

NCDA&CS

Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David Williams, Director



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March 27, 2024



Personnel

- **New Hires:**
 - District Operations Chief (Julie Henshaw) – **Kristina Fischer**
 - Training Coordinator (Sydney Mucha) – **Brandy Myers**
- **Vacancies (10):**
 - Engineer Tech I (Taryn Hendrickson), Engineer Tech I (Matt Hall) – Merging to establish new Engineer I
 - CREP Surveyor (Jacob Berry), Engineer Tech I (Ben Wilkins) – Due to lack of eligible applicants, considering contracting surveying services
 - Engineer II (Layne Owen) – Vacant since April 2023, Interviewing
 - Engineer II (Cindy Safrit) – Posting closed 3/1
 - Sr. Eastern Regional Coordinator (Kristina Fischer) – Submitted for posting
 - Soil Scientist (Patrick Mitchell) – Submitted for posting
 - Admin. Officer (Maegan Trimnal) – Submitted for posting
 - Engineering Supervisor (Scott Melvin) – Vacancy pending (April 26)



New State Payment System

- In October State Government switched to a new system for processing payments.
- Affects supervisor payments and cost share payments, too
- We fell behind in processing payments during the transition and have not yet caught up
- Supervisors who attended the 2023 annual meeting probably received a 1099 by mistake. The Department will be issuing a correction to those who received one.
 - You should receive a W-2 for your per diem payments

Flood Resiliency Blueprint

- Decision Support Tool to help local governments identify and plan flood resiliency projects
- Phase I report is complete
- Initial Neuse Basin Strategy has been developed
- DEQ is planning several outreach sessions in the spring
- Potentially significant opportunities for Districts to engage
 - Debris Removal
 - Ag & Community Conservation BMPs
 - Buffers, Cropland conversion
 - Water Farming
 - Pond construction/rehab

Technical Assistance Funds

- The Division has not received a recurring increase for district technical assistance since 2006.
- The Association and Division are requesting a \$600,000 recurring expansion.
- We are working to steer additional funds to districts to help with paying for staff
 - StRAP admin and Technical Assistance (up to 15%)
 - Trying to develop an agreement with NRCS to compensate districts for TA on NRCS programs (EQIP & CSP).
 - Sentinel Landscapes projects can include funding for TA

Fundamentals of Conservation Planning

- May 6 – 10
- Waynesville
- Registration will open next week

