

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2025

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

Commission Members	Guests	Guests Online
Barbara Bleiweis, Chair	Shelby Kaplan	Guest 2(unverified)
Billy Kilpatrick	Taryn Thompson	
James Lamb	Lisa Fine	
	Michael Shepherd	
George Teague	Sam Edwards	
Gail Hughes	Heather Reichert	
Patrick Baker	Ken Parks	
Porche Spence	Tinesha McNeil	
	Anne Coan	
Commission Counsel	Bryan Evans (ncaswcd)	
Brian McGuinn	Allie Dinwiddie	
Guests Online	Brandy Myers	
David Williams	Lorien Deaton	
Julie Henshaw	Steven Porson	
Matt Safford	Amber Rights	
Kristina Fischer	John Beck	
Rick McSwain		
Josh Vetter		
Rachel Smith		
Stephanie Alston		

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chair Bleiweis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. PRELIMINARY: Chair Bleiweis stated that this would be a working session with no voting only discussion.

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.

Chair Bleiweis recommended that in the Work Session we focus on key items to go into more detail, beginning with item 6 on the agenda.

III. BUSINESS:

1. Approval of Agenda

2. Approval of Minutes

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. Division Report

4. Association Report

- A. President's Report.
- B. Executive Director's

5. NRCS Report

ACTION ITEMS

- 6. Consent Agenda:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer and Mr. John Beck to present respectively. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Travis Potter, Brunswick SWCD, district requested Anthony W. Street's resignation, filling elected term 2024 - 2028.
- Jeffrey Autry, Harnett SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Gerald Temple for 2024-2028
- Gary East, Stokes SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Marvin Cavanaugh for 2022-2026
- Alan Cochran, Swain SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Patrick Breedlove for 2022-2026

B. Supervisor Contracts:

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Cabarrus	13-2025-003	Carl Haigler	Heavy Use Area Protection	\$2,567	
Cleveland	23-2025-003	Larry Corry	Cover Crop	\$7000	
Cleveland	23-2025-011	Larry Corry	Cover Corp	\$7000	
Henderson	45-2025-008	Wayne Carland	Non- Field Farm Rd	\$36,496	Applicant: Carland Farms INC
Pamlico	69-2025-002	Pete Anderson	Cropland Conversion to Grass (Repair)	\$6,804	Applicant: Anderson Family Farms, LLC
Pamlico	69-2025-003	Pete Anderson	Cropland Conversion to Grass (Repair)	\$3,213	Applicant: Anderson Family Farms, LLC
Person	73-2025-005	Hunter Thomas	Grassed Waterway, Field Border	\$7,855	Applicant: Thomas Family Farms Landowner: Heather House
Vance	91-2025-009	Wilton Lee Short, iii	Sod-Based Rotation – 5 YR	\$1,545	
Wake	92-2025-021	Thomas Dean	Cover Crop	\$972	Applicant: Dean Agri Products

Total \$73,452**Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 9**

7. JAA Technical Competency Requirements

A. Use Exclusion Fencing

- 8. Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Topics discussed included General Policy Updates such as Spot checks: changed reference to the commission policy and copied additional instructions. Added grading minimum (cost list component) and geotextile references from Stream Protection Management general policy. Expanded fence setback and vegetation policies to reflect Stream Protection Management general policy. Remove requirement to show the stream on maps – not required in other measures. Recommendations to add Map requirements on the BMP policy. Waste management and stream protection HUAP policies were discussed with a goal to reduce confusion. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

A. Consideration of ACSP Policy Revisions

1. Waste Management Measures General Policy

2. Heavy Use Area Protection

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS
JAA/NRCS Standard unless otherwise noted	ENG - 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
Supporting Practices	ECS - 382 - Fencing National Engineering Handbook, Construction Specification 217 - Geotextiles and Material Specification 592 - Geotextiles
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads.

HEAVY USE AREA PROTECTION	
Maintenance Period	10 years
BMP Units	EACH
Required Effects	ACRES_AFFECTED ANIMAL TYPE ANIMAL UNITS N and P Waste Managed
JAA/NRCS standards unless otherwise noted	ENG - 561 - Heavy Use Area Protection ENG - 382 - Fence National Engineering Handbook, Construction Specification 217 - Geotextiles and Material Specification 592 - Geotextiles
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads. NC-WMP Form
Additional Spot-check Requirements	All waste management systems for operations not permitted by the Division of Water Resources must be spot-checked annually for five years following implementation.

B. Detailed Implementation Plan

C. Average Cost List

John shared his and Racheal Smith's Triennial Cost List approach to the development of the Average Cost List. It utilizes a combined approach to update cost for year 2026 using (1) Producer Price Index values will be applied to the bulk of components. (2) Receipts and Average Cost Calculation will be used where available. This information was used for various items.

D. District Financial Assistance Allocation

1. **ACSP and Impaired/Impacted Allocation**
2. **Upper French Broad River Allocation**

9. Technical Assistance Allocation:

- 10. Agriculture Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP):** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. Lorien stated that for Water Supply Well there is a revision to policy number 9 to clarify that if there are additional water sources under the cooperator's control (i.e. pond stream), the contract must explain why these sources are inadequate to meet the operation's needs. If the additional water sources are adequate, wells are not cost shareable through AgWRAP. Public water supply is not considered under the control of the producer.

A. Consideration of AgWRAP Policy Revisions

1. Water Supply Well - Lorian stated that for the Water Supply Well there is a revision to policy number 9 to clarify that if there are additional water sources under the cooperator's control (i.e. pond stream), the contract must explain why these sources are inadequate to meet the operation's needs. If the additional water sources are adequate, wells are not cost shareable through AgWRAP. Public water supply is not considered under the control of the producer.

2. Baseflow Interceptor – Adding the BMP that a method for distributing the water from the baseflow interceptor must be available.

- B. Detailed Implementation Plan** – The Competitive regional application process for selected AgWRAP conservation practices will receive 20% of available BMP funding. 80% of available BMP funding will go to the district allocations. Under the program guidelines an addition to support the change in the Water Supply Well contracts, if there are additional water sources under the cooperator's control, the contract must explain why these sources are inadequate to meet the operation's needs to qualify for a second well.
- C. Average Cost List** – Ms. Deaton stated that she pulled data from previous contracts that have been completed over the last couple of years and receipts that have been submitted, as well as data from crossover between both programs to attain the increases. These changes are shown in Attachment 10 C and will be included in the official record.

D. District Financial Assistance Allocation

11. Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

- A. Detailed Implementation Plan**
- B. Average Cost List**

12. Spot Check Report

- 13. Inquiry Committee Findings:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Ms. Fischer stated that at the May 2025 Commission meeting, one supervisor, Mr. Edward Jones of Forsyth SWCD, was sent to the Commission's Inquiry Committee. After deliberation, the Inquiry Committee voted that evidence of neglect of duty has occurred, and he was referred to a hearing by the Commission in September.

14. Cost Share Contracts Extensions:

15. Special Request.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

V. ADJURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:32p.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 September 17, 2025.

