**NORTH CAROLINA**

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

**WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**March 12th, 2025**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Dare County Administration Bldg.

Room 238

954 Marshall C. Collins Drive

Manteo, NC 27954

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Commission Members**  | **Guests** | **Guests Online** |
| Barbara Bleiweis, Chair | Regina Kilpatrick | Paula Day |
| Billy Kilpatrick | Tinesha McNeil | Daphne Carter |
| James Lamb (online) | Lorien Deaton | Lisa Fine |
| Brian Parker | Michael Shepherd | Anne Coan |
| George Teague | Elise McLaughlin | Micheal Shephard |
| Gail Hughes | John Beck  | Alexandra Dinwiddie |
| Patrick Baker | Ken Parks | Angie Quinn |
| Porche Spence | Josh Vetter | Darren Layton |
| **Commission Counsel** | Lorien Deaton  | Jonathan Wallin |
| Phillip Reynolds | Cayle Aldridge | Shelby Kaplan |
| **Guests** | Angela Baker | Seth Bauguess |
| David Williams | Charlie Sanders | Taylor Fair |
| Julie Henshaw | Brian Harris | Nancy McCormick |
| Matt Safford | Rachel Smith | Linsay Edwards |
| Kristina Fischer | Ralston James | Josh Myers |
| Rick McSwain | Taryn Thompson | Charles Base III |
| Brandy Myers | **Guests Online** | Daniel McClellan |
| Bryan Evans | Amanda Sand | Chris Love |
| Matt Paulson | Thomas Hill | Annette Adams |
| Tom Hill | Jane Humphrey |  |
| Charlie Sanders | Josh Myers |  |

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Bleiweis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**II. PRELIMINARY:** Chairman 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.

Dare County Welcome & Special Presentation Chair Matt Paulson, Dare SWCD

**III. BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chair Bleiweis asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Brian Parker moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Patrick Baker seconded. Motion carried. asked for comments on the agenda. None were offered.
2. **Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Attorney Phillip Reynolds to present. Attorney Reynolds explains what it is and reads a portion of it. Commissioner Gail Hughes represents Orange County Conservation District which gives a potential conflict of interest for her district. Dr Porche Spence has no conflict of interest.
3. **Election of Vice – Chair:** Gail Hughes nominates James Lamb to be Vice Chair. Billy Kilpatrick seconds. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chair Bleiweis asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Patrick Baker moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Division Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. Director Williams’ presentation (Attachment 3) is included as an official part of the minutes.
2. **NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present.
3. **President’s Report**: A copy of the report (Attachment 6A) is included as an official part of the minutes.
4. **Executive Director’s Report:** A copy of the report (Attachment 6B) is included as an official part of the minutes.
5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. Tim Beard. Mr. Beard shared the NRCS report (Attachment 7). A copy of the report is an official part of the minutes.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes. Chairman Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the consent agenda. Commissioner Brian Parker moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Updates to Bylaws of the Commission:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Chairman Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the recommended revisions. Commissioner Gail Hughes moved to approve the changes and Commissioner Porche Spence Baker seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Rule Reports – Final Agency Determination for Approval 02 NCAC 20B, 37, 42, 59A, 59B, 59C, 59E, 59F, and 59G:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. Director Williams stated that 59 D is not up for ruling at this time. There were no disputes on rules remaining necessary. Recommendation that rules remain necessary and should be maintained. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the Readoption of Rule. Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Brian Parker seconded. Motion carried

1. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) Regional Application Recommendations:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. Ms. Deaton described AgWrap process. Three funding requests are up for approval. A copy of the report (Attachment 11) is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the Application. Commissioner Patrick Baker moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Porche Spence seconded. Motion carried

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) Policy Revisions:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Mr. Beck shared Flash Grazing Updates. Other items will be presented at the business meeting. (Attachments 12, 12A, 12B &12C). A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
 |
| 1. Odor Control Management System
 |
| 1. Storm Water Management System
 |
| 1. Waste Treatment Lagoon/Storage Pond

 Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning Odor Control Management System. Commissioner Porche Spence moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. Motion carriedChair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning Storm Water Management System. Commissioner Gail Hughes moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Porche Spence seconded. Motion carriedChair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning Waste Treatment Lagoon/Storage Pond. Commissioner Porche Spence moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. Motion carried |
|  |

1. **Practices for Hurricane Helene Disaster Response:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. Ms. Henshaw stated that we are requesting the activation of 2 BMPs in reference to the Special Called Meeting in February regarding Helen. A copy of the report (Attachments 13A-13B) is included as an official part of the minutes.
	1. Emergency Access Restoration
	2. Non-Field Farm Road Repair

Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the activation of both BMPs. Commissioner Brian Parker moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Patrick Baker seconded. Motion carried

1. **ACSP Supplemental Allocations:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Mr. Beck stated that a request for voluntary returns and supplemental Ag Cost Share (CS, SFR, II) allocations were accepted from February 13 to March 1. Fifteen districts requested to return FY2025 funds totaling $17,493. CS and SFR allocations were made to all districts requesting supplemental funds that met the 75% encumbrance requirement. Action item for the business meeting: Approve the Fiscal Year 2025 ACSP HH, CS, SFR, II – Spring Supplement Financial Assistance Allocation (Attachment 14). A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the ACSP Supplemental Allocations. Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Porche Spence seconded. Motion carried.

1. **Basic Supervisor Training Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Ms. Fischer stated that 52 supervisors attended four Basic Training sessions in 2025. Six district supervisors have not met the Basic Training requirement as of February 27, 2025. The Division recommends waiting until December 2025 to take action regarding these individuals. A recommendation will be presented at the Commission’s January 2026 meeting.

**16.**

1. **Supervisor Attendance Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Ms. Fischer gave a summary of attendance percentages. The Division recommends sending Cody Waters (SWCD) to the Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration. A copy of Attachment 16 is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chair Bleiweis asked for a motion concerning the Action Related to Supervisor Attendance. Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick moved to approve the motion, and Commissioner Gail Hughes seconded. Motion carried

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. **Inquiry Committee Findings:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 17) is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer shared that seven supervisors were sent to the Commission’s Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration. For the 2020-2024 terms, there were six supervisors that did not meet the training requirement. After deliberation, the Inquiry Committee voted to extend the training requirements by one year for Supervisors Hurdle, Simmons, and Dalton. The Inquiry Committee also voted to close the issue without further action for Supervisor Yutzy. Decisions will be postponed until after March 13, 2025, for Supervisors McConnell and Talbert, to allow ample time for response to certified mail sent by the Division. The Inquiry Committee considered one supervisor who had failed to attend three consecutive regularly schedule meetings between December 1, 2023, and November 30, 2024. After deliberation, the Inquiry Committee voted to close the issue without further action for Supervisor McMillan.

 Attorney Phillip Renolds explained Inquiry Committee and Rule 59A

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Bleiweis asked for any public comments.

Brian Parker asked John Beck if we could get an action plan together on Flash Grading for the next meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

David B. Williams, Director Tinesha McNeil, Recording Secretary

Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

***These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on May 21, 2025.***