

NCDA&CS

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David Williams, Director



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Personnel

- **New Hires (0):**
- **Vacancies (8):**
 - Western Regional Coordinator (Elise McLaughlin) – Seeking approval for 3rd candidate
 - CCAP Program Manager (Tom Hill) – Reposted, closes 11/21
 - Engineer II (2 newly established positions) – Reposting closed 11/15, awaiting candidates
 - StRAP Field Specialist (newly established) – Preparing to post
 - Disaster TA Specialist (newly established) – Preparing to post
 - Engineer III (Vivien Zhong/Demico Guy) – Consolidated two vacant positions into one to focus on pond design
 - Engineering Specialist II (Justin Webb) – Preparing to post



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SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION

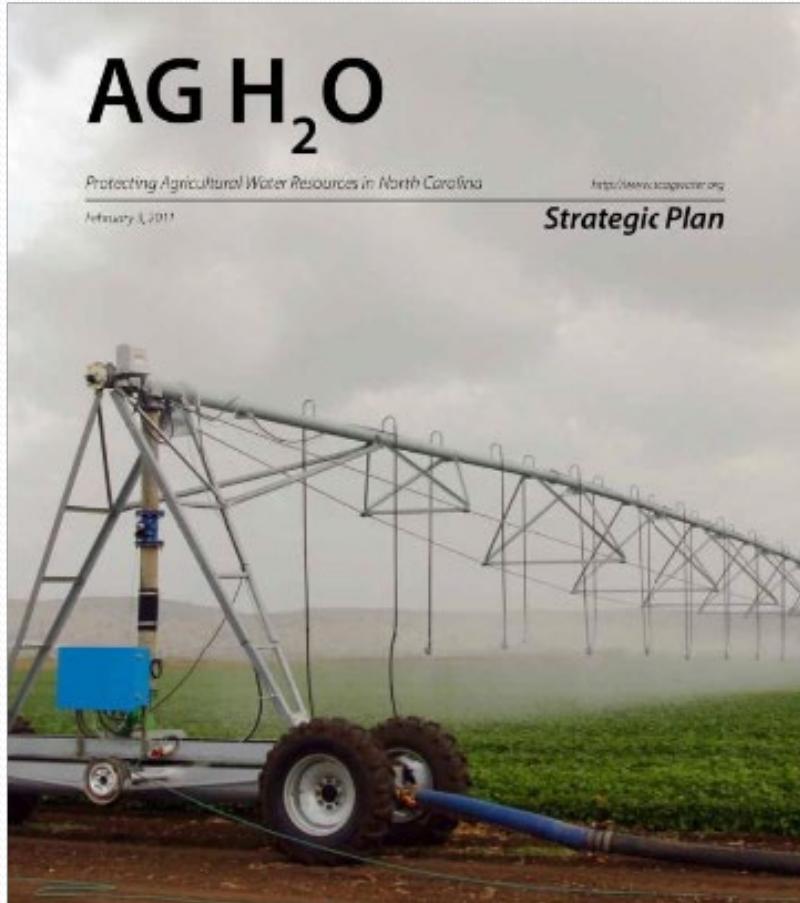
USDA Block Grant (signed 9/5)

- \$221,236,071 approved, \$122M budgeted for infrastructure losses/repairs
- Includes TA/engineering funding for districts & Division
- NCDA&CS workplan under review (delayed due to shutdown)
- Expect application window to open around Dec. 15
- Applications including repairs to roads, bridges, & culverts will be directed to the Division and ultimately to districts.

Other Disaster Assistance

- SL 2025-26
 - \$15M for StRAP
 - \$25M for farm infrastructure losses
- SL 2024-57
 - \$2M non-recurring appropriation for technical assistance to SWCDs
 - \$25M for StRAP
 - Cannot spend for items that likely will be covered by federal funds
- Divert \$4.14M from Matthew Disaster to provide:
 - Disaster BMP funds for Helene (\$2,149,370)
 - Farm road repairs (Block Grant takes precedence)
 - Farm pond repairs (NCDA&CS Infrastructure Funds take precedence)
 - Stream debris removal (EWP/StRAP take precedence)
 - Pasture renovation
 - Non-federal supplement for ECP funds (\$1,988,585)
- Requesting to make Chantal counties eligible for leftover Matthew funds

Strategic Plan for Protecting Agricultural Water Resources in North Carolina



- Original plan released in 2011 following historic drought
- AgWRAP grew out of this effort
- Foundation grant from Tobacco Trust Fund to do update

Planned process to update

- Convene stakeholders starting in January
- Farm Act Bill (S639) directs Department to include:
 1. Water infrastructure needs to increase access and long-term storage capacity.
 2. Water conservation and reuse practices.
 3. Cost-share assistance needed to incentivize (i) construction of water infrastructure to increase access and long-term storage capacity and (ii) implementation of water conservation and reuse practices.
 4. Methods to identify best management practices for temporary water storage and retention to mitigate downstream flooding.
 5. Methods to identify best management practices to reduce the impact of flooding on agricultural lands.
 6. Methods to design incentive programs to compensate landowners that participate in flood mitigation programs.

2026 Commission meetings

- January 4, Cherokee (Virtual WS 12/18)
- March 18, TBD (Virtual WS 3/10)
- May 20, Salisbury (Virtual WS 5/12)
- July 29, Raleigh (Virtual WS 7/21)
- September 16, Orange Co. (Virtual WS 9/8)



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