#### Budgeting and Financial Management for Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Kara A. Millonzi millonzi@sog.unc.edu

#### Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act (G.S. 159, Art. 3)

- Budgeting
- Financial Administration
- Cash Management
- Investments
- Accounting / Reporting
- Expenditure Control (Disbursements)
- Auditing

## Budgeting

The county includes appropriations for the soil and water conservation district in the county's budget ordinance. The district holds a fundraiser in October. It raises \$500 selling tree saplings. The district supervisor wishes to expend these monies to fund an educational program for youths in the district.

What must the district supervisor do to be able to expend these monies?



#### **Budget is All Inclusive**

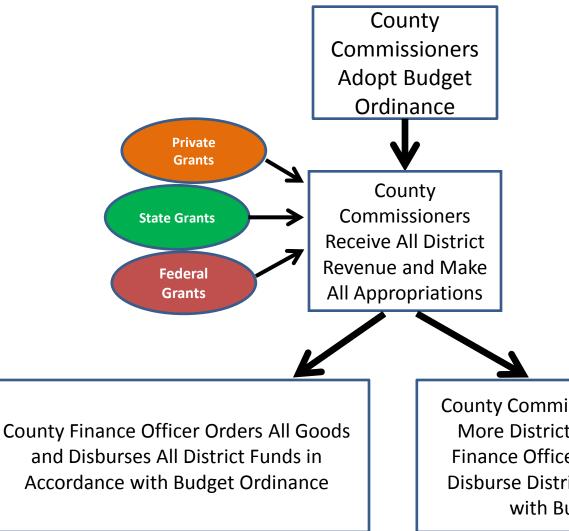


Generally, all monies must be included in a budget ordinance or project ordinance before they may be expended.

#### Who Adopts the Budget?

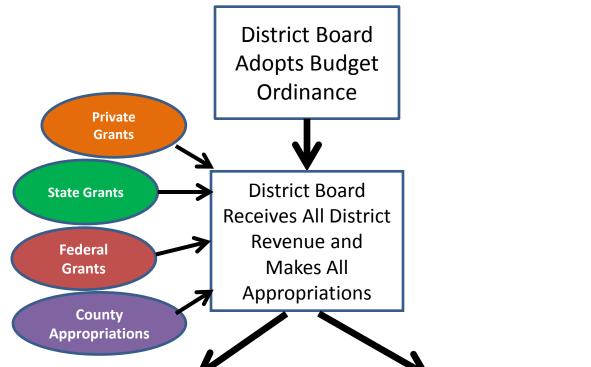
#### Who Expends the Money?

#### **Budgeting Options: A**



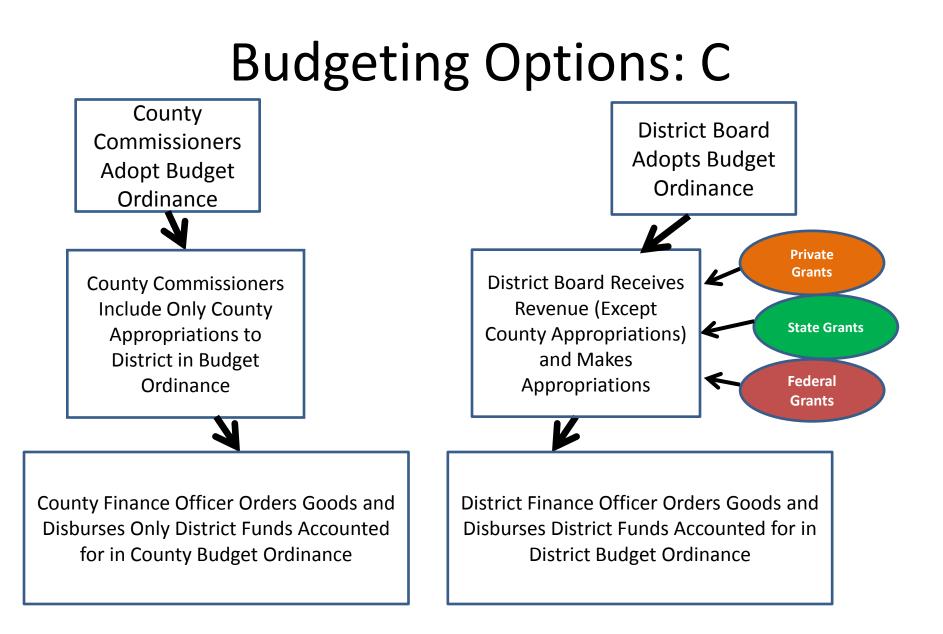
County Commissioners Appoint One or More District Employees as Deputy Finance Officers to Order Goods and Disburse District Funds in Accordance with Budget Ordinance

#### **Budgeting Options: B**



District Board Contracts with County Finance Officer to Order Goods and Disburse District Funds in Accordance with Budget Ordinance

District Finance Officer Orders Goods and Disburses All District Funds in Accordance with Budget Ordinance



#### Who "Budgets" the Money?

| A<br>County Expends All<br>Monies                                                                             | B<br>District Expends All<br>Monies                                                                             | C<br>Both County and District<br>Expend Monies                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County Commissioners<br>Adopt Budget                                                                          | District Board Adopts<br>Budget                                                                                 | Both County<br>Commissioners and<br>District Board Adopt<br>Budgets                                                                                                                                   |
| Federal monies, state monies,<br>private monies, county monies all<br>flow through county budget<br>ordinance | Federal monies, state monies,<br>private monies, county monies all<br>flow through district budget<br>ordinance | County monies (and possibly some<br>state or federal monies) flow<br>through county budget ordinance<br>Federal monies, state monies, and<br>private monies flow through<br>district budget ordinance |
| County commissioners have<br>complete control over budgeting,<br>subject to any earmarks on outside<br>funds  | District board members have<br>complete control over budgeting,<br>subject to any earmarks on outside<br>funds  | County commissioners have<br>complete control over funds<br>budgeted in county budget<br>District board members have<br>complete control over funds<br>budgeted in district budget                    |

The district receives a yearly (matching fund) grant from the state. The state authorizes these funds to provide salary supplements to district employees. The district board wants to give the district employee a \$500 salary supplement this year.

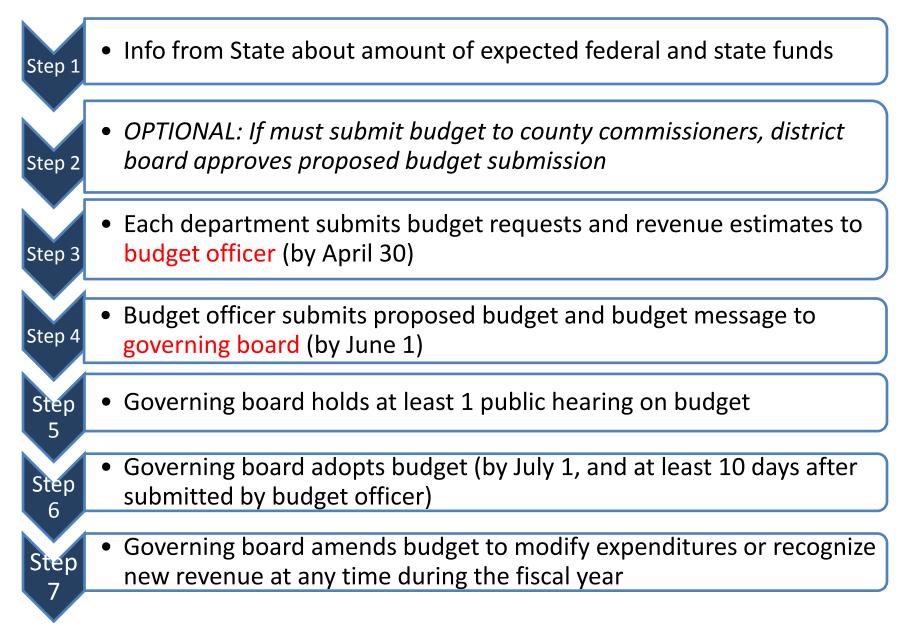
How can the district board give the employee the salary supplement?



#### **Salary Determinations**

| A<br>County Expends All<br>Monies                                                                                         | B<br>District Expends All<br>Monies                                                 | C<br>Both County and District<br>Expend Monies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County Commissioners<br>Adopt Budget                                                                                      | District Board Adopts<br>Budget                                                     | Both County<br>Commissioners and<br>District Board Adopt<br>Budgets                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| District board must request that<br>county commissioners appropriate<br>state grant funds to provide salary<br>supplement | District board may appropriate<br>state grant funds to provide salary<br>supplement | If county pays employee's salary,<br>district board must request that<br>county commissioners appropriate<br>state grant funds to provide salary<br>supplement<br>If district pays employee's salary,<br>district board may appropriate<br>state grant funds to provide salary<br>supplement |

#### **Budgeting Process:**



# Cash Management

A district supervisor may open and maintain a separate bank account for grant funds received by the district.

- 1. True
- 2. False



#### Who Selects the Official Depositories?

| Α            | В              | С                                                                         |
|--------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County board | District board | County board selects for<br>monies that flow through<br>county budget     |
|              |                | District board selects for<br>monies that flow through<br>district budget |

A soil and water conservation district supervisor can invest its cash reserves in which of the following:

- Certificates of Deposit
- 2. US Treasuries
- 3. Commercial Paper
- 4. None of the above



#### Who Manages the Money?

| Α                      | В                        | С                                                                             |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County finance officer | District finance officer | County finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in county budget     |
|                        |                          | District finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in district budget |

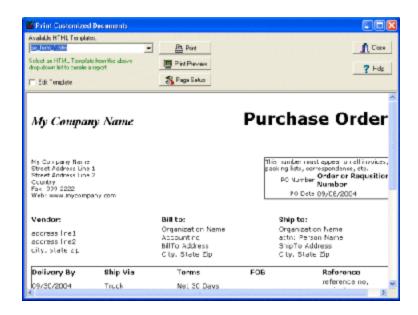
## Disbursements

#### Who Disburses the Money?

| Α                                              | В                                                | С                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County finance officer                         | District finance officer                         | County finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in county budget     |
| County board appointed deputy finance officers | District board appointed deputy finance officers | District finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in district budget |
|                                                |                                                  | Both county and district<br>boards may appoint<br>deputy finance officers     |

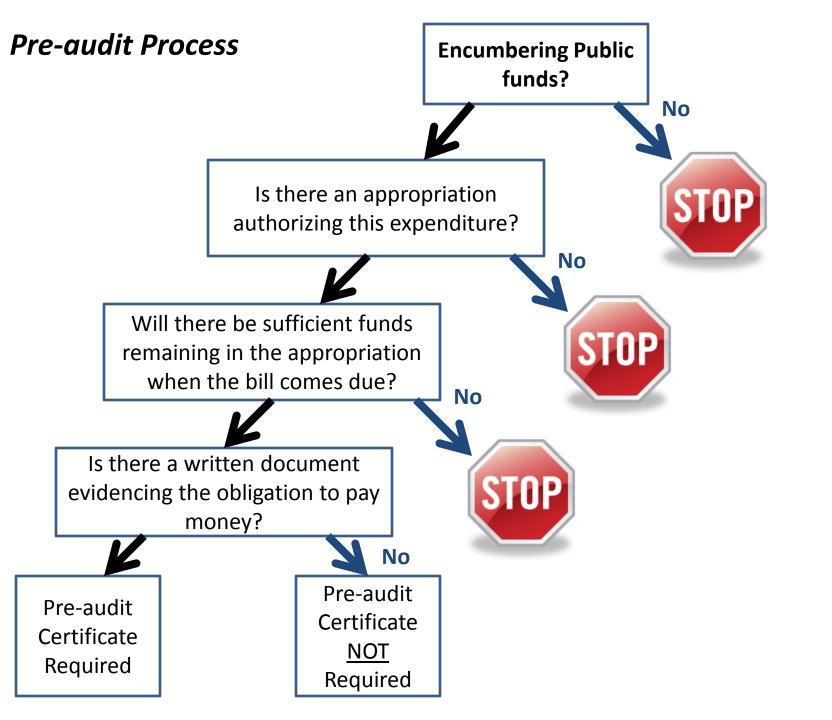
All orders for goods must be approved by the district's finance officer or a deputy finance officer *before* the order is placed.

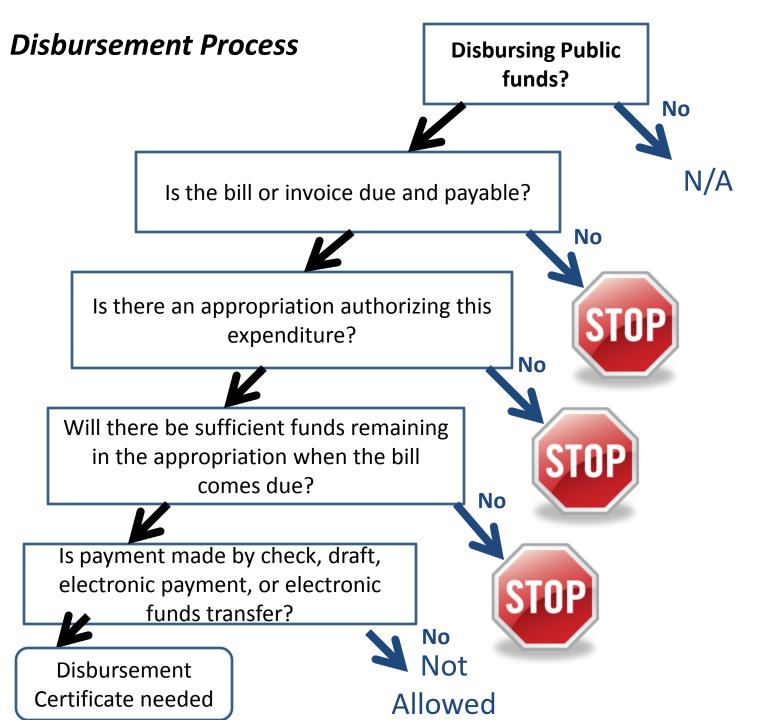
- 1. True
- 2. False



#### LGBFCA: Expenditure Control

### Preaudit Process Disbursement Process





#### Who Must Have a Fidelity Bond?

| Α                                              | В                                                | С                                                                             |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County finance officer                         | District finance officer                         | County finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in county budget     |
| County board appointed deputy finance officers | District board appointed deputy finance officers | District finance officer<br>manages and disburses<br>funds in district budget |
|                                                |                                                  | Both county and district<br>boards may appoint<br>deputy finance officers     |

## Annual Audit

A district does not need to perform an annual independent audit if it performs a yearly internal audit.

- 1. True
- 2. False

#### Who performs the audit?

| Α                                                                                               | В                                                                                      | С                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County must contract for<br>an annual independent<br>audit, which includes<br>district accounts | District may contract for an<br>annual independent audit<br>of district accounts<br>OR | County must contract for<br>an annual audit of county<br>funds                         |
|                                                                                                 | District may conduct<br>internal audit that is<br>certified by district<br>supervisor  | District may contract for an<br>annual independent audit<br>of district accounts<br>OR |
|                                                                                                 |                                                                                        | District may conduct<br>internal audit that is<br>certified by district<br>supervisor  |

# Financial Management

All employees and officials of the district must be covered by a fidelity bond.

- 1. True
- 2. False

#### Who Must Be Bonded?

| Α                                                                                                                                                                                     | В                                                                                                                                            | С                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| County finance officer<br>must be covered by<br>individual bond of at least<br>\$50,000                                                                                               | District finance officer<br>must be covered by<br>individual bond of at least<br>\$50,000                                                    | County finance officer<br>must be covered by<br>individual bond of at least<br>\$50,000<br>District finance officer<br>must be covered by<br>individual bond of at least<br>\$50,000 |
| Other employees or<br>officials (including district<br>employees or officials) that<br>handle any inventories or<br>that handle more than<br>\$100 must be covered by<br>blanket bond | Other district employees or<br>officials that handle any<br>inventories or that handle<br>more than \$100 must be<br>covered by blanket bond | Other county and district<br>employees or officials that<br>handle any inventories or<br>that handle more than<br>\$100 must be covered by<br>blanket bond                           |

A district may expressly earmark funds for expenditure on operation and maintenance costs associated with conservation easements.

- 1. True
- 2. False



Special Revenue Fund for Conservation Easements

- G.S. 139-7.1
- District Board may adopt resolution or ordinance to establish fund
  - Specify purposes
  - Specify time period
  - Specify approximate amounts to be expended for each purpose
  - Specify source of funds

Special Revenue Fund for Conservation Easements

- Expending Funds
  - District board may authorize withdrawal of funds by resolution or ordinance
  - But, if district is county department (group A) then the county commissioners must also approve withdrawal and expenditure of funds