

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES November 10, 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	
Billy Kilpatrick	Rachel Smith	
Porche Spence	Lisa Fine	
Brian Parker	Starr Silvis	
Patrick Baker	Dalton Buchanan	
	Amanda Sand	
	Chris Love	
	Lorien Deaton	
	Paula Day	
Commission Counsel	Stepanie Alston	
Brian McGinn	Madeline Loman	
Guests Online	Anne Coan	
David Williams	Ken Parks	
Julie Henshaw	Alexandra Dinwiddie	
Matt Safford		
Kristina Fischer		
Michael Sheperd		
Josh Vetter		
Tinesha McNeil		
John Beck		

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 stated that the Ethics Statement did not need to be read since we are not voting. Counsel Brian McGinn confirmed.

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. Approval of Supervisor Basic Training Agenda

5. NRCS Report

ACTION ITEMS

6. Consent Agenda: Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer, Mr. John Beck, Mr. Joshua Vetter and Mr. Michael Shepherd to present.

A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Forrest Chandler Howell, Beaufort SWCD, filling the resigned position of James Allen for 2022 through 2026.
- Terry Turbyfill, Lincoln SWCD, filling the resigned position of Sean Nesbit for 2022-2026
- David Tucker, Watauga SWCD, filling the appointed position of Chris Hughes for 2022-2026

B. Supervisor Contracts:

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Beaufort	07-2026-009	Archie Griffin	Cover Crop	\$3,000	Applicant: Griffin Ag.
Bladen	09-2026-002	Edward Hester	Cover Crop	\$5,450	
Cabarrus	13-2026-001	Carl Mitchell Haigler	Heavy Use Are Protection	\$2,402	Supplement to 13-2025-003
Cherokee	20-2026-001	Keaton Killian	Heavy Use Area Protection, Watering Tanks	\$6,215	
Chowan	21-2026-010	Matthew L Floyd	Cover Crop, Residue & Tillage Mgmt.	\$4,828	New & Beginning Farmer (90% cost share)
Greene	40-2026-010	Richard Harper	Cover Crop	\$9,738	
Hertford	46-2026-002	Pate Pierce	Cover Crop	\$12,500	Applicant: Pierce Leaf Co, LLC
Lee	53-2026-006	John H. Gross	Cover Crop	\$3000	
Martin	58-2025-003	Corris Jenkins III	Rooftop Runoff Mgmt.	\$715	
Montgomery	62-2026-003	Jonathan Sedberry	Cover Crop	\$5,550	
Perquimans	72-2026-001	H. Wayne Hurdle	Residue and Tillage Mgmt.	\$2,100	
Perquimans	72-2026-011	Thomas Roach	Cover Crop	\$2,100	
Person	73-2026-008	Hunter Thomas	Grassed Waterway	\$1,808	Applicant: thomas Family Farm
Scotland	83-2026-800	Thoman Gibson	Water Supply Well	\$7,500	

Total \$66,906**Total Number of Supervisor Contracts:14**

- C. Technical Specialist Designation:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. Mr. Shepherd presented the following two recommendations.

Mr. James Riley Pickett, Murphy Family Ventures, has requested to be a designated technical specialist for the Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category. He has successfully completed the required training, and technical proficiency has been verified by DSWC staff. Therefore, I recommend this designation for approval.

7. Additional Items Submitted Since Work Session (if needed)

A. Additional Supervisor Appointments

- 8. Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Allocation Process:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Mr. Matt Safford to present. A revised copy of the report (Attachment 8A) is included as an official part of the *business minutes Nov 19, 2025*. Mr. Safford stated that this discussion was for presenting the options for the Hurricane Helene allocation of strap funding and obtaining feedback. This discussion is for future approval, not an action item currently. Discussion items included a review of the funding we have available and how to divide funds between high, medium and low need counties. Prioritization of different stream repair project types. Completing a single application process or a rolling application (DART). A review of applications and the possibility of supplemental awards down the road. The chair asked members for their feedback and will implement some suggestions to prepare for the next meeting discussions. Action items from these discussions will be presented for the *November business meeting*.

- 9. Update on conditional supervisor reappointments from November 2024 meeting:** Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Ms. Fischer shared the following

On November 20, 2024, meeting the Commission made several conditional reappointments to local soil and water conservation district boards.

Four reappointments were made for nominees who had not attended two-thirds of the district's regularly scheduled board meetings during the previous term. These reappointments were made on the condition that the Commission monitor their attendance for the next 12 months and the Division provide a report in November 2025. Below is an update on progress:

District	Supervisor	Meetings Scheduled	Meetings Attended	Percentage	Area Meetings	Annual Meeting
Beaufort	Sid M. Cayton	8	7	87.5%	0	0
Forsyth	Jordan K. Jones	7	6	85.7%	0	0
Jones	Mike Haddock	4	2	50%	1	0
Scotland	Tracy Grice	7	7	100%	0	0

For those individuals where two-thirds attendance has been achieved, their full appointment is assumed for the remainder of the 2024-2028 term.

For Mike Haddock in Jones SWCD the Commission will need to take action to extend his appointment, if appropriate. Correspondence from Supervisor Haddock was received explaining the missed meetings.

10. Supervisor Failure to Attend - Vance

11. Division Engineering Report Chair Bleiweis recognized Ms. Rachel Smith to present. Ms. Smith reported continued progress in improving project management and service delivery despite ongoing staffing vacancies. The division has implemented enhanced project tracking and prioritization tools to increase transparency and coordination with local districts, resulting in improved timelines for assigning engineers to Technical Assistance requests, with a target of 14 days. While backlogs persist—primarily due to complex engineering projects, extended contract work, permitting requirements, and staffing shortages—the division is actively addressing these challenges through workflow improvements, training, and refined performance metrics aimed at increasing efficiency and reducing delays.

12. Special Requests – Chair Bleiweis recognized Commissioner Gail Hughes. Ms. Hughes asked if we could share the possible funding help for Chantal. Director David Williams shared the possibility of funds that were for Matthew could be freed up to use for Chantal issues.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

V. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:53p.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 January 15, 2026.