**NORTH CAROLINA**

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

**WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11th, 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

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| **Commission Members**  | **Guests** | **Guests Online** |
| Barbara Bleiweis, Chair | Regina Kilpatrick | Paula Day |
| Billy Kilpatrick | Tinesha McNeil | Matt Safford |
| James Lamb | Lorien Deaton | Lisa Fine |
| Brian Parker | Michael Shepherd | Anne Coan |
| George Teague | Elise McLaughlin | Micheal Shephard |
| Gail Hughes | John Beck  |  |
| Patrick Baker | Ken Parks |  |
| Porche Spence | Josh Vetter |  |
| **Commission Counsel** | Lorien Deaton  |  |
| Phillip Reynolds | Cayle Aldridge |  |
| **Guests** | Angela Baker |  |
| David Williams | Charlie Sanders |  |
| Julie Henshaw | Brian Harris |  |
| Matt Safford | Rachel Smith |  |
| Kristina Fischer | Ralston James |  |
| Rick McSwain | Taryn Thompson |  |
| Brandy Myers | Matt Paulson | **Guests Online** |
| Bryan Evans | Charlie Sanders |  |
| Tom Hill |  |  |

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Bleiweis called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.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.

Chairman Bleiweis asked all the Commission members and attendees to introduce themselves and reminded everyone to sign the registration sheet and silence their cell phones.

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

**III. BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Bleiweis asked for comments on the agenda. None were offered.
2. **Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Attorney Phillip Reynolds to present. Attorney Reynolds explains what it is, and he will present at the business meeting.
3. **Election of Vice – Chair:** Will be held at Business Meeting**.**
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Bleiweis instructed everyone to read over January Work Sesson and Business Session (Attachments 4A & 4B) and the minutes from the special called February 10 Business Meeting (Attachment 4C) .

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Division Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. Mr. Williams stated the report will be presented at the business meeting.
2. **NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. Mr. Evans stated the report will be presented at the business meeting.

**President’s Report**: A copy of the report (Attachment 6A) is included as an official part of the minutes.

**Executive Director’s Report:** A copy of the report (Attachment 6B) is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr.

1. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Mr. Tim Beard. Director Williams confirmed that Mr. Beard will share the NRCS report (Attachment 7) at the business meeting this afternoon. 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.
	1. **Supervisor Contracts (Attachment 8A):**

Mr. Beck presented 5 NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts. Mr. Luke Britt will be added for the Business Session so that he may get started without missing anything.

1. **Updates to Bylaws of the Commission:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Director David Williams to present. Changed ‘Chairman’ to ‘Chair’. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

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1. **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.
2. **Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) Regional Application Recommendations:** Chairman Bleiweis recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. Ms. Deaton discribed 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.

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| 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.
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| 1. Odor Control Management System
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| 1. Storm Water Management System
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| 1. Waste Treatment Lagoon/Storage Pond
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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
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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. Attorney Phillip Reynolds recommended that this be saved for the Inquiry Committee.

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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.

Billy Kilpatrick thanked Dare County for hosting and the tours, as well as David and his staff. Commissioner Kilpatrick expressed his appreciation and the impact that tours have on seeing the needs and the implantations of practices in the county. And the need for something to be implemented for others to see to help establish funding.

Barbara Bleiweis introduced Dr. Porche Smith. Dr. Smith is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Design at NC A&T State University

**V. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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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.***