify and prioritize resource needs in the district and develop strategies to address the needs. Involving the public helps to increase local awareness and support for district conservation programs. It also presents an opportunity to identify potential leaders who can serve as future supervisors or associate supervisors.

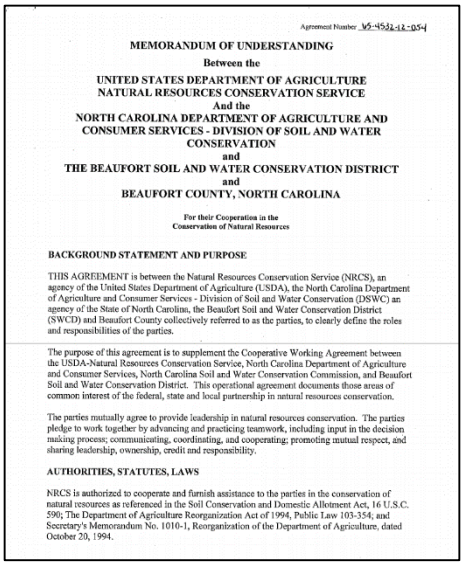
Recognizing the critical role that landowners and land users play in implementation, the plan should also indicate the district's plans to conduct outreach to potential program applicants in priority segments of the population. These may be geographic areas, individuals who are engaged in particular activities, or a particular demographic group.

Effective plans also highlight needs for additional funds or staff that might be obtained through grants.

Your Division regional coordinator and the cost share specialist assigned to your district are available to your board to assist in your strategic planning process.

Operational Agreements

Each soil and water conservation district in North Carolina has entered into an Operational Agreement with key agencies that have a common interest in natural resources conservation at the local level.



Agreement Number 65-4532-12-054

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

And the

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES - DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION

and

THE BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

and

BEAUFORT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

For their Cooperation in the Conservation of Natural Resources

BACKGROUND STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

THIS AGREEMENT is between the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services - Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) an agency of the State of North Carolina, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Beaufort County collectively referred to as the parties, to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the parties.

The purpose of this agreement is to supplement the Cooperative Working Agreement between the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. This operational agreement documents those areas of common interest of the federal, state and local partnership in natural resources conservation.

The parties mutually agree to provide leadership in natural resources conservation. The parties pledge to work together by advancing and practicing teamwork, including input in the decision making process; communicating, coordinating, and cooperating; promoting mutual respect, and sharing leadership, ownership, credit and responsibility.

AUTHORITIES, STATUTES, LAWS

NRCS is authorized to cooperate and furnish assistance to the parties in the conservation of natural resources as referenced in the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, 16 U.S.C. 590; The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994, Public Law 103-354; and Secretary's Memorandum No. 1010-1, Reorganization of the Department of Agriculture, dated October 20, 1994.

Operational Agreements help formalize a local partnership to implement a comprehensive conservation program.

Parties included in an Operational Agreement are (but not limited to):

- District Board of Supervisors
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
- County
- Division of Soil and Water Conservation

Together, NRCS and your soil and water conservation district employees can help maintain adequate knowledge of available programs to provide basic customer service to you and your partners.

It is important that a district board of supervisors work closely together with their partners to implement programs based on mutually developed priorities, while also recognizing individual responsibilities.

All parties should agree jointly to commit their program authorities and financial and human resources to implement a unified conservation program in the areas of mutual concern. It is recommended to annually re-evaluate priorities and develop a single partnership plan of work each fiscal year (July 1-June 30).

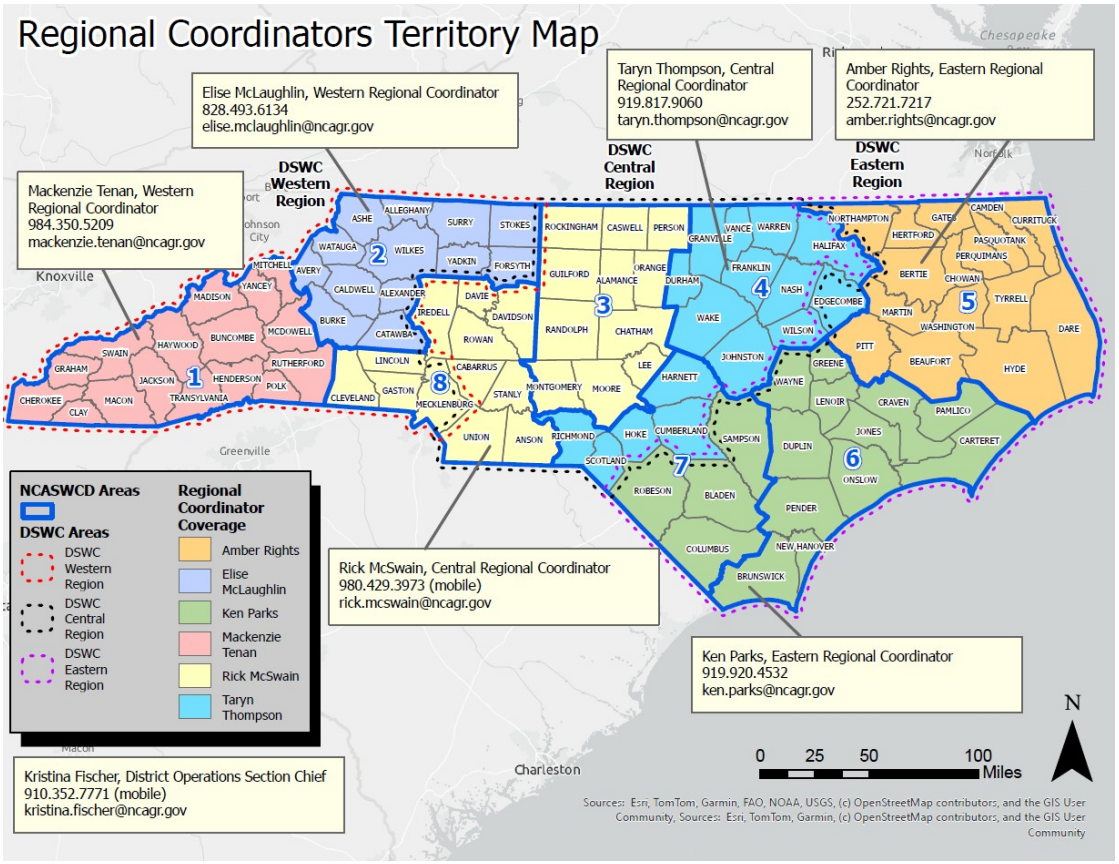
NC Soil and Water Conservation Areas and Regions

Several activities administered through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation and the Soil & Water Conservation Commission are delivered on a regional basis. The Division has divided the state into three geographic regions (Western, Central, and Eastern) and assigned several of its staff to assist districts in a particular region. The Division has assigned two regional coordinators for each region, who will attend district and area meetings to assist your district with your local soil and water conservation programs and training.

The Commission also relies upon the Division's regions for allocating certain cost share program funds. For instance, the Commission has designated a portion of the AgWRAP program funds to be awarded to applicants through regional competitions.

The Association has for many years operated with **eight administrative areas (Areas 1-8)** and **three regions (Mountain, Piedmont, and Coastal Plain)**. Areas are numbered starting in the western part of the state with "Area 1" and line up accordingly in a clockwise fashion, skimming the northern part of the state first and then coming around on the southern part of the state to end with Area 8.

The map below depicts the **Division's three regions**, overlain by the Association's eight areas. It also includes **contact information** for the Division's regional coordinators, the statewide educational coordinator, and the Division director and deputy director.



Several of the Association's activities (e.g., Conservation Farm Family selection) take place on a regional level, but the Association has maintained its historical regional delineation, which is simply a regional grouping of Association areas.

- Areas 1, 2 and 8 make up the Association's **Mountain Region**
- Areas 3, 4, and 7 make up the Association's **Piedmont Region**
- Areas 5, 6 make up the Association's **Coastal Plain Region**

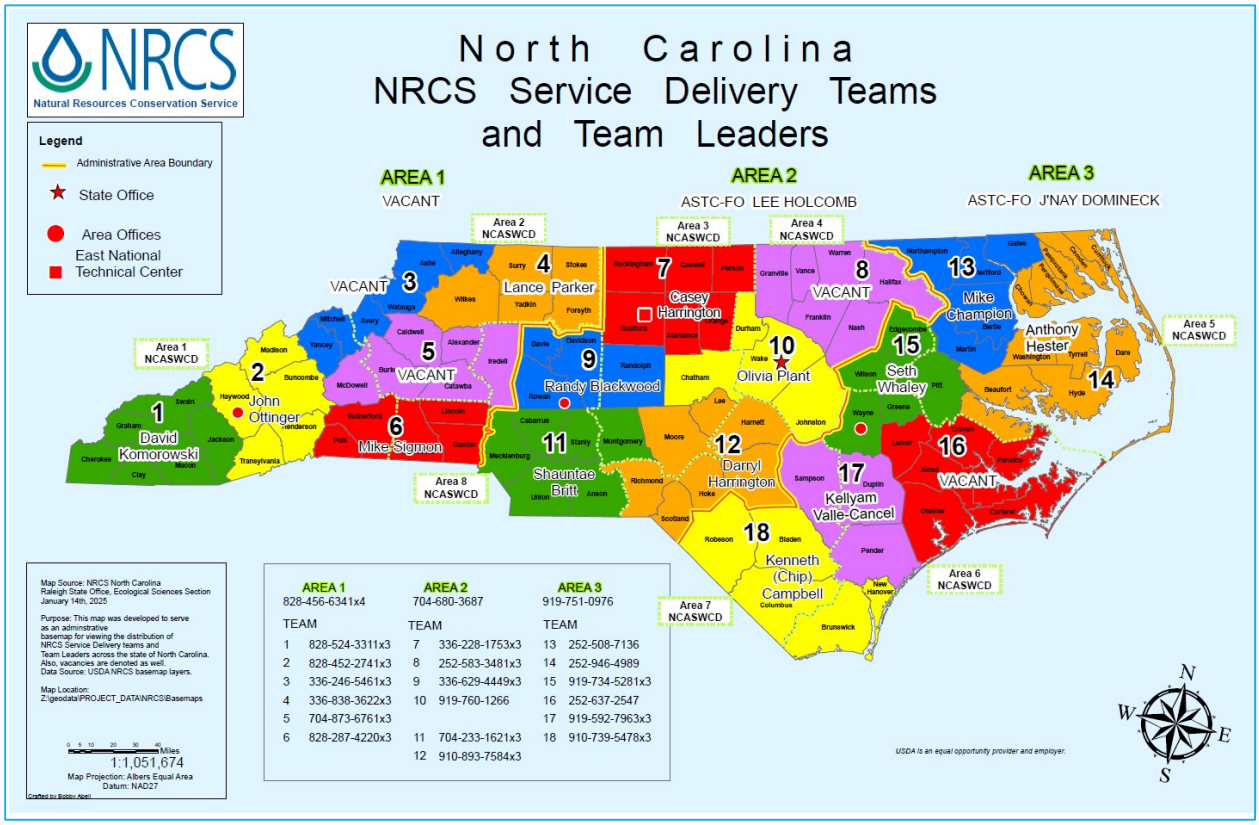
Another activity that occurs regionally using the Association's regional boundaries is the regional rotation for Association 2nd Vice President and Commission Regional Representative elections.

The **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service** has also divided the state into three areas (Areas 1,2, and 3) for administrative purposes. The primary significance of these area delineations is to determine which NRCS Area Office provides technical and administrative support to each district and supervision to each of its 18 local work units (Teams 1-18), with 6 teams in each area. NRCS' administrative areas and teams are depicted on the map below.

The locations of the NRCS area offices are as follows:

- Area 1 – Waynesville
- Area 2 – Salisbury
- Area 3 - Goldsboro

REMEMBER: SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MAPS DIFFER SLIGHTLY BY AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION IN NORTH CAROLINA. WHEN YOU ARE WORKING WITH A PROGRAM THAT DENOTES AN AREA OR REGION, MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WHO IS ADMINISTERING THE PROGRAM AND REFER TO THE CORRECT MAP.





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The information in this guide will be reviewed regularly and updated and added to as necessary.

Notes: