

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
WORK SESSION AGENDA
DRAFT

WORK SESSION

The Cherokee Convention Center
123 Harrahs Service Drive
Ballroom 103-104
Cherokee, NC 28719
January 8, 2023
9:30 a.m.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

BUSINESS SESSION

The Cherokee Convention Center
123 Harrahs Service Drive
Ballroom 111-113
Cherokee, NC 28719
January 8, 2023
3:00 p.m.

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The State Government Ethics Act mandates that at the beginning of any meeting the Chair reminds all the members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and inquire as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict with respect to matters to come before the Commission. If any member knows of a conflict of interest or potential conflict, please state so at this time.

II. PRELIMINARY – Business Meeting

Welcome – Cell phones set to silent or \$100 donation

Chairman John Langdon

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda

Chairman John Langdon

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. November 15, 2022 Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. November 16, 2022 Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. Division Report

Director Vernon Cox

4. Association Report

President Chris Hughes

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bryan Evans

6. NRCS Report

Mr. Tim Beard

7. Consent Agenda

A. Supervisor Appointments

Mr. Eric Pare

B. Supervisor Contracts

Mr. John Beck

ATTACHMENT 1WS BLUE

- 8. Job Approval Authority Mr. Joshua Vetter
 - A. Applications

- 9. Technical Specialist Training Update Mr. Michael Shepherd
 - A. Audit Results
 - B. Training Fulfillment Report

- 10. Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee Recommendations Mr. Tom Hill
 - A. Detailed Implementation Plan Revision
 - B. Regional Application Recommendations

- 11. Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member Contract Mr. John Beck

- 12. Supervisor Attendance Report Ms. Kristina Fischer

- 13. FY2022 Soil & Water Conservation Commission Programs Annual Report
 - A. Section I: Cost Share Programs Mr. John Beck
 - B. Section II: Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program Mr. Matt Safford

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

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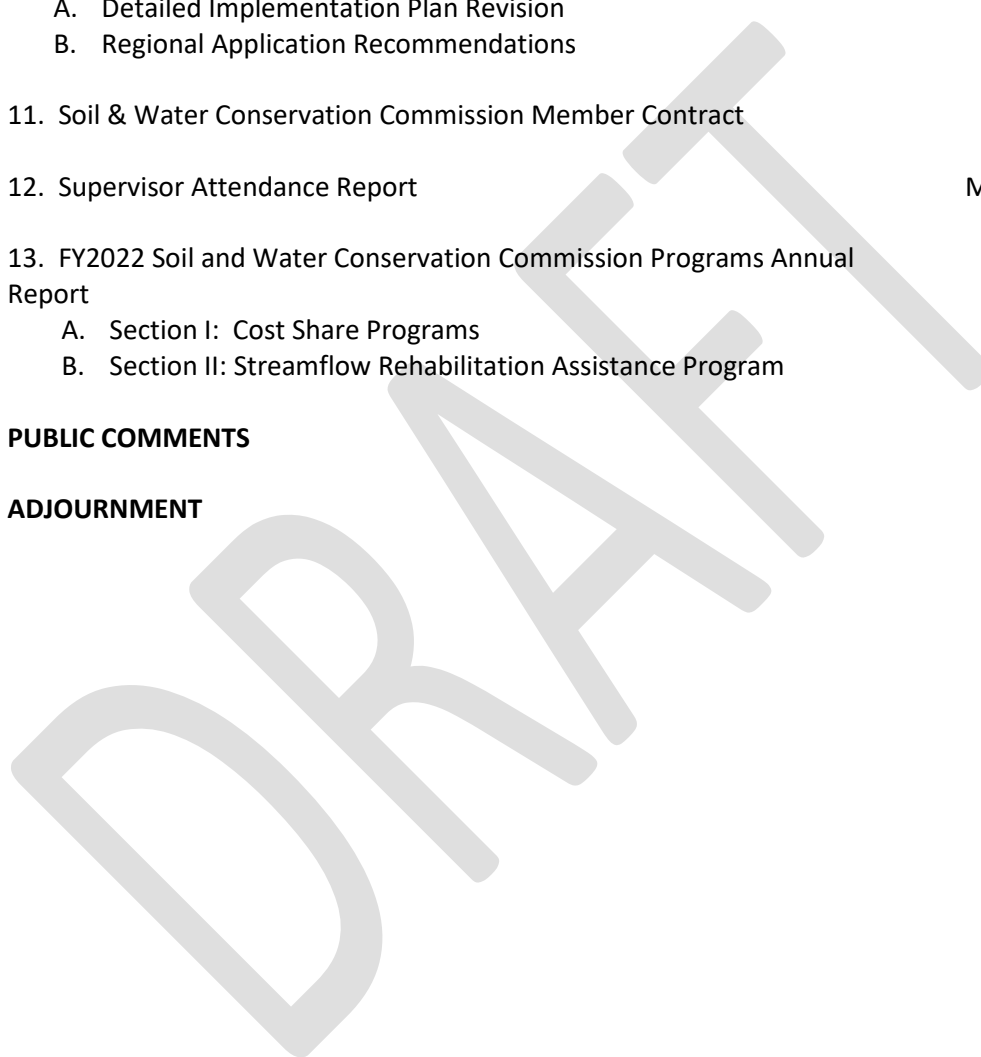
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 - A. Section I: Cost Share Programs Mr. John Beck
 - B. Section II: Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program Mr. Matt Safford

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**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2023**

Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
The Cherokee Convention Center
123 Harrahs Service Drive
Ballroom 103-104
Cherokee, NC 28719

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	John Beck	Randy Freeman
Chris Hughes	Michael Shepherd	Robert Johnson
Blount Knowles	Scott Melvin	Arnold Weatherman
James Lamb	Kristina Fischer	Craig Myers
George Teague	Bryan Evans	Dewitt Hardee
Mike Willis	Tom Hill	William "Bill" Shillito
Commission Counsel	Ken Parks	Guests - Online
Phillip Reynolds	Lisa Fine	Sydney Mucha
Guests	Brandy Myers	Heather Reichert
Vernon Cox	Matt Safford	Julie Henshaw
David Williams	Rachel Smith	
Joshua Vetter	Kaitlyn Johnson	

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:43 a.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need 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 Langdon stated the meeting guidelines. Chairman Langdon stated he will recuse himself from Item 11. Chairman Langdon asked Commissioner Willis to act as Vice Chairman, since Vice Chairman Potter is unable to attend the meeting.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. None were declared.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. None were declared
 - 2A.** November 15, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - 2B.** November 16, 2022, Business Session Meeting Minutes

- 3. Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated the report will be presented during the business meeting.

Mr. David Williams also briefed the Commission on the status of pond repairs resulting from damage caused by Hurricane Matthew. To date, repair of seven ponds has been completed at an average cost of \$210,000 each. There are two ponds that remain, with one in Sampson County and one in Duplin County. Both ponds are next to state-maintained roads and DOT's right of way. The costs for the repairs will be large. There have been delays on both ponds. The Duplin pond took one year for dam safety to approve it. Then the Department of Transportation (DOT) rejected the approved design, so the pond had to be redesigned to adhere to DOT requirements, which raised the cost. When the Duplin pond was bid out, there was only one bidder and the bid price was \$1.6M. We then got another extension to January 2024 for the FSA funds. The engineer's current cost estimate is \$775,000 to complete. Both the Duplin and Sampson ponds will exceed the Commission's current \$150,000 cost share cap. We may need to have a special called meeting when the quotes come in if we want to exceed the \$150,000 cap for these two ponds. The pond in Duplin can be sent out for re-bid. Quotes for both ponds should be ready between now and March. We chose to work through Resource Institute for eight out of the nine ponds. In Sampson County, a private engineer is designing the pond since it was initially assumed to be a high-hazard pond, but later it was determined it was not a high-hazard project. The Sampson project is 50+ acres with multiple landowners and is an old mill pond and a historic site with many complications. The engineers estimate from 2019 was \$546,000. There is about \$1.6M left in disaster funding for pond construction. The other seven ponds that were completed did not exceed the Commission's cap of \$150,000. Those ponds did not have any significant complications and the funding was adequate.

- 4. Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Hughes to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Hughes stated the report will be presented this afternoon.
- 5. Executive Director's Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Evans stated the report will be presented this afternoon. Basic training was held yesterday with 54 attendees, and we plan to offer this training in future years on the Saturday before the Annual meeting.
- 6. NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present at the meeting tomorrow. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard will be in attendance to present the report this afternoon. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
- 7. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare and Mr. John Beck to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Williams stated Mr. Pare went home sick and Mr. Williams presented the supervisor appointments.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Grace Summers, Guilford SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Joshua Myers for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Myers
- Gary Hyatt, Mitchell SWCD, filling the expired elected term of Keith Masters for 2022-2026 who passed away
- Craig Seaman, Warren SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Herman Collier for 2022-2026

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 5 contracts; totaling \$91,491

- 8. Job Approval Authority:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are ten applications and all applications are recommended for approval.

- 9. Technical Specialist Training Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Audit Results: Mr. Shepherd stated the Commission's rule requires that Technical Specialists must complete six hours of training every three years and a 10% audit of submitted training is required each year. Forty-seven training course credits were submitted, and all were correct and in order.

9B. Training Fulfillment Report: Mr. Shepherd stated under the same Rule, Technical Specialists are required to complete six hours of training every three years to renew their Technical Specialists designation. All seven Technical Specialists successfully completed the training to maintain their designation.

- 10. Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee Recommendations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan Revisions: Mr. Hill stated the last paragraph on page 3 states an increase to the limit to the proposed Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP). The revision states, "*The maximum CCAP cost share allocation per project will be limited to \$25,000 and the district allocation will be limited to ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000*" with an additional \$61,000 for three additional projects for FY2023.

10B. Regional Application Recommendations: Mr. Hill stated this includes the three projects for \$61,000, and the projects were listed by each region. It was assumed the original DIP request would include multiple applications and five districts did submit multiple applications. The Western region fulfilled their portion of the allocation with the total amount split. The Central region and Eastern region did not fulfill their requirements that had a cap of \$25K. The Western region has more complex projects for stream restoration.

11. Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member Contract: Chairman Langdon recused himself and passed the gavel to Commissioner Willis. Commissioner Willis recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Mr. Beck stated the contract is for \$5,502 for a water supply well and all is in order. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Willis returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

12. Supervisor Attendance Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer stated under the Rule adopted in March 2022 District boards are required to submit a supervisor attendance report annually to the Commission for the period December 1 – November 30, and all 100 districts responded. The average number of meetings held was 9.59, the average participation by district supervisors was 83.65%, and the list of districts by Area with the most and fewest meetings held was highlighted. Under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301(c), District boards are required to notify the Commission in writing of any member that has failed to attend three consecutive meetings except when prevented by illness of the Supervisor. There were three supervisors that failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings between December 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022.

Beaufort SWCD	Sid Cayton	Staff difficulties	Attendance resumed
Brown Creek SWCD	Kimberly Tyner	Work conflicts	Attendance resumed in Nov 2022
Henderson SWCD	Jerred Nix	Harvesting	Attendance resumed

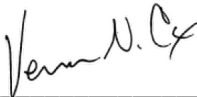
13. FY2022 Soil and Water Conservation Commission Programs Annual Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck and Mr. Matt Safford. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

13A. Section I: Mr. John Beck stated the report will be presented later this afternoon including a map. This is a draft version of the report, and StRAP was added to the report.

13B. Section II. Mr. Safford stated the report will be presented at the meeting this afternoon.

IV. Public Comments: Director Cox stated three supervisors did not obtain their six hours of required training credits during the previous term and did not attend the six hours basic training course held on January 7, 2023. The Division will encourage these supervisors to take the training in February. If not, an Inquiry Committee may need to be convened. Chairman Langdon stated a summary should be presented in March for those that did not attend Basic Training. Ms. Fischer stated there are 90 supervisors that should take the training that were newly elected or newly appointed plus the three in question. Chairman Langdon suggested addressing the training requirements in the spring of 2023.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.



Vernon N. Cox, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.



Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 15, 2023.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2023**

Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
The Cherokee Convention Center
123 Harrahs Service Drive
Ballroom 103-104
Cherokee, NC 28719

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Wayne S. Carland	Jonathan Wallin
Chris Hughes	Dan Brandon	Franklin Williams
Blount Knowles	Rachel Smith	Wayne Moser
James Lamb	Nicole Warren	April Hoyt
Derek Potter - online	Jeff Joyner	Kaley Griggs
George Teague	Jane Humphrey	Craig Frazier
Mike Willis	Josh Thomas	Myles Payne
Commission Counsel	Rick Karriker	Randy Freeman
Phillip Reynolds	Arnold Weatherman	Delmon Dewitt Hardee
Guests	Bill Yarborough	Samuel Harris
Vernon Cox	David Harris	Jim Chandler
David Williams	Tommy Houser	Matthew Reel
Joshua Vetter	Madison Bridges	Beth Pugh Farrell
John Beck	Evan Crawley	James Cochran
Helen Wiklund	Manly West	Wayne Black
Cayle Aldridge	Rebecca Gibson	James Allen
Scott Melvin	William L. Powell	Carrie Guess-Slatosky
Kristina Fischer	Terry Munday	Hannah Bell
Ralston James	Ben Knox	Bryan Dadson
Tom Hill	Samantha Bennett	Greg Walker
Ken Parks	Annette Adams	Charles Hughes
Lisa Fine	Payton Lane	Elton Wilson
Matt Safford	Richal Vanhook	Gary D. Holtzmann
Bryan Evans	Donna Vanhook	Amanda Sand
Michael Shepherd	Will Farmer	David Freeman
Rick McSwain	Tim Huffman	Craig Myers
Brandy Myers	PJ Andrews	Blaire Deaver
Eileen Langdon	Charles Boyd	Richard Smith
Bob Twomey	Ross Young	Wayne Collier

Guests	Guests	Guests - Online
W. Chester Lowder	Josh Myers	Paula Day
Betsy Gerwig	William (Bill) Shillito	Julie Henshaw
Colin Hall	Aaron Franks	Anne Coan

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need 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 Langdon stated he will recuse himself from Item 11. Chairman Langdon asked Commissioner Willis to serve as Vice Chairman, since Vice Chairman Potter is attending online. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Knowles moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.
 - 2A. November 15, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - 2B. November 16, 2022, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated the following:
 - Personnel Updates
 - Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program
 - 109 contracts fully executed
 - 162,562 linear feet of stream debris removal completed
 - \$2.3M in payments
 - NC General Assembly
 - Convenes on January 11, 2023
 - Long Session of 2-year Biennium
 - 12 of 50 First Term Senators
 - 28 of 120 First Term Representatives
 - March Meeting will be at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh

4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Hughes to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Hughes stated the following:
 - 1,200 rooms booked for the Annual Meeting
 - Fifty-four supervisors attended Basic Training on Saturday, January 7
 - Next three trainings are: February 7 – Coastal Region at the Greenville Ag Center; February 21 – Mountain Region at the Wilkesboro Ag Center; February 28 – Piedmont Region at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center in Raleigh
 - National NACD meeting is scheduled in New Orleans in February
 - 2023 Association Elections

- 2nd Vice President, Mountain Region Commission member, and a Technical Review Committee (TRC) member from the Piedmont

5. Executive Director's Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Evans stated

- Area chairs, Division staff, and district operations are doing a great job putting together the Area meetings and trainings
- 2022 Legislative Items
 - Requested an increase through the Division in funding for Agriculture Cost Share of \$4M recurring for BMPs, \$600K for technical assistance, \$1.5M recurring for CCAP for BMPs, \$225K for technical assistance, and \$20M recurring funds for StRAP

6. NRCS Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beard stated the following:

- Contract Update – 2018 to Present
 - Since 2018, NRCS completed over 1,500 EQIP contracts, there are over 500 active CSP contracts, and 1,116 active EQIP contracts
 - NRCS completed 55 CSP contracts, 568 active contracts totaling \$38M
 - To date, the total amount invested between completed CSP and EQIP contracts and active contracts is almost \$150M invested in conservation
- Obligated \$39M for EWP which included three projects in North Carolina for watershed rehabilitation totaling \$3.2M and for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program obligated ~\$35M
- Obligated ~\$27M for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - National Level: Agency received ~\$20B over a four-year period
 - \$8.45B for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - \$5B for Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - \$3.25B for Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
 - \$1.4B for Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
 - \$1B for Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program
 - As an agency will obligate \$250M for EQIP, \$250M for RCPP, and \$250M for CSP
 - North Carolina will receive ~\$5M for CSP and EQIP

7. Consent Agenda: Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the consent agenda. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Knowles moved to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Grace Summers, Guilford SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Joshua Myers for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Myers
- Gary Hyatt, Mitchell SWCD, filling the expired elected term of Keith Masters for 2022-2026

- Craig Seaman, Warren SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Herman Collier for 2022-2026

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 5 contracts; totaling \$91,491

- 8. Job Approval Authority:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

8A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are ten applications, which were reviewed by the Division and the Job Approval Authority Committee. The applications are in order and are recommended for approval.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the applications and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

- 9. Technical Specialist Training Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Audit Results: Mr. Shepherd stated according to the Technical Specialist Rule 02 NCAC 59G .0104, technical specialists are required to get six hours of training every three years. The Division staff must audit 10% of the submitted trainings. There were 47 course credits submitted by 34 technical specialists. All the information submitted is correct.

9B. Training Fulfillment Report: Mr. Shepherd stated technical specialists are required to get six hours of training every three years. There were seven technical specialists subject to the three-year training requirement window expiring on December 31, 2022. All seven technical specialists completed their training requirement to maintain their technical specialist designations.

- 10. Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee Recommendations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan Revisions: Mr. Hill stated the revision is on page 3 in red. It will increase the current cap from \$25K per district to \$50K per district. There were five districts that submitted multiple applications in three regions. This revision will allow an additional \$61K to be allocated.

- \$419,469 is available; \$139,823 per region and for the eastern and central regions due to the multiple applications that were submitted by two districts did not fulfill the \$139,823
 - 46 applications submitted
 - West Region: 9 applications = \$193,330
 - Central Region: 12 applications = \$169,908
 - East Region: 25 applications = \$308,890
 - Total requests: \$672,128
- Draft proposal: *Increase District allocation cap to \$50,000 from the currently approved \$25,000*

- The revision will allow an additional \$61K in funding to be allocated for FY2023 to high-ranking projects
- Funding in Buncombe, Chatham, and Dare Counties

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the revisions to the DIP and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Regional Application Recommendations: Mr. Hill stated the recommendation is to provide allocations to each region as follows:

- Western Region: \$177,750
- Central Region: \$95,983
- Eastern Region: \$136,920

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Knowles moved to approve the regional application recommendations and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

Mr. Hill highlighted the 2022 CCAP projects that were completed with one-time, non-recurring funds. There were seven projected completed in the following counties:

- Brunswick: Marsh sill - \$42,500 about 50% of the total funds received and expended
- Carteret: Marsh sill - \$34,999
- Chatham: Permeable pavers - \$50,000
- Currituck: Marsh sill - \$49,999
- Dare: Critical area planting - \$1,500
- Macon: Stream restoration - \$37,000
- Pitt: Raingarden - \$5,500

There are four additional projects with one in Wake, two in Craven, and one in Carteret where ground should be broken soon.

11. Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member Contract: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck. Chairman Langdon recused himself and passed the gavel to Commissioner Willis. Mr. Beck stated this is an AgWRAP project for a water supply well in the amount of \$5,502.

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the contract and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Willis returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12. Supervisor Attendance Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer stated under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301(b) *“District boards shall submit a Supervisor attendance report, annually, for all members. This report shall be delivered by January 31 of each year. Reports shall cover the time period beginning December 1 and ending November 30 of the previous year.”* Attendance

reports were submitted for all 100 counties. The average number of meetings held from December 1, 2021 – November 30, 2022, was 9.59, and the average participation rate by district supervisors was ~84%. The average number of meetings held by area was highlighted. The fewest meetings held during this time period was 4; Craven, Hoke, Rutherford, and Sampson. The most meetings that were held was 20. Districts are also required to submit an explanation for non-attendance to the Commission for any member that fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, except when due to illness. The Division received reports of three supervisors that failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings between December 1, 2021 – November 30, 2022. The supervisors are Sid Cayton from Beaufort SWCD, Kimberly Tyner from Brown Creek SWCD, and Jerred Nix from Henderson SWCD. Their explanations were submitted through Formsite, and their attendance has resumed.

13. FY2022 Soil and Water Conservation Commission Programs Annual Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck and Mr. Matt Safford. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

13A. Section I: Cost Share Programs: Mr. John Beck stated the report is for the Commission's three cost share programs. The report will be uploaded to the Division's Cost Share Program web page. The report is for fiscal year 2022 and includes information on the background, partnership, and administration of the program.

- Map shows the three cost share programs locations throughout the state
- Map shows the implemented contracts across the state with ACSP being the highest funded program in green
- In FY2022 for the ACSP, the districts obligated \$4.5M through ACSP and 523 ACSP contracts were implemented, including those that were contracted in previous years
- Over 59,677 tons of soil saved, managed 55,541 pounds of phosphorus, and 419,244 pounds of nitrogen on 34,290 acres of land
- The practices implemented since 1984 have saved 77M tons of soil, 21.3M pounds of phosphorous, and 7.3M pounds of nitrogen
- In FY2022 the CCAP program received a one-time, non-recurring appropriation of \$1.5M which allowed districts to contract 75 projects in 35 districts. Since CCAP began, almost 6,412 tons of soil has been saved annually. Nitrogen and phosphorus have been reduced by 1,110 pounds and 476 pounds annually.
- In FY2022 for AgWRAP, the districts obligated \$1.2M of State funds for 137 contracts and implemented 148 practices. These BMPS resulted in an increase in over 48M gallons of water storage and irrigation of an additional 9,600 acres, with an increase of more than 1.8 billion gallons of storage and irrigation improvements on more than 15,000 acres since 2011.

13B. Section II: Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program: Mr. Safford provided a StRAP update for FY2022. He stated the 2021 Appropriations Act allocated \$38M in non-recurring funds for the program. Eligible projects include vegetative debris removal, in-stream sediment removal, streambank stabilization, stream restoration and grants for maintenance and repair of PL-566 Small Watershed Projects. Organizations that qualify for StRAP are Soil & Water Conservation Districts, county and city/town governments, drainage districts, and non-profit organizations. The Commission received StRAP applications from 125 organizations for a total requested funds exceeding \$311B. The Commission prioritized funding for vegetative debris

removal projects and PL-566 repairs, with an award cap of \$500,000 for stream debris removal projects and a cap of \$2,000,000 for PL-566 projects. The Commission awarded a total of \$36.1M to 111 grantees across the state. A map of the state showed how the funds were distributed with the total amount of funds awarded in each county. In the summer of 2022, grantees were notified of their awards. Many grantees received smaller award amounts than they applied for, so the grantees revised their scope of work to use their allocated funds. The authorizing legislation for StRAP states that all debris removed from streams using program funds must be “either removed from the 100-year floodplain or processed in such a manner that the debris would not pose a risk of blockage or significant impairment of normal streamflow during a subsequent flood event.” The Commission has approved three methods of processing debris, i.e., burning, chipping/mulching, and cabling. StRAP grantees must submit a report as to the length of the project, funds spent, changes to the scope of work, or changes in the timeline of the project, and Division staff will review the completed work and process reimbursements. StRAP grants will remain in effect until December 31, 2024.

Mr. Safford provided an update for FY2023 by stating 111 organizations received an allocation and 109 accepted their contracts, with two organizations declining. To date, the Division has reimbursed 13 local sponsors a total of \$2.3M. A breakdown of reimbursements is as follows: \$2.2M reimbursed for stream debris removal, \$105k reimbursed for PL-566 and \$22,000 reimbursed for administrative costs. Stream debris removal has been completed on 360,000 linear feet of streams and one PL-566 project has been completed. Seven organizations have completed and closed their contracts. The reports that are due include a quarterly report due January 31, which will provide an update from October 2022 – December 2022 and a progress report will be provided by the end of February.

IV. Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked all past Commission members to stand and thanked those members for their leadership, contribution, and continued support. Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Elton Wilson from Johnston County Soil & Water District to introduce the staff in attendance. Chairman Langdon thanked them for their attendance and leadership.

Mr. Manly West from Currituck County stated there is a resolution on the Association agenda to have the Association Annual Meeting centrally located in future years.

Mr. Wayne Collier stated a new technician, Colin Hall, is working in Cumberland Soil & Water, and we welcome him, and he is doing a great job.

Mr. Craig Frazier from Randolph Soil & Water Conservation District introduced his wife and Kaitlyn Johnson and their newest supervisor, Grace Guess-Slatosky, and Randy Freeman.

Commissioner Willis stated a new district technician, Aaron Franks, from Caldwell Soil & Water started a week ago and appreciate him stepping up for the challenge.

Mr. Bill Yarborough from Haywood Soil & Water thanked the districts who sent someone to the county to help with the flooding due to Tropical Storm Fred. They came to help and got things done. We will send someone down your way when the need comes. Mr. Yarborough stated he appreciates the help when the districts did come. Mr. Yarborough recognized Mr. James Ferguson, who has been with the district 54 years.

Director Cox stated we met in Wilmington for the 2nd Annual Waters Summit sponsored by Rep. Rouzer and Rep. Murphy. The purpose of the Waters Summit is to discuss the challenges in eastern North Carolina due to excessive rainfall, flooding events, and the changes in rainfall patterns over the last 20-30 years. A panel from the Department of Agriculture, Chairman Langdon, and Dr. Sandy Stewart were in attendance talking about some of the impacts on agriculture and the need to protect eastern North Carolina. Federal partners were in attendance, including Mr. Tim Beard representing NRCS. There was a good discussion within the Department and other agencies about making a difference in local communities and getting help on the ground. Chairman Langdon stated it is encouraging that Federal partners were in attendance in North Carolina to try to make a difference, and we are moving in a positive direction even with the workload. Our legislators are aware and engaged with the Department, Division, and landowners to gain information and try to address these challenges. Director Cox stated there is an effort to develop a statewide flood mitigation plan. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been charged to develop a statewide blueprint for flood control by the end of the year.

Mr. David Williams stated there were 92 people who signed up to attend their first annual meeting and congratulated everyone in attendance. President Hughes announced 1,200 room nights reserved and expressed his appreciation for so many interested in this event. Mr. Williams is impressed with those supervisors that signed up for basic training yesterday and for the district supervisors fulfilling their training requirement today.

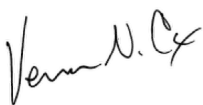
Chairman Langdon thanked Commissioner Hughes for his work as President of the Association and for the work of Executive Director Bryan Evans.

Chairman Langdon thanked and congratulated Commissioner Knowles for his generous leadership to the Commission and Association. A plaque of appreciation was presented to Commissioner Knowles.

Chairman Langdon stated relationships are important and Mike Willis has done a tremendous job in representing the Mountain Region on the Commission. Chairman Langdon presented a plaque of appreciation to Mr. Willis.

Chairman Langdon thanked the Commissioners and reminded everyone that there is a Memorial Service tonight at 7:30 p.m.

V. Adjournment: Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Willis motioned to adjourn and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.



Vernon N. Cox, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.



Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 15, 2023.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2022**

Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson Street
Holmes & Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mt. Olive, NC 28365

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Brandy Myers	Chris Love
Chris Hughes	Cayle Aldridge	Allie Dinwiddie
Blount Knowles	Scott Melvin	Kristy Dail
James Lamb	Kristina Fischer	Vickie Baker
Derek Potter	Ralston James	Guests - Online
George Teague	Tom Hill	Daphne Cartner
Mike Willis	Ken Parks	Eric Pare
Commission Counsel	Lisa Fine	Rachel Smith
Phillip Reynolds	Matt Safford	Heather Reichert
Guests	Bryan Evans	Paula Day
Vernon Cox	Michael Shepherd	Abel Ferry
David Williams	Sam Edwards	Rick McSwain
Julie Henshaw	Sydney Mucha	Anne Coan
John Beck	Joshua Vetter	Anthony Dowdle

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need 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 Langdon stated the meeting guidelines. Chairman Langdon stated he will recuse himself from Item 12A.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. None were declared.
- 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. Commissioner Potter stated the minutes are in order.
 - 2A.** August 15, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - 2B.** August 16, 2022, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated the report will be presented tomorrow.
4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Hughes to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Hughes stated the report will be presented tomorrow.
5. **Executive Director's Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Evans stated the report will be presented tomorrow.
6. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present at the meeting tomorrow. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard is expected to present the report tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
7. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. David Williams and Mr. John Beck to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Joshua N. Myers, Guilford SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Harold Alexander for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Alexander
- Ariel Zipp, Madison SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Harold Hunter for 2020-2024 who passed away
- Randy Hollifield, McDowell SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Terry English for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. English

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 9 contracts; totaling \$52,482

8. **2022-2026 Supervisor Terms:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer stated it is the Commission's policy that supervisors should attend at least two-thirds of all regularly scheduled district meetings during their present term and are, by statute, required to achieve six training credits per term. All District Supervisors are also required to attend Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year of service as an elected or appointed Supervisor. This requirement was adopted by rule effective March 1, 2022. Attorney Phillip Reynolds stated it is not only the Commission's policy that a supervisor attend two-thirds of the district's meetings, but also by Executive Order. The Commission supports the Executive Order.

8A.i. Nominations for Reappointment and have attended basic training, at least 2/3 of the regularly scheduled district meetings, and achieved at least 6 STCs: There are 73 reappointments, and the staff recommends reappointment of these nominations for the new term for December 2022 – December 2026.

8A.ii. Nominated for Reappointment and have not attended basic training: Mr. May is from Cabarrus County. His appointment was after the basic training course was offered in 2022. The

staff recommends his reappointment conditional upon attendance of the 2023 basic training, with the credit hours to be applied to the 2022-2026 term.

8A.iii. Nominated for Reappointment and have not attended basic training or achieved 6

STCs: These individuals were appointed after the basic training was offered in 2022. The staff recommends these individual's reappointments conditional upon attending the 2023 basic training, with the credit hours to be applied to the 2022-2026 term.

8A.iv. Nominated for reappointment and have not met attended 2/3 of regularly scheduled district meetings; meets training requirements:

These four individuals provided letters of explanation why they were unable to attend at least two-thirds of their district meetings. The individuals are committed to reach the two-thirds mark and attend district meetings in the coming term. The staff recommends these individual's reappointments conditional upon improving attendance to at least the two-thirds mark next year, and the Division will provide a report at the November 2023 meeting.

8A.v. Nominated for appointment: There are four individuals, one from each of the following districts: Edgecombe, Franklin, Graham, and Wake, who have been nominated for appointment. The staff recommends appointing these individuals for a new term in December 2022-2026 conditional upon their attending basic supervisor training in 2023.

8A.vi. Nominated for appointment and have attended basic training: This is for a new appointment of Mr. James Tyler Ross who attended basic training in 2016. The staff recommends appointing Mr. Ross without conditions since he has attended basic training.

8A.vii. Nominated for reappointment and serves on the Commission; meet attendance and training requirements: These individuals have met both the meeting attendance and training requirements. The staff recommends reappointment for the December 2022 – December 2026 term.

Ms. Fischer stated six districts, i.e., Bertie, Fishing Creek, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Warren, and Washington did not submit reappointment forms. These seats will go vacant the first Monday in December, and the staff anticipates appointment recommendations early next year.

8B. Election Report: Ms. Fischer stated the preliminary election results were obtained on November 9 from the State Board of Elections web site.

8B.i. Re-elected and have Attended Basic Training and Achieved at least 6 STCs: There are 129 supervisors that have been re-elected and attended basic training and achieved six STCs.

8Bii. Re-elected and have not Attended Basic Training or Achieved at least 6 STCs – Full Term of Service: These three individuals have not attended basic training or achieved at least six STCs. The staff recommends referring these individuals to the Inquiry Committee for review.

Chairman Langdon stated he will appoint an Inquiry Committee which will include himself, two commissioners, and Mr. Reynolds. This is a temporary committee to identify the issues going forward. Mr. Reynolds stated based on the Rules and adopted by the Commission, the Inquiry Committee is the right way to go for these three individuals.

8Biii. Re-elected and have not Attended Basic Training or Achieved at least 6 STCs – Partial Term of Service: These six supervisors started their term after basic training was offered in 2022. The staff recommends tracking these individuals for attendance of basic training in 2023 and apply the credits for the course for 2022-2026 term. If these six supervisors do not attend basic training in 2023, the staff recommends referring their names to the Inquiry Committee.

8Biv. Re-elected and have not Achieved at least 6 STCs: There are two individuals that were re-elected and have not achieved at least six STCs. If these six STCs are not achieved by Monday, December 5, 2022, when the new term starts, the staff recommends referring their names to the Inquiry Committee.

8Bv. Re-Elected and have not Attended Basic Training: These 11 supervisors were re-elected and have not attended basic training. The basic training requirement went into effect in March 2022. The staff recommends sending these supervisors correspondence making them aware that under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0202(d) *“For Supervisors that are re-elected in December 2022 that have not previously participated in this required basic training course, participation shall be required in 2023 or at the next available offering.”* If these individuals do not attend, the staff recommends referring them to the Inquiry Committee.

8Bvi. Newly Elected: This is a group of 44 newly elected supervisors across the state.

8Bvii. Write-Ins Need Confirmation: There are five districts with write-ins and the information was not currently available to confirm.

Chairman Langdon stated the Inquiry Committee will meet virtually and asked if any Commissioner has a conflict. Commissioner Knowles stated his appointment will expire in January 2023 and cannot be on the committee.

- 9. Job Approval Authority:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Sydney Mucha and Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the reports is included as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Training Update: Ms. Mucha stated the update will be presented tomorrow and will discuss the training plan for the rest of the fiscal year. Staff intends to provide a training update to the Commission twice a year. The members of the JAA Committee includes Josh Vetter, Scott Melvin, Bryan Evans, Cayle Aldridge, Gayle Hughes, Rick McSwain, Jason Byrd, Jeremy Rosten, Randy Freeman, Lee Holcomb, and John Langdon.

9B. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are two applications for Job Approval Authority (JAA) for cropland conversion.

9C. JAA Policy Revision: Mr. Vetter presented the policy, the revisions, a clean copy, and overview of the policy.

- Soil & Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) requires approval of all best management practices by a qualified person who has appropriate Job Approval Authority (JAA)

- Having JAA allows district staff to design and install BMPs without relying on Division engineers or other district staff
- Two ways to obtain SWCC JAA
 - Submit existing NRCS JAA for comparable BMPs
 - Request SWCC JAA for new BMPs
- Five items must be included in the JAA Application
 - Name, contact information, JAA requested, Signature of District Chair or Supervisor, and Proof of technical competency for the requested JAA including comparable JAA through USDA NRCS or applicable certification or submission of two completed practice designs
- Technical Competency Sheet was highlighted
- BMP JAA Package Contents checklists and flowchart were highlighted
- Policy revision to the JAA Review and Minimum Documentation Requirements was highlighted
 - Current policy: In order to obtain new JAA, at least two complete and correct packets must be submitted and an Inventory & Evaluation, Design and Construction & Certification
 - Proposed Policy Revision: JAA candidates may choose to substitute one complete packet with successful completion of a training course specific to the BMP for which the candidate is requiring JAA. To be considered, the training course must include a competency exam/certification and be approved by the JAA Committee, and proof of attendance and a passing exam score must be submitted for review.
- JAA Review and Minimum Documentation Requirements
 - Reasons for adding the option
 - Provide tangible credit for attending training, incentivize attendance and participation in training, ensure employees are receiving specific training, and simplify and expedite the JAA process
 - Eligible Training Courses
 - Training course must provide information specific to obtaining SWCC JAA and SWCC cost share program polices and requirements
 - Competency Exams/Certification
 - Planning and design scenarios: Participant will create a JAA packet and BMP design from mock scenario
 - Option is a choice, NOT a requirement
 - Candidates MAY submit two packets or one packet and successful completion of applicable training course
 - Not all BMPs
 - More complex practices may not be conducive to this model

Commissioner Hughes stated approval of the class by the JAA Committee should be required before the class is offered.

Commissioner Potter stated there is no excuse for district staff not to obtain needed job approval authority and it is incumbent upon all of us, i.e., district boards, division staff to get this done. These changes are making it more accessible for everyone. We need to get this on the ground.

Director Cox stated the district supervisors must hold the district staff accountable and make sure they take advantage of these opportunities.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 7:23 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:43 p.m.

Chairman Langdon called Mr. Tom Hill to the podium. Mr. Hill stated there are six CCAP projects on the ground, i.e., marsh sill, stream restoration project, and a project in Brunswick County on the intracoastal waterway. Mr. Hill also informed the Commission that Adam Simon, Soil Conservationist in Dare SWCD, had recently passed away. While working for the district, Mr. Simon submitted 21 applications for FY2022, and there are another 21 projects submitted for FY2023.

Chairman Langdon asked all those in attendance to introduce themselves.

10. Swine & Dairy Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Shepherd stated the update and overview will be provided tomorrow. The update will provide information about the trainings and surveys for technical assistance.

11. Proposed Changes to the Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI) Program for FY 2024

DIP: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Allie Dinwiddie to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Dinwiddie stated the following:

- IISI Workgroup Objectives and Program Background were highlighted
- Program's Improvements
 - Approximately 30% rollover of IISI funds annually, annual IISI allocations per districts are low (\$5K - \$12K), significant district interest in setting up mid-year voluntary return of IISI funds for re-allocations, 30% of districts receiving IISI funds have multiple surveys (4+) diluting targeted BMP implementation, and no performance parameter in place to discourage requesting and not using IISI funds
- Existing IISI Eligibility Criteria and Allocation Process
 - Complete one or more IISI survey responses (surveys last five years), request IISI funds annual through the Strategic Plan submittals, eligible districts will follow the ACSP fund allocation guidelines and procedures in Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103, and no mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process is available for IISI funds
- Proposed IISI Changes
 - Establish a mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process for IISI funds to be implemented in FY 2024
 - Update district eligibility criteria for participation in the IISI program
 - Incorporate proposed changes in FY 2024 ACSP Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP)
- IISI District Eligibility Updates
 - Districts annually prioritize up to three watershed(s) in which IISI funds are to be used in Strategic Plans and the district's local ACSP ranking form
 - Affirm that districts currently have outstanding requests in prioritized watersheds for ACSP/IISI funds in annual Strategic Plans
 - The Technical Review Committee recommends demonstrating high utilization of IISI allocations either through encumbrance totals by fiscal year end or voluntary return of funds prior to mid-year re-allocations and begin tracking in FY 2024

- Plan to be phased in by FY 2026 allowing time for districts to improve performance in the next two fiscal years
 - 70% utilization with one recent fiscal year allocation
 - 85% utilization with two recent fiscal year allocations

Commissioner Potter was concerned that the districts are only required to achieve 70% utilization for the first fiscal year, which means the second year, the districts must reach 100% to qualify with 85% utilization otherwise the district is out. The numbers should be attainable. The first year should be 80%.

Commissioner Lamb stated the districts provided feedback to streamline the survey process and it is a good compromise to have accountability and get dollars on the ground.

The proposed language changes for the ACSP FY 2024 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) states, *“To be eligible for an IISI allocation, districts must complete the FY2024 IISI survey and request IISI funds in their FY2024 Strategic Plan. Districts’ utilization of allocations (encumbrance by fiscal year end and voluntary return of funding for mid-year supplemental allocations) will be tracked starting in FY2024 and used to determine future eligibility for IISI funds. Districts may participate in a mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process that runs in conjunction with the ACSP Spring Supplemental Allocation.”*

Commissioner Willis stated it sounds like a good idea and the ACSP may consider doing something like this and not penalize a district. Ms. Henshaw stated it would require a Rule revision.

Commissioner Lamb stated based on Commissioner Potter’s recommendation of the 80%/85%, the first year is attainable at 80% based upon the return process.

Ms. Dinwiddie stated the districts were supportive of the first year at 70% and not sure the districts would be supportive of changing the first year to 80%. To go with accountability, the number can change to 80%. The 70% gives it more flexibility.

Commissioner Hughes stated when a workgroup makes a recommendation, and the staff representative is echoing the recommendation, we may not be privy to the discussions, we need to listen to what the workgroup is saying.

12. District Issues: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Chairman Langdon recused himself from Item 12A and Vice Chairman Potter presided over the issue. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Johnston – Exception to CCAP Repair Cap: Mr. Beck stated this is an exception to the cap of \$5,000 for a single CCAP repair. This project is a streambank stabilization project. There was a considerable amount of rain that damaged the completed project. District staff, the contractor, and Division staff met to discuss the repair options and a quote was generated. The current CCAP repair policy allows the district to request up to \$5K and the district is requesting additional funds of \$2,773.75. Mr. Dewitt Hardee, supervisor, and Ms. Payton Lane, district staff, will present the exception tomorrow.

12B. Jones – ACSP Post Approval: Mr. Beck stated this is a post approval for cropland conversion to grass. The producer thought the contract was approved when he applied for the practice and did not know that he had to wait for the Division to approve the contract. Mr. Kyle Koonce, supervisor, will be in attendance and a staff member.

Vice Chairman Potter passed the gavel back to Chairman Langdon.

12C. Cumberland – CREP Post Approval: Mr. Beck stated this is for a chemical release application. At the end of the year, the division reached out to the district to remind them of a potential cancelation and to complete the contract. There was a miscommunication because the practice was completed. The invoice was not sent in on time, and the producer contacted NRCS, which delayed the cost share reimbursement. The contract was canceled when it should have been extended. A new contract for the practice is being created. Mr. Wayne Collier will be in attendance to present this request tomorrow.

12D. Buncombe – AgWRAP on a Government-Owned Property: Mr. Beck stated this is for a collection system at the Western NC Ag. Center. This is a 2018 contract. They will install a roof water runoff collection system on the horse arena, which is currently connected to the public water supply. The public water supply system will be disconnected which will save over 300,000 gallons of water a year from the municipal system. Mr. Gary Higgins, Chairman of the Buncombe District, will join via Teams along with Mr. Sean McKeon and possibly Mr. Cameron Greene.

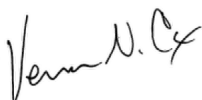
IV. Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked Director Cox when will Dr. Sandy Maddox and her staff be speaking tomorrow. Director Cox stated Dr. Maddox and Mr. Ed Olive will have a short presentation during the Welcome. Dr. Maddox has also offered a tour of their education farm tomorrow afternoon. Chairman Langdon stated he and Director Cox had visited with Dr. Maddox and Mr. Olive to discuss future partnerships with the Commission and the Division. Johnston SWCD recently hired a graduate from Mt. Olive, and she was unaware of the job opportunities with Soil & Water while in college. The university needs to know about the job opportunities in the neighboring counties for future partnership.

Mr. David Williams recognized the online attendees.

Commissioner Lamb stated Mt. Olive is the home of Mt. Olive pickles. The North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission and NC Pork Council provided funding for the research farm. The headquarters of the restaurant Highway 55, formerly known as Andy's, is also headquartered in Mt. Olive.

Chairman Langdon stated Mr. Wendell Murphy and his family, and the Britt family have had a lot to do with the buildings on and off campus. The building we are in right now, Grower Appreciation dinners took place here and the original Free Will Baptists have had their conventions here since 1903.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.



Vernon N. Cox, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.



Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on January 8, 2023.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
November 16, 2022**

Department of Agriculture
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
University of Mount Olive
634 Henderson Street
Holmes & Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mt. Olive, NC 28365

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
John Langdon	Michael Shepherd	Kyle Koonce
Chris Hughes	Bryan Evans	Charlie Bass
Blount Knowles	Ken Parks	Guests - Online
James Lamb	Keith Larick	Angie Quinn
Derek Potter	David Whaley	Annette Adams
George Teague	Shaquar Moses	Anne Coan
Mike Willis	Kristy Dail	Billy Ivey
Commission Counsel	Odessa Armstrong	Abel Ferry
Phillip Reynolds	Yamika Bennett	Gary Higgins
Guests	Tom Hill	Cameron D. Greene
Vernon Cox	Matt Safford	Trace Guyer
David Williams	Brad Moore	Jennifer Harrison
Julie Henshaw	Mitch Miller	Rick McSwain
John Beck	Wayne Collier	Robert Moore
Joshua Vetter	Collin Hawk	Eric Pare
Helen Wiklund	Chris Love	Heather Reichert
Ralston James	Elton Wilson	Rachel Smith
Kristina Fischer	Dewitt Hardee	Travis Smith
Cayle Aldridge	Blaire Deaver	Vivien Zhong
Scott Melvin	Darren Layton	Brandy Oldham
Lisa Fine	Maria Polizzi	Paula Day
Brandy Myers	Allie Dinwiddie	Anthony Dowdle
Sydney Mucha	Payton Lane	

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Chairman Langdon inquired whether any Commission members need 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 Langdon stated he will recuse himself from Item 12A. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines. Chairman Langdon asked for all attendees to introduce themselves. Chairman Langdon asked for a

moment of silence to recognize all those that recently lost family members, as well as Mt. Olive students that recently passed away.

Chairman Langdon introduced Dr. Sandy Maddox, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Mt. Olive. Dr. Maddox provided the background of the University's Agricultural Program. Dr. Maddox stated the Agriculture Business Center started in 2002 as an outreach center for education to rural agricultural communities. University leadership decided it could play a part in education for the agricultural community and started an academic program with four graduates in 2005 with one degree program. Fifteen years later, there are over 300 students in the School of Agriculture, and 13 different agricultural and biological science degrees. The University offers many degree programs both online and in person. Sixty-five percent of the graduates are residing in North Carolina and nearly 99% are employed within six months of graduation.

Ms. Payton Lane stated she graduated from the University of Mt. Olive in May of 2021 and started working for the Johnston SWCD in July of 2021. The university offered many classes, field trips, and guest speakers, and provided the opportunity to get a degree in environmental and natural resources.

Mr. Edward Olive stated he is the Director of the Lois G. Britt Agribusiness Center and before he became the director, he was a student at the University of Mt. Olive. Mr. Olive works with outreach partners, i.e., federal agencies, state agencies, and private partners on grant opportunities. The Tobacco Trust Fund provides cost share assistance to all 100 counties along with the Ag Prime Project which offers up to \$10,000 in cost share grant funds to farmers and agribusinesses that apply. Mr. Olive talked about several opportunities for projects, events, summer camps, and the 63-acre student farm in Duplin County. A tour of the farm in Duplin County is available after the meeting.

Mr. Trace Guyer stated he is from Haywood County and is a student at the University of Mt. Olive who is majoring in agricultural education with a minor in Agribusiness.

Ms. Anna Brown stated she is from Zebulon and is a junior at the University of Mt. Olive and is majoring in agricultural education with a minor in plant/science. Ms. Brown led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Shaqur Moses stated he is originally from South Carolina and graduated from the University of Mt. Olive and agrees the university is very well rounded. Mr. Shaqur is now working for the Duplin SWCD.

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Knowles moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

2A. August 15, 2022, Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. August 16, 2022, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Vernon Cox to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox presented the following:

- Personnel Update
- Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Update
 - 109 fully executed contracts and 2 contracts canceled at grantees request (Lee SWCD & Stanly SWCD)
 - 101,194 linear feet of stream debris removed completed, 17 grantees have encumbered at least 50% of funds, \$5,621,806 total funds encumbered, one project complete in Robeson County
 - \$919,836.93 paid out as of 11/2/2022
 - NC Emergency Management (FEMA)
 - Working to create an MOU for statewide floodplain permit guidance and engineering certification for StRAP projects
- NC Climate Wise Agriculture Program USDA Proposal
 - Applied for a grant from the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities
 - Total funding request: \$37.2M
 - Funding determination: Not Funded
- January Commission Meeting is in Cherokee, NC

Director Cox stated that including himself, Chairman Langdon, Dr. Sandy Stewart, Mr. Keith Larick, and Mr. John Howard participated in the Waters Summit sponsored by Congressman Murphy and Congressman Rouzer. The purpose of the meeting was to address recent flooding events in eastern North Carolina. The Division of Soil & Water Conservation and the partnership discussed disaster recovery, i.e., stream debris removal and the emergency response required after hurricane events. This was the second Waters Summit. Director Cox added that the federal partners need to provide funding to deal with these recovery needs.

4. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Hughes to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Hughes presented the following:
- 2023 Annual Meeting will be at Harrah's Cherokee Convention Center on January 8-10 and registration is open and basic training is scheduled for Saturday, January 7, 2023
 - Association is electing a new 2nd Vice President and mountain area representative, and Mr. Teague will become the new Association president
 - Basic training will be in February in three area locations
 - NACD Meeting will take place in New Orleans and registration is open Feb 12-14
 - District Employees Association is partnering with the districts to prepare a Mentors List, which can be submitted to Mr. Bryan Evans and will be presented at the Annual Meeting
 - Last Area Fall Meeting is November 17 in Nashville
5. **Executive Director's Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Evans presented the following:
- 2022 Legislative Update
 - Work to get CCAP \$1.5M changed to recurring funds, recurring StRAP funds, and additional Ag Cost Share funds
 - Requested an increase of Ag Cost Share funds to \$4M due to inflated costs and will also look at the technical assistance dollars

- Attended the National Executive Directors Meeting in Delaware and will be acting as interim president until February
- State FFA held the land judging competition in Franklin County and Lumberton won overall for Junior and Senior competitions
- State Fair opened gate 7 adjacent to the Soil & Water booth from 9 a.m. – 10 p.m., but due to the darkness around the booth, the time was adjusted to close the booth at 8 p.m.
 - A debriefing of the booth's operations will be scheduled

Commissioner Hughes stated the Association partnered with the U.S. Forestry Service and the national Christmas Tree arrives in Washington, D.C. tomorrow with the tree lighting on November 30. The tree was grown in Haywood County and toured through North Carolina before it is delivered to the Capitol. Mr. Evans coordinated with the districts across the state to have 6,000 ornaments made to promote agriculture.

6. NRCS Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Odessa Armstrong to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Armstrong stated Mr. Beard is in Alabama. Ms. Armstrong presented the following:

- Fiscal Year 2022 Program Overview
 - \$26,394,465.00 has been allocated in NC to fund EQIP applications with a total of 507 contracts in EQIP totaling \$25,347,566.57
 - Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry obligated \$1.2M in 53 counties which funded 26 contracts
 - New & Beginning Farmers and Ranchers in the state with 227 producers having been awarded contracts totaling \$10,202,630.98 in EQIP and 66 contracts totaling \$5,884,774.00 in Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) which is the largest in North Carolina
 - \$17.2M was allocated in North Carolina for the CSP
- General FY 2022 Updates
 - An increase in the number of requests for Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) because people are building more homes and farmland is being taken away
 - Area 3 had 83 CSP contracts totaling \$9.3M and 137 EQIP contracts totaling \$8.6M
 - Deployed 196 computers to 76 federal employees and 120 non-federal employees and replaced 20 vehicles
 - NRCS worked with the partners to develop MOUs and currently have 93 out of 96 in place.
 - Hired 26 new full-time employees and announced 16 pathways positions and currently have 154 employees
 - Operating under a continuing resolution until December 16

7. Consent Agenda: Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the consent agenda. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Joshua N. Myers, Guilford SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Harold Alexander for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Alexander
- Ariel Zipp, Madison SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Harold Hunter for 2020-2024 who passed away
- Randy Hollifield, McDowell SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Terry English for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. English

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 9 contracts; totaling \$52,482

- 8. 2022-2026 Supervisor Terms:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer stated the following:

8A.i. Nominated for reappointment and have attended basic training, at least 2/3 of regularly scheduled district meetings, and achieved at least 6 STCs: Ms. Fischer stated that seventy-three supervisors are nominated for reappointment, and it is recommended to approve these 73 supervisors for reappointment for term of December 2022 through December 2026.

8A.ii. Nominated for reappointment and have not attended basic training: Ms. Fischer stated this individual is nominated for reappointment and has not attended basic training but achieved the six-hours of training credits and the staff recommends conditional appointment upon attendance of the 2023 basic training. The supervisor started in March 2022 so the credits for attending the basic supervisor training will be applied to the 2022-2026 term.

8A.iii. Nominated for reappointment and have not attended basic training or achieved 6 STCs: These four individuals were appointed after the basic supervisor training course was last offered in February of 2022. Ms. Fischer stated the staff recommends conditionally reappointing these four nominees upon attending 2023 basic training, with the training credits applied to 2022-2026 term.

8A.iv. Nominated for reappointment and have not attended 2/3 of regularly scheduled district meetings; meets training requirements: Ms. Fischer stated the staff recommends conditional appointment on approving attendance to at least the two-thirds mark over the next year. The Division will provide a report at the November 2023 meeting in terms of attendance. The supervisors have provided letters explaining their lack of attendance and their plans to improve attendance over the next year.

8A.v. Nominated for appointment: Ms. Fischer stated these four are recommended for new appointment and staff recommends these individuals be appointed for the term December 2022-2026 conditional upon attendance at the 2023 basic supervisor training.

8A.vi. Nominated for appointment and have attended basic training: Ms. Fischer stated one individual, Mr. James Tyler Ross, attended basic training in 2016 and staff recommends appointment without conditions.

8A.vii. Nominated for reappointment and serves on the Commission, meets attendance and training requirements: Ms. Fischer stated the three supervisors serve on the Commission and meet the attendance and training requirements and staff recommends their reappointment from December 2022 - December 2026.

Ms. Fischer stated there are six seats where supervisor reappointments have not been submitted and these seats will go vacant in Bertie, Fishing Creek, Mecklenburg, Northampton, Warren, and Washington.

8B. Election Report: Ms. Fischer stated the preliminary election results have been collected from the State Board of Elections on November 9.

8Bi. Re-elected and have attended basic training and achieved at least 6 STCs: Ms. Fischer stated there are 129 individuals that have been re-elected.

8Bii. Re-elected and have not attended basic training or achieved at least 6 STCs – full term of service: Three individuals have been re-elected but did not attend basic training or achieve at least six STCs, but they have served a full term of service. The staff recommends referral to the Inquiry Committee for review.

8Biii. Re-elected and have not attended basic training or achieved at least 6 STCs – partial term of service: Ms. Fischer stated these six individuals have a partial term of service which they began after the basic training was offered in 2022. They have not had an opportunity to attend basic training, the staff recommends tracking them for basic training in 2023 and apply the credits to 2022-2026 terms. If these individuals do not attend, the staff recommends referring them to the Inquiry Committee for review.

8Biv. Re-elected and have not achieved at least 6 STCs: Ms. Fischer stated there should be three individuals on the spreadsheet. Mr. John Lovin from Graham was not re-elected but was newly elected coming from an appointed seat and has not achieved his six STCs. Mr. Lovin did attend basic training in 2008. Mr. Eaker and Mr. Short fall short of the training credits. The recommendation is that if six STCs are not achieved by Monday, December 5, these individuals be referred to the Inquiry Committee for review.

8Bv. Re-elected and have not attended basic training: Ms. Fischer stated the basic training requirement was put into effect by Rule in March 2022 and staff recommends sending these individuals correspondence making them aware of the requirement under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0202(d) *“For supervisors that are re-elected in December 2022 that have not previously participated in this required basic training course, participation shall be required in 2023 or at the next available offering.”* If these individuals do not attend, staff recommends referral to the Inquiry Committee for review.

8Bvi. Newly elected: Ms. Fischer stated there are 44 individuals that have been elected and Mr. Lovin from Graham is newly elected to the board coming from an appointed seat.

8Bvii. Write-ins need confirmation: Ms. Fischer stated these names still need confirmation.

Commissioner Hughes moved to accept all the recommendations provided by the staff and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

- 9. Job Approval Authority:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Sydney Mucha and Mr. Joshua Vetter to present. A copy of the reports is included as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Training Update: Ms. Mucha stated there were several trainings this year, and the goal is to provide district employees with training so that they can plan, design, and install best management practices (BMPs) associated with the Commission's cost share programs. The training schedule for each quarter was highlighted. There has been positive feedback from the training events provided.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 10:09 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:22 a.m.

9B. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are two applications for Job Approval Authority (JAA) for cropland conversion.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the applications. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the applications and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

9C. JAA Policy Revision: Mr. Vetter stated presented the proposed revisions to the JAA policy.

- Current Policy states at least two complete and correct packets must be submitted for review
- The recommended revision is to allow JAA candidates to substitute one complete packet in addition to successful completion of a training course specific to the BMP for which the candidate is requesting JAA
- Reasons for addition of the option
 - Provide tangible credit for attending training, incentivize attendance and participation in training, ensure employees are receiving specific training and simplify and expedite the JAA process
- Eligibility
 - Training course must provide information specific to obtaining SWCC JAA
- Competency Exams/Certification
 - Planning and design
- Option is a choice and not a requirement. This option may not be applicable to all BMPs

The original policy is in the packet with track changes and a clean copy.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the revisions. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the revisions and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Potter stated it is great to get everyone up to speed with these training programs.

Chairman Langdon stated district staff need to encourage their district supervisors to get trained and for everyone to be mindful of their duties.

10. Swine & Dairy Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Shepherd stated the following:

- History of the program
 - COVID relief funds were provided at \$31,500 in Phase I
 - Phase II of the Infrastructure Resilience Support, 90% cost share is provided for waste storage pond/lagoon closures.
- 92 applicants have been approved for Phase II – Waste Impoundment Closures
- 25 districts with approved applicants
- 8 dairy operations and 84 swine operations
- Duplin and Sampson Counties have the most approved operations
- BMP Policy is approved, a web site is developed, and contracts can be entered into CS2
- Four waste impoundment closure trainings were held with 60 districts and 48 NRCS staff in attendance.
- Survey sent out to assess technical assistance needs
 - 20 of the 25 districts that have farms require technical assistance from the Division with the closure of 71 farms, and 10 districts indicated the need to convert their lagoons to waste structures
- Technical assistance
 - Closure Oversight and Certification, complete closure plan development, sludge survey and volume estimates, conversion to freshwater pond design, liquid & sludge waste sample collection and RUSLE2 and PLAT analysis
- ACSP contracts must be in place by December 31, 2024, and SDAP funds must be spent by December 31, 2026

11. Proposed Changes to the Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI) Program for FY 2024

DIP: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Allie Dinwiddie to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Dinwiddie addressed the following items:

- IISI Workgroup’s objective is to determine potential changes to the funding request processes, the eligibility/allocation processes, identify training/planning resources to develop for the program, and make recommendations to the TRC
- Background of the Program
- Opportunities for Program Improvements
- Existing IISI Eligibility Criteria and Allocation Process
- Proposed IISI Changes
 - Establish a mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process for IISI funds to be implemented in FY2024 (runs in conjunction with ACSP Spring Supplemental Allocation)
 - Update district eligibility criteria for participation in the IISI program
 - Incorporate proposed changes in FY2024 ACSP Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP)
- District Eligibility Updates
 - Begin tracking IISI allocation encumbrance and voluntary returns in FY2024
 - Plan to be phased in by FY2026 allowing time for districts to improve performance in the next two fiscal years
 - 70% utilization with one recent FY allocation
 - 85% utilization with two recent FY allocations
- Proposed IISI Language for ACSP FY2024 DIP
 - *“To be eligible for an IISI allocation, districts must complete the FY2024 IISI survey and request IISI funds in their FY2024 Strategic Plan. Districts’ utilization of*

allocations (encumbrance by fiscal year end and voluntary return of funding for mid-year supplemental allocations) will be tracked starting in FY2024 and used to determine future eligibility for IISI funds. Districts may participate in a mid-year voluntary return and re-allocation process that runs in conjunction with the ACSP Spring Supplemental Allocation.”

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the proposed workgroup recommended changes to the DIP and Commissioner Knowles seconded. Motion carried.

- 12. District Issues:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the reports is included as an official part of the minutes. Chairman Langdon recused himself and the gavel was passed to Vice Chairman Potter.

12A. Johnston – Exception to CCAP Repair Cap: Mr. Beck stated this is a request for an exception to the CCAP Repair Policy that caps repair contracts at \$5,000. This request is for a streambank stabilization project and Mr. Dewitt Hardee is here to present. Mr. Hardee stated the district is requesting \$2,773.75 in additional funding. After completion of the project, there were two large rainfall events, which damaged the project. The site is in a lower part of a plateau and there was a lot of damage to the property that was washed out. The estimated repair cost is \$10,365. The homeowner has already spent \$25K of her own money.

Vice Chairman Potter asked for approval. Commissioner Lamb moved to approve the Exception to the CCAP Repair Cap and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Potter passed the gavel back to Chairman Langdon.

12B. Jones – ACSP Post Approval: Mr. Beck stated this is for cropland conversion to grass and Mr. Kyle Koonce is here to present. Mr. Koonce stated this for 15 acres of Bermuda grass and there was a miscommunication between the farmer and the district director. The board had approved the project and the farmer completed the work.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the ACSP Post Approval. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the ACSP Post Approval and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

12C. Cumberland – CREP Post Approval: Mr. Beck stated this is a CREP post approval for a chemical release spray operation, and Mr. Wayne Collier is here to present. Mr. Collier stated this is a CREP contract for planting oak trees on cropland. After the planting, the contractor completed the spraying. The supervisor stated everything looked good, after completing the spot check inspection in April. Mr. Tatum sent an invoice in July for the chemical release spray, which was done in May. The receipts were received after the contract was completed, and the receipts went to NRCS before being sent to Cumberland SWCD. The spray was originally part of the contract, so the district is asking for \$460. This will be on the spot check list for next year.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the CREP Post Approval. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the CREP Post Approval and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried.

12D. Buncombe – AgWRAP on a Government-Owned Property: Mr. Beck stated this is for an AgWRAP Water Collection System on government-owned property at the Western NC Ag Center. Mr. Gary Higgins is online from Buncombe SWCD, and Mr. Sean McKeon is on the telephone. Mr. Higgins stated this is an AgWRAP contract for a water collection system approved by the board in 2018 with several extensions due to engineering, delays on part of the landowner, and management changes at the Ag Center. This is a \$15K contract on State property. Mr. McKeon stated it is an important project, due to the current demand for municipal water supply, to be environmentally friendly and to reduce costs. There are approximately 100,000 visitors per year and is a high-profile area. We would like to utilize this as an educational area for 4-H. The Western NC Ag Center is receipt based, otherwise we would seek an appropriation from the General Assembly.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the AgWRAP contract on a Government-Owned Property. Commissioner Willis moved to approve the request and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

IV. Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked if anyone had any comments.

Mr. Wayne Collier stated it is good to see everyone and complimented Mr. Lamb and Mr. Teague for upholding the standards of the Commission.

Director Cox stated there is an offer to tour the University's education farm after lunch.

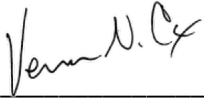
Ms. Maria Polizzi stated the Forestry Service printed the updated Forestry BMP Manual for Water Quality and asked everyone to take one as you leave. Ms. Polizzi works statewide for the NC Forest Service. She worked with Mr. Tom Gerow, who recently retired.

Mr. David Williams stated Ms. Odessa Armstrong stated the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has had a record year in North Carolina. We need to use our cost share programs to help farmers become eligible for CSP. It has taken since 2008 for the program to be promoted and make a difference in North Carolina. There will be a breakout session on CSP at the Annual Meeting. This is a good program to highlight and there are temporary employees that are funded through an NACD agreement and part of their job is to promote CSP.

Chairman Langdon asked for a show of hands to those that have never been to Harrah's Cherokee and highly recommends that everyone attend the meeting.

Mr. Evans stated that he will be attending the NACD meeting in New Orleans along with Director Cox and they may be making a presentation at one of the breakout sessions on leadership development and encouraging future conservation. Commissioners Teague and Hughes stated they will be in attendance and Mr. Williams stated he will also be in attendance.

V. Adjournment: Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Potter moved to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Willis seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.



Vernon N. Cox, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.



Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on January 8, 2023.

Personnel

- **New Hires:**

- Engineer Tech II (Bob Dennis) – Taryn Hendrickson

- **Vacancies:**

- Engineer II (Chris Love) – Re-Advertise
- AgWRAP Coordinator (Sydney Mucha) - Interview
- CREP Manager (Eric Galamb - *Retire*) – Advertise
- Environmental Specialist I (CREP) – Interview
- Environmental Specialist I (CREP) – Interview
- Engineer Tech I (Taryn Hendrickson) - Advertise



Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP)

CONTRACTS

- 109 contracts fully executed

PROGRESS

- 162,562 linear feet of stream debris removal completed
- 1 PL-566 project completed (sediment removal)
- 22 Grantees have encumbered at least 50% of funds
- \$5,621,806 total funds encumbered
- 5 projects completed.
- 50% Encumbrance Deadline – February 28

PAYMENTS

- \$1,467,407.75 as of 12/21/22



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
January 8, 2023



NC General Assembly

- Convenes: January 11, 2023 (Wednesday)
- Long Session of 2-year Biennium
- 12 of 50 1st Term Senators
- 28 of 120 1st Term Representatives



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
January 8, 2023



March Meeting

- Location: Raleigh???
- Work Session: March 14, 2023 (6:00 p.m.)
- Business Meeting: March 15, 2023 (9:00 a.m.)



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
Vernon Cox, Director
January 8, 2023



Hurricane Matthew Pond Reconstruction

The Commission has delegated to the Division authority to approve disaster related contracts for pond repair up to \$150,000. Most of the pond repair projects for Hurricane Matthew are being completed as a turnkey project through Resource Institute. 7 ponds reconstructed, average construction cost \$210,000.

2 ponds remain, both are adjacent to state roads

- Williams pond (Duplin), projected cost \$776,000 to \$1.6M, FSA cost share of \$200,000 approved
- Houses pond (Sampson), projected cost - \$542,186, FSA cost share of \$307,596 approved

Current Commission authorized cap of \$150,000 has been adequate for all pond repairs completed to date, but the ones that remain are more complicated and more expensive. Additional cost-share funding will be needed. The exact amount needed for these will not be known until the projects are re-bid. We are preparing to authorize bidding for these ponds, and anticipate a request from the districts to authorize funding in excess of \$150,000.

There is adequate funding remaining to increase the cost share cap significantly to help complete reconstruction for the remaining two ponds.

We will likely need to consider a special called meeting once the bids are received to consider increasing the cost share cap. Alternatively, we can proactively increase the cap to meet the anticipated need.



Association Report to the Commission

January 8, 2023

2023 Annual Meeting

Thank you for having your January Commission meeting in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. This year's looks to be the largest meeting we have had in some time. We have secured around 1200 room nights, well beyond our normal 800. Attending Supervisors will be able to get their full 6 hours of training credits by attending this meeting.

2023 Association Elections

We will be electing a 2nd Vice President and Commission member both from the mountain region and also electing a TRC member from the piedmont region. Barbara Bleiweis from Mecklenburg SWCD is the only nomination from the Mountain Region and will be the incoming 2nd Vice President. Brian Parker from Wilkes SWCD and Danon Lawson from Gaston SWCD will be on the ballot for the Mountain Commission seat. David Harris from the Durham SWCD and James Norfleet from Scotland County will be on the ballot for the Piedmont TRC member.

Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors

We held our first Basic Training in conjunction with the Annual meeting yesterday, January 7, with around 50 participants. The 3 regional trainings will be held February 7 – Coastal Region at the Greenville Ag Center, February 21 – Mountain Region at the Wilkesboro Ag Center, and February 28 – Piedmont Region at the Steve Troxler Agriculture Sciences Center in Raleigh.

We will be bringing, for Commission approval, the curriculum for the 2024 Basic Training at your March Commission meeting.

National NACD Meeting

The National NACD meeting will be held February 12-14, 2023, in New Orleans. We anticipate a good representation from North Carolina. Vernon Cox and Bryan Evans will present in one of the breakouts on Building Future Conservation Leaders.



Association Executive Director's

Report to the Commission

January 8, 2023

Areas Report

The Areas are currently working on planning for their Spring meetings. Training for Supervisor Training Credits will continue to be built into the meetings. We will be welcoming several new Area chairs who will also serve on our Executive Committee.

2022 Legislative Items

We have submitted our request to the Division. Increase in funding for Ag Cost Share in the amount \$4 million recurring for BMPs and \$600k for technical assistance, \$1.5 million recurring for CCAP for BMPs and \$225k for technical assistance and \$20 million recurring for StRAP.

State Level MOU

We are working on finalizing the State Level MOU for signing in the near future. The partners include the Commission, Association, Division, USDA/NRCS, NCCDEA, Foundation and State RC&D Association.

Annual Meeting

I am also appreciative of the Commission holding their January meeting in conjunction with this meeting. At the close of this meeting, we will start the planning for the 2024 meeting to held in incoming President George Teague's piedmont region of the state.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

North Carolina - The Update



Contract Workload

As we enter a new year, we look back at efforts put forth by NC NRCS and our partners.

EQIP continues to be one of the most subscribed to programs. It allows us to address many natural resource concerns across the state. What is also promising is that we continue to exceed our expected goals year after year. Since 2018 we've completed over 1,500 contracts in EQIP.

Although EQIP is our most popular program, it is very encouraging that our landowners here in the state have shown an increase interest in our CSP practices as well, with over 500 active contracts. In addition to that, EQIP stands at 1,116 active contracts.

As you can see most of our remaining applications have rolled over from previous years, with roughly 80% of the remaining applications are coming from past years, contributing to the 1,684 active contracts that we are currently processing between EQIP and CSP.

Completed Contracts (2018 to Present)

	EQIP	CSP
2018	551	55
2019	460	0
2020	229	0
2021	184	0
2022	43	0
Totals:	1467	55

Active Contracts (2018 to Present)

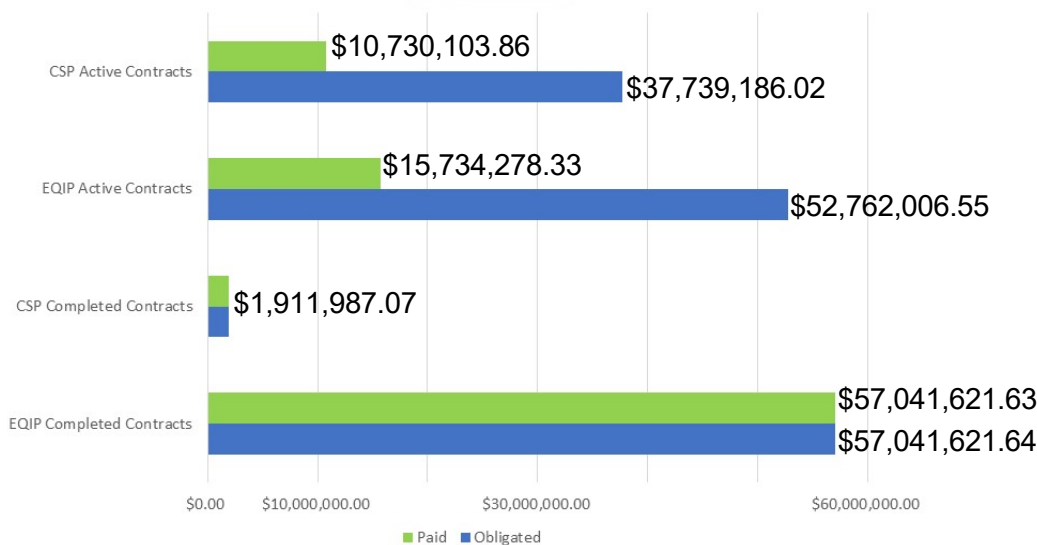
	EQIP	CSP
2018	43	7
2019	102	76
2020	196	155
2021	314	121
2022	461	209
Totals:	1116	568

Aside from the number of contracts that continue to show positive growth and interest, the number of dollars that has been invested in the state is also highly encouraging. To date, the total amount invested between completed contracts and active contracts is almost \$150 million dollars.

North Carolina
Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service



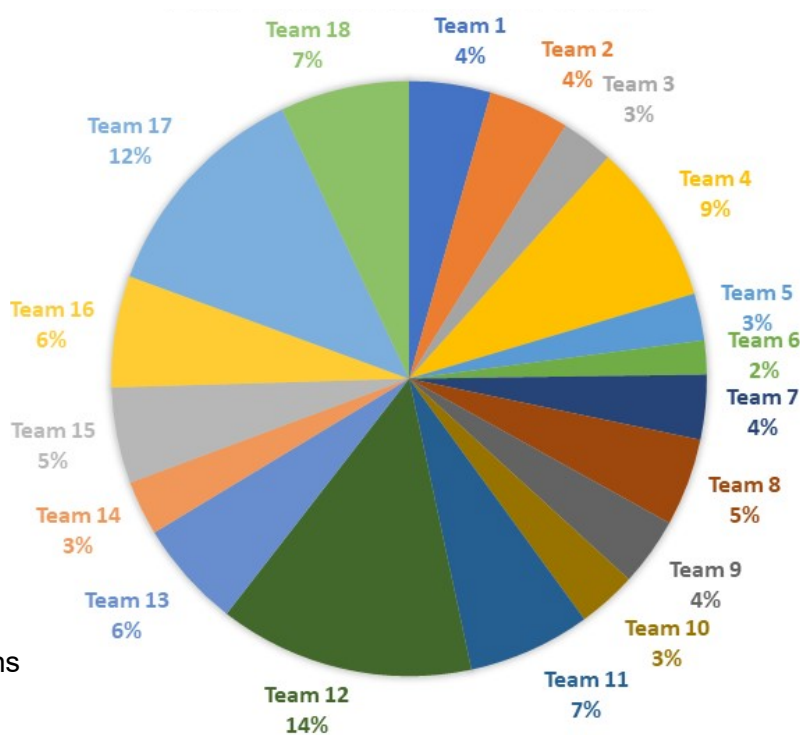
North Carolina Natural Resources Conservation Service



We've put in the hard work, but there is still much more to be done. As stated earlier, there are over 1,000 remaining contracts in our contract workload. We're working diligently to get these over the hurdle and get these projects on the ground. The good news is that the overwhelming majority are eligible. The bad news is that there is a noticeable amount contracts being canceled for various reasons. It's a trend that we're trying to rectify by identifying actionable solutions within our systems and improve our business practice. Improving will become especially important as we move forward and continue to process our large contract workload. This will get our payments in the hands our producers faster and get our conservation efforts into actionable practice.

EQIP Application Percentages by Team (2018 to Present)

What this translates to is that the dollars that has been invested in conservation work is being done across the state. In total there has been over 500,000 acres treated with various practices since 2018. These practices ranged from confined animal operations to urban agriculture and everything in between. Most of this work was completed in Anson, Duplin, Moore, Pender, and Sampson counties.



Percentages are based on 10,418 EQIP applications submitted across the state from 2018 to present

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

Program Conditions

This past fiscal year was historic in the terms of the amount of dollars invested in the state. Estimated payments totaling over \$39 million, over \$5 million have been certified and over \$33 million scheduled. What this translates to is again there is plenty of work to be done.

The Inflation Reduction Act was passed, since then, there has been much anticipation on when the funds would be handed out to the states. These funds will be spread out through a 4-year span. However, a state-by-state breakdown is still being developed, with no set date for release. However, we're looking forward to getting these funds and having a meaningful impact on conserving the state's precious natural resources.

NRCS HQ has developed specific language to focus those efforts across the states, to include North Carolina. That language outlines conditions to some of our well-known programs, those conditions are:

CSP & EQIP: subject to the condition that funds directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production.

RCPP: supports the implementation of conservation projects that assist agricultural producers and nonindustrial private forestland owners in directly improving soil carbon, reducing nitrogen losses, or reducing, capturing, avoiding, or sequestering carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions, associated with agricultural production.

National IRA Program Breakdown

Approximately \$20 billion of this investment supports USDA's conservation programs within NRCS. These are programs that are well-known to farmers and ranchers and are also oversubscribed. These investments mean that more producers will have access to conservation assistance. This includes:

- \$8.45 billion for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- \$4.95 billion for the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- \$3.25 billion for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- \$1.4 billion for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- \$1 billion for the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program
- \$300 million to measure, evaluate, quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission reductions from conservation investments

FY 2023 IRA National Program Breakdown

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- 250 million

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- 250 million

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)- 250 million

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)- 250 million

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Program- 1 billion will be spread throughout 5 years, starting back in FY 2022 and will run until Sep. 30, 2031.

Contacts:

State Conservationist—Timothy A. Beard
(Tel) 919.873.2100

State Public Affairs—Joshua J. Hammond
(Tel) 919.873.2103

(Email) Joshua.Hammond@usda.gov

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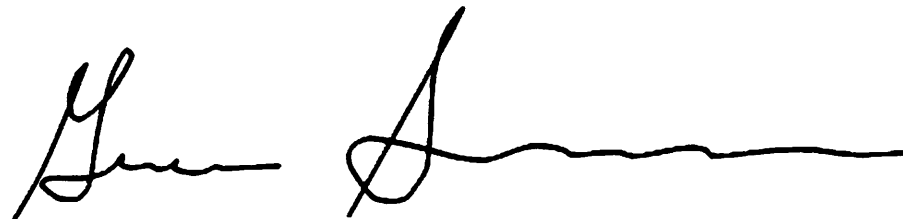
From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 8, 2022 10:37 AM
To: Wiklund, Helen
Subject: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #12998384

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Reference #	12998384
Status	Complete
Login Username	mlangle@guilfordcountync.gov
Login Email	mlangle@guilfordcountync.gov
Appointment or Reappointment	New Appointment
District:	Guilford
Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:	Joshua Myers
Elected/Appointed	Elected
Term of Office	December 2022 to December 2026
Name of Nominee:	Grace Summers
Nominee Mailing Address:	5338 N.C. Highway150 East
City:	Browns Summit
State:	NC
Zipcode:	27214-9516
Nominee Email Address:	gsummers_@hotmail.com
Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:	336-317-3033

Nominee Business Phone:	336-656-3715
Age	59
Occupation:	State Program Assistant with the Virginia State University Cooperative Extension Program
Education:	B.S. in Agronomy from NC State University, a M.S. in Plant Science and Horticulture and a M.S. in Agricultural Education from NC A&T State University
Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:	PT State Prog Assistant - VA State University Coop Ext Prog. Coord collaboration w/ Small Farm Outreach Prog & NRCS to farmers about NRCS Programs.
Former Occupations or Positions of Leadership Contributing to Nominee's qualifications:	Retired in 2016, now own, manage Summers Farms; in my family since 1878. I raise vegs, hemp, strawberries, chickens, turkeys for meat and eggs.
If appointed, I am willing to attend Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year after appointment?	Yes
The program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to me?	Yes
I am willing to attend and participate in (check all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local District Meetings • Area Meetings • State Meetings

Nominee Signature:



Typed/printed name:	Grace Summers
Date:	12/07/2022

District Board Chair Signature (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated):



Typed/printed name:	George Y. Teague
Date:	12/8/2022
Resignation letter (only needed if vacancy is due to resignation).	JMyersLetter ResFromElectedPos.pdf (119 KB)
Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?	Yes
Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:	Currently runs personal farm and has a long-standing history in education in the industry.
Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.	3
Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?	Yes
Please describe how the nominee improves the ag diversity of the board:	Currently works with small, limited resource and socially disadvantage farmers who engage in diverse enterprises.
Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?	Yes
Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:	Currently on the board of multiple nonprofits and national organizations. Successfully completed the following programs: - Farm Bureau L.E.A.D Program 2010 - 2012

- NCSU Agriculture Leadership Development Program 2012 – 2014
- Farm Credit Ag Biz Planner 2017 – 2018
- Farm Credit Ag Leadership Institute 2020

Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?	Yes
Please describe the new advocacy skills the nominee brings to the board:	Strong connection to commissioners, councilman, county managers, and mayors across the state and local level.
Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?	Yes
Describe how the appointment improves the geographic representation for the board:	Madison Township will be represented with this appointment.
Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?	Yes
Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:	Currently holds connections with land trusts, forest landowners, and grant making organizations. Examples include the Black Family Land Trust, Southern SARE, Southern Risk Management Education Center.
Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?	Yes
Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:	Experience and background in water resource management, watershed and water run-off concerns for North Carolina and various other states.
Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?	Yes

Please describe how the appointment improves the diversity of the board:

I represent diversity to the board as a minority women.

Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?

Yes

Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:

I serve on the Guilford County Farm Bureau Board as well as the NC Farm Bureau Ornamental Horticulture Advisory Committee. I am a founding Board member of Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO) and also a founding Board member of Feast Down East. I currently serve as an Advisory Council member for Southern Risk Management Education Center.

Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?

Yes

Please describe how the appointment strengthens the District's opportunity to raise funds?

Multiple connections to industries, people, and organizations where grant and funding opportunities could be accomplished.

Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?

Yes

How will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?

Over 35 years of agricultural education and Cooperative Extension experience will help to strengthen the districts marketing and outreach efforts.

Does the District wish to provide other justification in support of the nomination? If so, enter here:

She currently serves on the following boards:
 Feast Down East Founding Member & Bd Member 2008 - Present;
 Green Rural Redevelopment Org Bd Member 2015 - Present;
 Guilford Co Farm Bureau Bd Member Present;
 Southern Risk Management Education Center Advisory Council Member 2015 – Present
 As NCA&T's Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Associate/ Applied Research Coordinator, she set up and managed the Horticulture Research Unit as well as coordinated the Plasticulture and Drip Irrigation Program. She helped farmers transition into new enterprises by providing technical production expertise for Horticultural and Agronomic crops.
 She has 30 years of Greenhouse Management and Production experience and 20 years of High Tunnel building and production experience.
 She retired from North Carolina A&T State University Cooperative Extension Program in October 2016, where she was an Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Associate/ Applied Research Coordinator.

Last Update

2022-12-08 10:36:58

Mr. Joshua N. Myers
4005 Cascade Drive
Greensboro, NC 27410

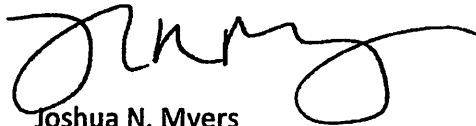
December 6, 2022

Guilford County Soil & Water Conservation District
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405

To the Guilford County Board of Elections

This letter is to inform you that I am unable to take the oath of office for the elected position of Guilford County Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor for the four-year term commencing today, as I have taken an appointed seat on the board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Myers', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joshua N. Myers
Vice Chairman
Guilford Soil & Water


Wiklund, Helen

From: Pare, Eric
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:51 AM
To: Wiklund, Helen
Subject: FW: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #13012280

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 11:14 AM
To: Pare, Eric <Eric.Pare@ncagr.gov>
Subject: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #13012280

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Reference #	13012280
Status	Complete
Login Username	mswcdistrict@gmail.com
Login Email	mswcdistrict@gmail.com
Appointment or Reappointment	New Appointment
District:	Mitchell
Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:	Keith Masters
Elected/Appointed	Elected
Term of Office	December 2022 to December 2026
Name of Nominee:	Gary Hyatt
Nominee Mailing Address:	PO Box 1093
City:	Bakersville

State:	NC
Zipcode:	28705
Nominee Email Address:	garhyatt@yahoo.com
Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:	828-467-5308
Age	68
Occupation:	Retired
Education:	BS Agriculture, Masters in Education
Former Occupations or Positions of Leadership Contributing to Nominee's qualifications:	County Extension Director and Vocational teacher.
If appointed, I am willing to attend Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year after appointment?	Yes
The program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to me?	Yes
I am willing to attend and participate in (check all that apply)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local District Meetings• Area Meetings• State Meetings
Nominee Signature:	
Typed/printed name:	Gary Hyatt
Date:	12/13/2022

District Board Chair Signature (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated):



Typed/printed name:	Alfred Breedin
Date:	12/13/2022
Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?	Yes
Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.	2
Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?	No
Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?	Yes
Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:	Retired Ag Extension Agent and FAA educator which would bring educational skills and knowledge to the board.
Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?	No
Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?	No
Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?	No

Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?	No
Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?	No
Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?	Yes
Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:	Cooperative Extension Office and Vocational Education Association
Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?	No
Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	Yes
How will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?	He brings connections to the board such as 4H, FFA and other youth programs.
Does the District wish to provide other justification in support of the nomination? If so, enter here:	The applicant has past experience working the Soil and Water District board and other local boards. He has shown strong leadership abilities while serving as local extension agent and FFA teacher. Both these programs grew under his leadership.
Last Update	2022-12-13 11:14:02
Start Time	2022-12-13 09:08:05
Finish Time	2022-12-13 11:14:02
IP	66.169.87.57
Browser	Chrome
Device	Desktop
Referrer	https://fs3.formsite.com/res/formLoginReturn

Wiklund, Helen

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 9:32 AM
To: Wiklund, Helen
Subject: [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #13018855

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to Report Spam.

Reference #	13018855
Status	Complete
Login Username	vickieryder@warrencountync.gov
Login Email	vickieryder@warrencountync.gov
Appointment or Reappointment	New Appointment
District:	Warren
Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:	Herman Collier
Elected/Appointed	Appointed
Term of Office	December 2022 to December 2026
Name of Nominee:	Craig Seaman
Nominee Mailing Address:	570 Bloomsbury Rd.
City:	Manson
State:	NC
Zipcode:	27553
Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:	2524380517
Age	46

Occupation:

Farming

ATTACHMENT 7A

Education:

NC State agriculture institute

Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:

1st LT Drewry Volunteer Fire Department

Former Occupations or Positions of Leadership Contributing to Nominee's qualifications:

Soybean Growers Association, Warren County Farm Bureau Vice President, State Farm Bureau Young Farm and Rancher Committee

If appointed, I am willing to attend Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors within the first year after appointment?

Yes

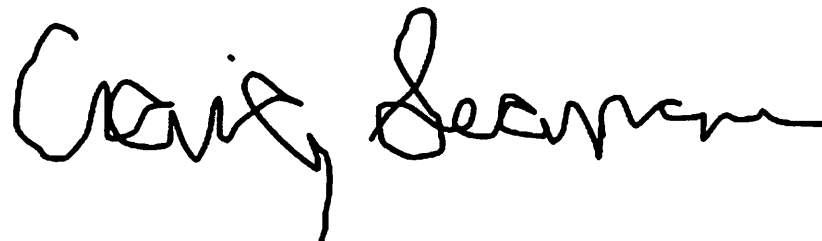
The program and purpose of the soil and water conservation district been explained to me?

Yes

I am willing to attend and participate in (check all that apply)?

- Local District Meetings
- Area Meetings

Nominee Signature:



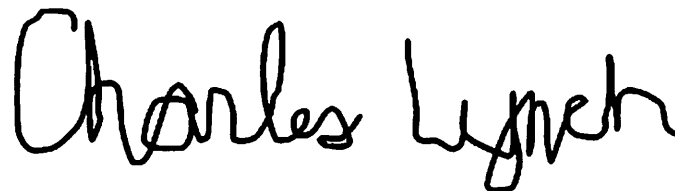
Typed/printed name:

Craig Seaman

Date:

12-15-2022

District Board Chair Signature (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated):



Typed/printed name:

Charles Lynch

Date: 12-16-2022

Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?	Yes
---	-----

Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:	Farming soybeans, small grains
--	--------------------------------

Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.	5
---	---

Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?	No
---	----

Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?	Yes
---	-----

Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:	younger farmer in community that is more active in agriculture
---	--

Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?	No
--	----

Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?	No
--	----

Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?	No
--	----

Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?	Yes
--	-----

Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:	appointment is receptive to new agricultural ideas/ practices
---	---

Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?	No
---	----

Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?

Yes

Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:

NC soybeans grower's association, Warren County Farm Bureau

Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?

No

Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?

No

Last Update

2022-12-16 09:32:04

Start Time

2022-12-16 09:22:37

Finish Time

2022-12-16 09:32:04

IP

69.68.176.194

Browser

Chrome

Device

Desktop

Referrer

<https://fs3.formsite.com/res/formLoginReturn>

This email was sent to Helen.Wiklund@ncagr.gov as a result of a form being completed.
[Click here](#) to report unwanted email.



**NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Alexander	02-2023-002	Richard "Eugene" White	Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Well, Stream Crossing, Watering Tanks	\$44,563	
Cherokee	20-2023-003	Keaton Killian	HUAP, Watering Tanks	\$14,885	
Cherokee	20-2023-004	Edgar A. Wood	Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Stream Crossing	\$4,115	
Cherokee	20-2023-009	Edgar A. Wood	Livestock Exclusion Fencing	\$3,159	
Person	73-2023-007	Eugene Berryhill	Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Watering Tanks	\$24,769	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 5

Total \$91,491

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Alexander Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Exclusion (well, tanks, fencing, stream crossing)

Contract number: 02-2023-002 Contract amount: \$ 44,563

Score on priority ranking sheet: 59 out of 105

Cost Share Rate: 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent: _____

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 3

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

The highest ranking applicant was already funded.

Supervisor name (Print): Richard "Eugene" White

Richard Eugene White

(District Supervisor's signature)

12-15-22

Date

Approved by (Print): Myles Payne

Myles Payne

(District Chairperson's signature)

12-15-22

Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(05/22)

**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: HUAP Watering Tanks

Contract number: 20-2023-003 Contract amount: \$ 14,885

Score on priority ranking sheet: 55 out of 100

Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent: _____

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name (Print): Keaton Killian

Keaton Killian
(District Supervisor's signature)

12/8/2022
Date

Approved by (Print): Edgar A. Wood

Edgar A Wood
(District Chairperson's signature)

12/8/22
Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC -CSPs-1B
(05/22)

**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Exclusion Fencing; Stream Crossing

Contract number: 20-2023-004 Contract amount: \$ 4,115

Score on priority ranking sheet: 61 out of 100

Cost Share Rate: 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent: _____

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name (Print): Edgar A. Wood

Edgar A Wood
(District Supervisor's signature)

12/8/2022
Date

Approved by (Print): Keaton Killian

Keaton Killian
(District Chairperson's signature)

12/13/22
Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

NCDA&CS
DSWCNC -CSPs-1B
(05/22)**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: ACSPBest management practice: Livestock Exclusion FencingContract number: 20-2023-009 Contract amount: \$ 3,159Score on priority ranking sheet: 61 out of 100Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent: _____

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 out of 4Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

--

Supervisor name (Print): Edgar A. Wood

<u>Edgar A Wood</u>

 (District Supervisor's signature)

<u>12/8/2022</u>

 Date
Approved by (Print): Keaton Killian

<u>Keaton Killian</u>

 (District Chairperson's signature)

<u>12/8/22</u>

 Date
To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Person Soil and Water Conservation District, I have applied for, or stand to benefit* from, a contract under a commission cost share program. I did not vote on the approval or denial of the application or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices.

Program: NC ACSP

Best management practice: livestock exclusion fencing, watering tanks

Contract number: 73-2023-007 Contract amount: \$ 24,769

Score on priority ranking sheet: 525 out of 800

Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent: _____

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2nd out of 6

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the supervisor's contract was approved over the other contracts:

Supervisor name (Print): The Hill of Barrys by Eugene C. Berryhill Jr

The Hill of Barrys by Eugene C. Berryhill Jr 12-13-22
(District Supervisor's signature) Date

Approved by (Print): Bruce R. Whitfield

B R Whitfield 12-20-2022
(District Chairperson's signature) Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

ATTACHMENT 8A

JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING

	APPLICANT NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED	APPLICATION DATE	JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
1	Rodney Taylor	Greene SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	11/15/2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Cover 2. Cover Crops 3. Critical Area Planting 4. Residue and Tillage Management 5. Cropland Conversion 6. Diversion 7. Field Border 8. Filter Strip 9. Grade Stabilization Structure 10. Grassed Swale 11. Grassed Waterway 12. Land Smoothing 13. Pasture Renovation 14. Prescribed Grazing 15. Riparian Buffer
2	Amanda Kirby	Stanly SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	11/16/2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cropland Conversion
3	Quinton Cooper	Franklin SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	11/29/2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grassed Waterway
4	Mitch Thompson	Caswell SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	12/6/2022	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diversion 2. Land Smoothing 3. Terrace 4. Conservation Cover 5. Sod-based Rotation 6. Cover Crops 7. Critical Area Planting 8. Cropland Conversion 9. Stripcropping 10. Pastureland Conversion

ATTACHMENT 8A

JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING

	APPLICANT NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED	APPLICATION DATE	JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
	Mitch Thompson (Cont'd)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Grassed Waterway 12. Rock-lined Waterway or Outlet 13. Field Border 14. Filter Strip 15. Heavy Use Area Protection 16. Livestock Feeding Area 17. Stock Trail and Walkway 18. Trough or Tank 19. Water Supply Well 20. Stream Protection Well 21. Livestock Exclusion Fencing 22. Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization 23. All-Season Agricultural Access 24. Prescribed Grazing
5	Brian Lannon	Camden SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	12/9/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residue and Tillage Management 2. Cover Crop 3. Land Smoothing
6	Emily Bateman	Wake SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	12/14/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field Border 2. Grassed Waterway
7	Caleb Lippard	Wake SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	12/14/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cropland Conversion 2. Cover Crop
8	Jerry Hall	Moore SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	12/15/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Cover 2. Cover Crops 3. Critical Area Planting 4. Residue and Tillage Management 5. Cropland Conversion 6. Diversion 7. Field Border 8. Grassed Waterway

ATTACHMENT 8A

JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING

	APPLICANT NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED	APPLICATION DATE	JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
	Jerry Hall (Cont'd)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Land Smoothing 10. Pasture Renovation 11. Pastureland Conversion 12. Prescribed Grazing 13. Rock-lined Waterway or Outlet 14. Sod-based Rotation 15. Terrace
9	Melanie Harris	Samspon SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	12/19/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Cover 2. Cover Crops 3. Critical Area Planting 4. Residue and Tillage Management 5. Cropland Conversion 6. Field Border 7. Lagoon Biosolids Removal Practice 8. Livestock Exclusion Fencing 9. Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive 10. Nutrient Management 11. Odor Management System 12. Pasture Renovation 13. Precision Nutrient Management 14. Prescribed Grazing 15. Sod-based Rotation 16. Waste Application System
10	Henry Faison	Samspon SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	12/19/2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization 2. Cover Crops 3. Cropland Conversion 4. Lagoon Biosolids Removal Practice 5. Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive 6. Nutrient Management

ATTACHMENT 8A

JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING

	APPLICANT NAME	EMPLOYER	TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED	APPLICATION DATE	JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL
	Henry Faison (Cont'd)				7. Pasture Renovation 8. Precision Agrichemical Application 9. Precision Nutrient Management 10. Prescribed Grazing 11. Stream Crossing 12. Residue and Tillage Management 13. Waste Application System



ATTACHMENT 9A

Technical Specialist Training Audit

January 8, 2023

Per rules (02 NCAC 59G .0104) adopted by the commission on November 18, 2018, technical specialists must complete at least six hours of continuing training every three years. This requirement was implemented January 1, 2019. Continuing training policies include:

- Technical Specialists may obtain all six (6) training hours in a single calendar year.
- Training hours in excess of six (6) hours may not be carried over to the subsequent three-year period.
- Technical Specialists failing to meet training requirements will be presented to the SWCC at their January meeting for notice of rescinding designation(s).
- Division staff will conduct a random audit of 10% of all Technical Specialists submitting training credits each year. Technical Specialists subjected to an audit will be requested to furnish proof of attendance for training courses claimed for credit.
- Division will issue an electronic certificate to Technical Specialists with name, registration number, designation(s), and three-year deadline date. Re-issue certificate at the end of the three-year period with successful completion of the training requirement.

Forty-seven course credit submissions were made to the division by thirty-four technical specialists seeking education credit in 2022. Ten percent of these were selected at random and subjected to a review. The review included evaluation of course content, number of eligible hours of training requested, and proof of attendance.

The result is all technical specialists subjected to the audit meet all criteria for course approval.

Submitted by: Michael Shepherd
Environmental Senior Specialist
Division of Soil and Water Conservation



Technical Specialist Training Requirement Report

January 8, 2023

Per rules governing the Approval of Water Quality Technical Specialist **02 NCAC 59G .0104:**
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2017.

- (i) Technical Specialist shall complete six hours of training approved by the Commission during each three-year period following initial designation or each three-year period following the effective date of this Rule.
- (j) In addition, technical specialist designation shall be rescinded by the Commission for failure to complete the approved additional training by the end of each three-year period.

The SWCC adopted the following policies for implementation of the Technical Specialist training requirement at its November 14, 2018 meeting.

- While there are seven (7) Technical Specialist designation categories, approved training courses will not be categorized by designation. The Technical Specialist will determine the suitability of training for their respective designation(s).
- Technical Specialist may obtain all six (6) training hours in a single calendar year.
- Training hours in excess of six (6) hours may not be carried over to the subsequent three- year period.
- The three-year period for current Technical Specialist will begin January 1, 2019.
- The three-year period for newly designated Technical Specialist by the SWCC will begin the following January 1.
- **Technical Specialist failing to meet training requirements will be presented to the SWCC at their January meeting for notice of rescinding designation(s).**
- Division staff will conduct a random audit of 10% of all Technical Specialist submitting training credits each year. Technical Specialist subject to an audit will be requested to furnish proof of attendance for training courses claimed for credit.

- Authority to approve trainings will be delegated to a workgroup consisting of Technical Specialist comprised of the following:
 - Private Sector (2)
 - NCSU/Cooperative Extension Service (1)
 - Division of Soil and Water Conservation (1)
 - Soil and Water Conservation District (1)
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service (1)
 - Division of Water Resources (1)

- Utilize existing training Opportunities for other comparable certifications including but not limited to Animal Waste System Operator, Professional Engineer, Licensed Soil Scientist, Certified Crop Advisor, Licensed Pesticide Applicator, Certified Conservation Planner, and Professional Geologist.

- Issue an electronic certificate to Technical Specialist with name, registration number, designation(s), and three-year deadline date. Re-issue certificate at the end of the three- year period with successful completion of the training requirement.

Seven Technical Specialist were subject to the three-year training requirement window expiring on December 31, 2022. All seven Technical Specialist have successfully completed their training requirement to maintain their Technical Specialist designations. A new Technical Specialist training ID card will be issued to each with their new three-year window (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025) noted.

Technical Specialist Training Website

https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/TechnicalSpecialistTraining.html

Community Conservation
Assistance Program
Soil and Water Conservation
Commission Meeting
January 8th, 2023
Items 10A and 10B



2023 CCAP Funding

\$419,469 available, \$139,823 per Region

- 46 applications submitted
- West Region: 9 applications = \$193,330
- Central Region: 12 applications = \$169,908
- East Region: 25 applications = \$308,890

2023 Total Requests = \$672,128

- 5 Districts submitted multiple applications



2023 CCAP Detailed Implementation Plan Revision

Requesting Action on this proposed change

Draft Proposal: Increase District allocation cap to \$50,000 from the currently approved \$25,000

- Allows for \$61,000 additional funds to be allocated for FY2023 if approved, funding three additional high-ranking projects
- West Region – Buncombe
- Central Region – Chatham
- East Region - Dare



FY 2023 Funding Recommendations

WESTERN REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Buncombe	Barnardsville VFD Inc.	Cistern	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Henderson	Henderson County	Riparian buffer, Streambank and shoreline protection	57	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Watauga	Valle Crucis Community Park	Structural stormwater conveyance	45	\$ 21,250	\$ 3,750	\$ 25,000
Wilkes	County of Wilkes	Stream restoration	45	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Buncombe	Phillip Cole	Structural stormwater conveyance	41	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Mecklenburg	Drew Jeffery	Stream restoration	35	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Gaston	Janel Tilghman	Backyard rain garden	24	\$ 2,750	\$ -	\$ 2,750
Wilkes	Wilkes County Schools	Structural stormwater conveyance	18	\$25,000		\$ 25,000
						\$ 177,750



FY 2023 Funding Recommendations

CENTRAL REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Chatham	Saralyn LOA/Kirk McNaughton	Stream restoration	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Franklin	Lake Royale POA	Pet waste receptacle	55	\$ 5,483		\$ 5,483
Wake	Kathryn Lee Clark-Sellers	Stream restoration	55	\$ 21,250	\$ 3,750	\$ 25,000
Davie	Luke Phelps	Structural stormwater conveyance, Critical area planting	52	\$ 22,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 25,000
Chatham	Alan Purvis	Cistern	51	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Johnston	Belinda Benton	Abandoned well closure	30	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Davidson	Cheyenne Sluder	Abandoned well closure	28	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Davidson	Larry Kepley	Abandoned well closure	10	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
						\$ 95,983



FY 2023 Funding Recommendations

EASTERN REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Hyde	Newmans Seafood	Marsh sill	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Onslow	Robert Johnson	Cistern	50	\$ 9,170	\$ -	\$ 9,170
Dare	Roanoke Historical Society	Marsh sill	42	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Carteret	Mark Smith	Marsh sill	40	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Dare	Mark Sisk	Marsh sill	40	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Craven	Craven County Recreation and Parks Department	Critical area planting, Diversion	40	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Currituck	Diana Settles	Backyard wetland	28	\$ 2,750	\$ -	\$ 2,750
						\$ 136,920



2022 CCAP Project Updates

7 completed to date

- Brunswick – Marsh Sill, \$42,500
- Carteret – Marsh sill, \$34,999
- Chatham – Permeable pavers, \$50,000
- Currituck – Marsh sill, \$49,999
- Dare – Critical area planting, \$1,500
- Macon – Stream restoration, \$37,000 (under budget)
- Pitt - Raingarden, \$5,500





← Carteret

Currituck →



Chatham

← Macon

Pitt →



2022 CCAP Project Updates - Signage

PITT COUNTY ARBORETUM RAIN GARDEN



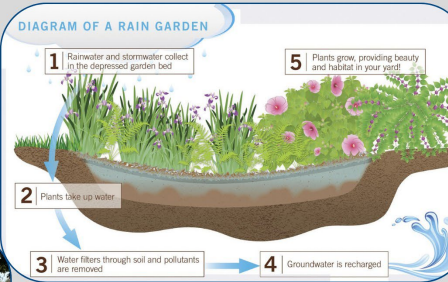
WHY NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR RAINGARDEN?

Plants that do well in rain gardens can tolerate wet and arid conditions, helping to conserve natural resources and combat climate change. Many plants native to North Carolina fit this description. Native plants flower in a variety of colors throughout the year, creating a garden that is equally beautiful and beneficial.



WHAT IS A RAIN GARDEN?

A rain garden is a natural filtration system that is no more than a vegetated depression (minimum of 6 inches deep) that collects stormwater runoff from a roof, driveway, or yard and allows it to infiltrate into the ground. Rain gardens are a sustainable infrastructure typically planted with deep-rooted native plants and can be colorful, landscaped areas in your yard that will also provide important environmental benefits.



CAN I DO THIS AT MY HOME?

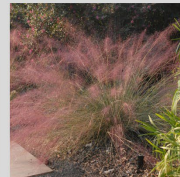
By building a rain garden in your yard, you can reduce the number of pollutants that leave your property and enter our local river system. A significant benefit of rain gardens at home is that, when properly graded, they can provide extra storage for stormwater to help reduce the amount of rainwater that may sit in your yard after a storm.

THE BENEFITS OF RAIN GARDENS

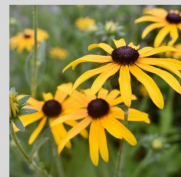
- Help protect against flooding and drainage problems.
- Increase the amount of water that filters into the ground, which recharges aquifers.
- Remove standing water in your yard.
- Help protect local streams and rivers from pollutants carried by stormwater - fertilizer, car fluids, salt, and pesticides.
- Improves water quality through the removal of pollutants.
- Create habitats for birds, butterflies, bees, other beneficial insects and wildlife.



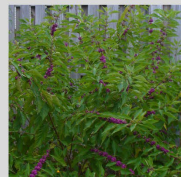
CAN YOU SPOT THESE PLANTS IN OUR RAIN GARDEN?



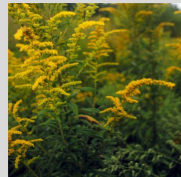
Pink Muhlygrass
(*Muhlenbergia capillaris*)



Black-eyed Susan
(*Rudbeckia hirta*)



Beautyberry
(*Callicarpa americana*)



Goldenrod
(*Solidago rugosa*)



Swamp Milkweed
(*Asclepias incarnata*)

This project was installed with funding by the NC General Assembly through the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service's Community Conservation Assistance Program. Contact your local Soil and Water Conservation District for information regarding this program.

Project Partners:



Detailed Implementation Plan

Fiscal Year 2023, [Draft Revision January 8, 2023](#)



Background

The North Carolina Community Conservation Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2006-78 and became effective on July 10, 2006. CCAP is implemented in accordance with the rules as published 02 NCAC 59 D .0104. The purpose of CCAP is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of the State by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production. Through this voluntary, incentive-based conservation program, landowners are provided educational, technical and financial assistance.

CCAP is administered by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission and implemented through local soil and water conservation districts. The commission meets with stakeholders to gather input on CCAP's development and administration through the CCAP Advisory Committee. CCAP receives approximately \$136,000 annually in state appropriations and support for one position in the Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

The Administrative Code governing the CCAP program allows the Commission to specify in this document, the CCAP annual Detailed Implementation Plan, the proportion of available funds to allocate for cost share payments, technical and administrative assistance, and education and outreach purposes and the proportion of those funds to be allocated to district, regional, and/or statewide allocation pools. This is particularly important given the limited amount of recurring funding currently available in this program. The allocation process is depicted in figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1: Soil and Water Conservation Commission CCAP allocation process

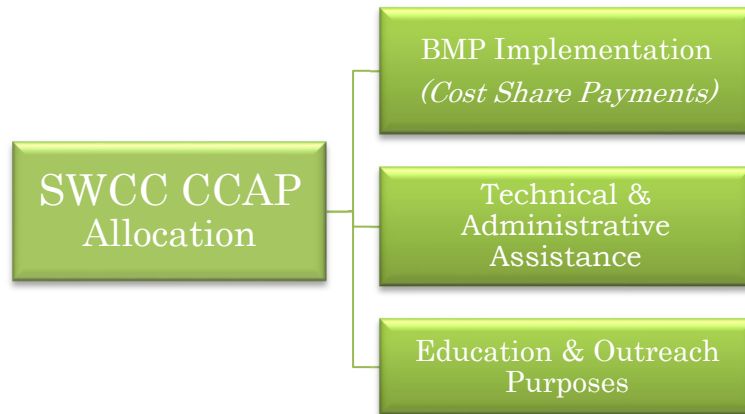
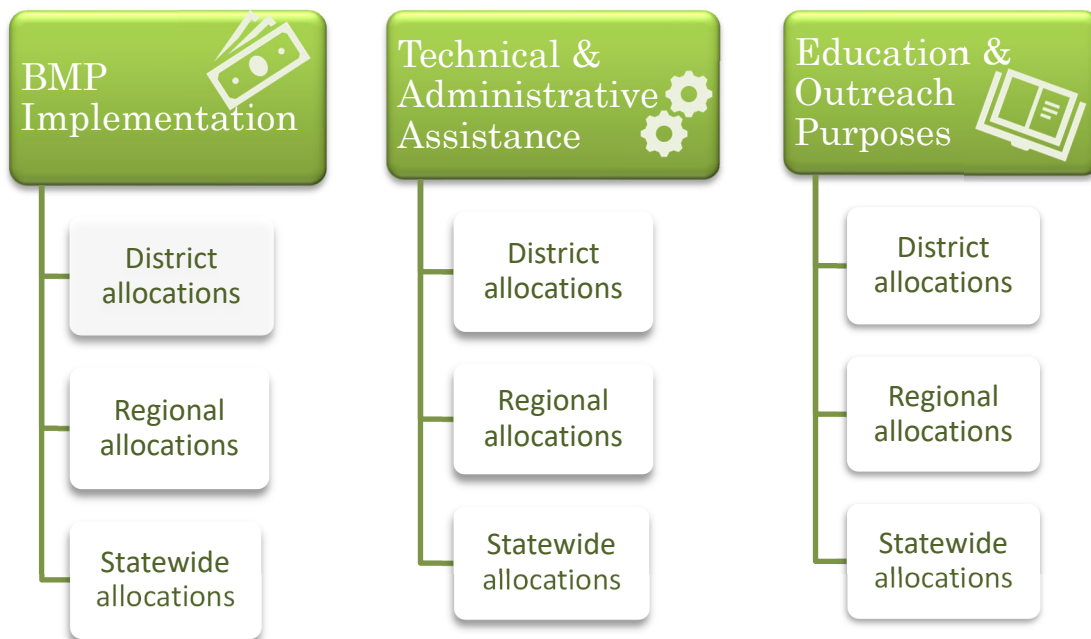
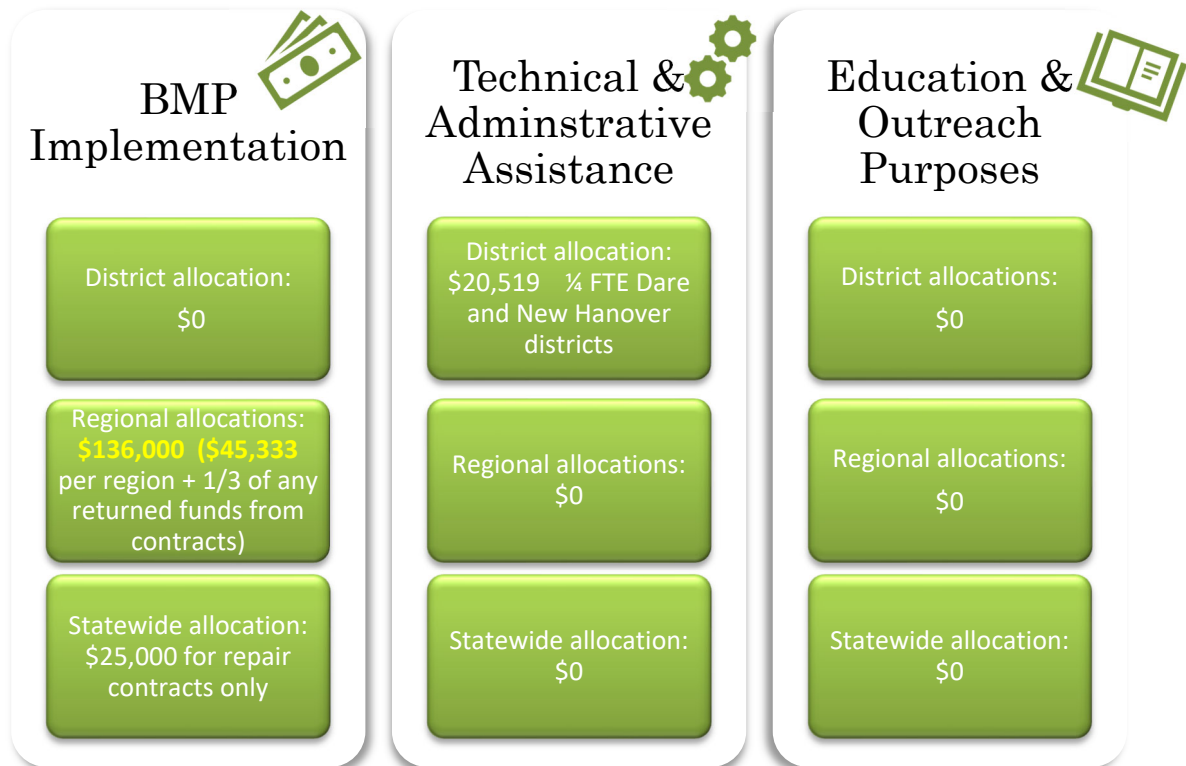


Figure 2: Soil and Water Conservation Commission CCAP allocation process for different funding pools



Fiscal Year 2023 Allocation

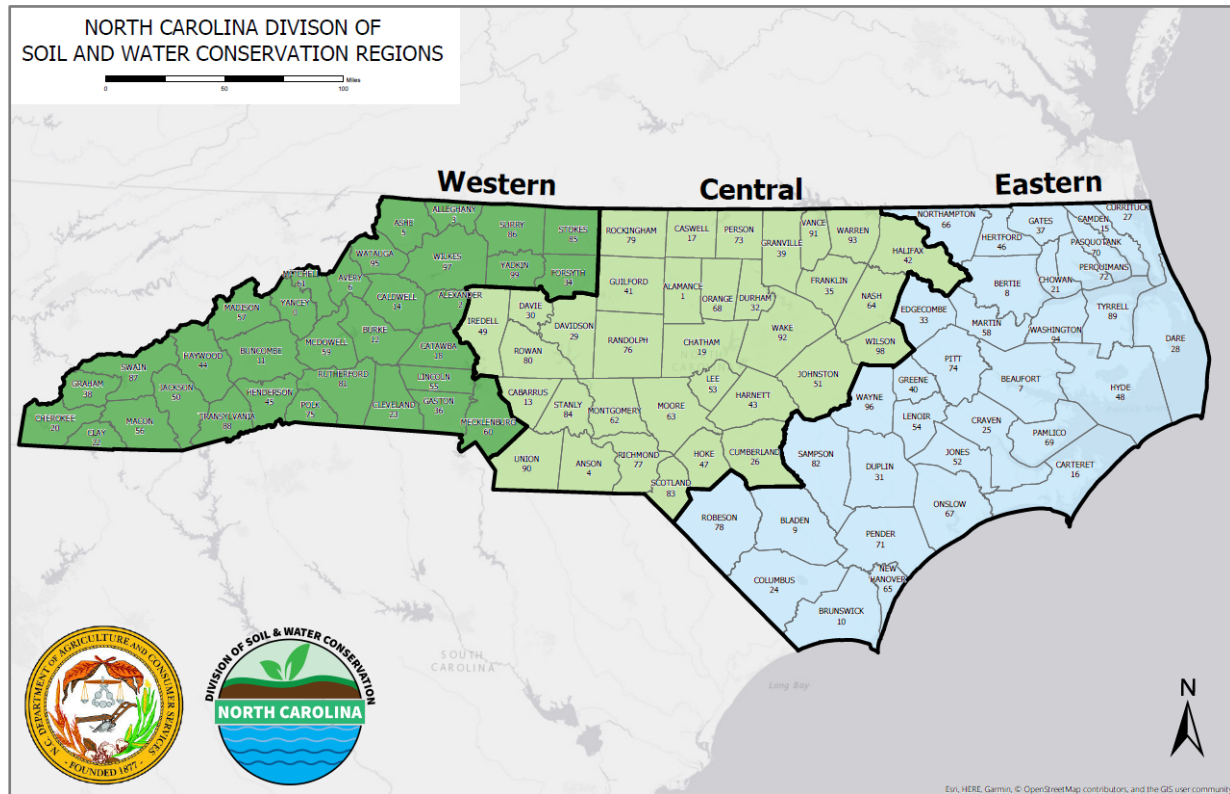
Figure 3: Proposed Soil and Water Conservation Commission FY2023 CCAP Allocation Strategy



The Commission will allocate approximately \$136,000 through a competitive regional application process for any of the approved 2023 CCAP conservation practices. \$25,000 will be allocated statewide for repair contracts. Repairs will be made on a first come, first serve basis until repair funds are fully expended. Repairs will be capped at \$5,000 and cost shared at 75% of actual costs based upon receipts. A district may bring a request before the Commission to exceed the cap of \$5,000 per repair contract. \$20,519 will be allocated to the Dare and New Hanover Districts for 1/4 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) position each for Technical and Administrative Assistance.

The remaining funding will be allocated for BMP Implementation and will be divided among the regions as depicted in figure 4. Any funds returned to the Division from previous years' contracts will be added to the BMP Implementation allocation pool and divided among the three regions. Applications will be approved using the same ranking criteria for each region. Should a region not have sufficient applications to fund, the Commission will allocate the remaining funds by approving applications in other regions, funding applications by highest score, with a just-in-time allocation. The maximum CCAP cost share allocation per project will be limited to \$25,000 and the district allocation will be limited to \$25,000 \$50,000.

Figure 4: Division of Soil and Water Conservation Service Regions for CCAP allocations



Fiscal Year 2023 Goals

- I. Conduct a competitive regional allocation process for CCAP BMPs.
 - a. Fund projects in each of the division’s regions: western, central and eastern.
 - b. Distribute funding for BMPs consistent with the Ranking Form with those of the highest ranking in each region receiving allocations until depleted.
 - c. Continue funding repair contracts as needed

- II. Continue to implement the program
 - a. Ensure the One-Time Non-Recurring funds for the 2022 fiscal year are on track for implementation
 - b. Maintain the [CCAP website](#) with all relevant information
 - c. Maintain the job approval database
 - d. Continue developing online tests for job approval authority
 - e. Continue supporting district personnel in online testing and Commission procedures to obtain job approval authority
 - f. Implement CCAP education and outreach efforts

Best Management Practices

Additional practices may be adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and introduced during the program year. Sites must have been developed for three years or more to be eligible for cost share assistance, and unless otherwise specified, the minimum life of all practices is 10 years. For single-family home sites, the minimum life of all practices is five years because these properties change owners more frequently.

- (1) **Abandoned well closure** is the sealing and permanent closure of a supply well no longer in use. This practice serves to prevent entry of contaminated surface water, animals, debris or other foreign substances into the well. It also serves to eliminate the physical hazards of an open hole to people, animals and machinery.
- (2) **Bioretention** area is the use of plants and soils for removal of pollutants from stormwater runoff. Bioretention can also be effective in reducing peak runoff rates, runoff volumes and recharging groundwater by infiltrating runoff. Bioretention areas are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft².
- (3) **A backyard rain garden** is a shallow depression in the ground that captures runoff from a driveway, roof, or lawn and allows it to soak into the ground, rather than running across roads, capturing pollutants and delivering them to a stream. Backyard rain gardens are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft².
- (4) **Stormwater wetland** means a constructed system that mimics the functions of natural wetlands and is designed to mitigate the impacts of stormwater quality and quantity. Stormwater wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of greater than 2500 ft².
- (5) **Backyard wetlands** are constructed systems that mimic the functions of natural wetlands. They can temporarily store, filter and clean runoff from driveways, roofs and lawns, and thereby improve water quality. The wetland should be expected to retain water or remain saturated for two to three weeks. Backyard wetlands are intended to treat impervious surface areas of less than 2500 ft².
- (6) **A cistern** is a system of collection and diversion practices to prevent stormwater from flowing across impervious areas, collecting sediment and reaching the storm drains. Benefits may include the reduction of stormwater runoff thereby reducing the opportunity for pollution to enter the storm drainage system.
- (7) **A critical area planting** means an area of highly erodible land, which cannot be stabilized by ordinary conservation treatment on which permanent perennial vegetative cover is established and protected to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation and improved surface water quality.
- (8) **A diversion** means a channel constructed across a slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side to control drainage by diverting excess water from an area to improve water quality.



Best Management Practices continued...

- (9) A **grassed swale** consists of a natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, and sedimentation and improve the quality of surface water pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.
- (10) **Impervious surface conversion** means the removal of impenetrable materials such as asphalt, concrete, brick and stone. These materials seal surfaces, repel water, and prevent precipitation from infiltrating soils. Removal of these impervious materials, when combined with permeable pavement or vegetation establishment, is intended to reduce stormwater runoff rate and volume, as well as associated pollutants transported from the site by stormwater runoff.
- (11) **Permeable pavement** means materials that are designed to allow water to flow through them and thus reduce the imperviousness of traffic surfaces, such as patios, walkways, sidewalks, driveways and parking areas.
- (12) A **pet waste receptacle** means a receptacle designed to encourage pet owners to pick up after animals in parks, neighborhoods and apartment complexes so as to prevent waste from being transported off-site by stormwater runoff.
- (13) A **riparian buffer** means an area adjacent to a stream where a permanent, long-lived vegetative cover (sod, shrubs, trees or a combination of vegetation types) is established to improve water quality. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation, pathogen contamination and pollution from dissolved, particulate and sediment-attached substances.
- (14) A **stream restoration** system means the use of bioengineering practices, native material revetments, channel stability structures and/or the restoration or management of riparian corridors to protect upland BMPs, restore the natural function of the stream corridor and improve water quality by reducing sedimentation to streams from streambanks.
- (15) **Streambank and shoreline protection** is defined as the use of vegetation to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries or excavated channels against scour and erosion.
- (16) **Marsh sills** protect estuarine shorelines from erosion, combining engineered structures with natural vegetation to maintain, restore, or enhance the shoreline's natural habitats. A sill is a coast-parallel, long or short structure built with the objective of reducing the wave action on the shoreline by forcing wave breaking over the sill. Sills are used to provide protection for existing coastal marshes, or to retain sandy fill between the sill and the eroding shoreline, to establish suitable elevations for the restoration or establishment of coastal marsh and/or riparian vegetation.
- (17) A **structural stormwater conveyance** includes various techniques to divert and/or control runoff from paved surfaces where a vegetated diversion is not feasible. The purpose is to manage stormwater runoff (sheet flow or concentrated) from a direct discharge point and divert or control it to an approved BMP, a naturally vegetated area, or to eliminate gully erosion.



Table 1: Best Management Practices eligible for cost share, minimum life expectancy of each practice, and the practice type

BMP	Maintenance Period of BMP*	Practice Type
Abandoned well closure	1	N/A
Backyard raingarden	10	Design
Backyard wetland	10	Design
Bioretention area	10	Design
Cisterns	10	Design
Critical Area Planting	10	Design
Diversion	10	Design
Grassed swale	10	Design
Impervious surface conversion	10	Design
Marsh sill	10	N/A
Permeable pavement	10	Design
Pet waste receptacle	10	N/A
Riparian buffer	10	Design
Stream restoration	10	Design
Streambank and shoreline stabilization	10	Design
Stormwater wetland	10	Design
Structural stormwater conveyance	10	Design

** The maintenance period for single-family home sites is five years with the exception of Abandoned Well Closure which is one year*

WESTERN REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Buncombe	Barnardsville VFD Inc.	Cistern	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Henderson	Henderson County	Riparian buffer, Streambank and shoreline protection	57	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Watauga	Valle Crucis Community Park	Structural stormwater conveyance	45	\$ 21,250	\$ 3,750	\$ 25,000
Wilkes	County of Wilkes	Stream restoration	45	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Buncombe	Phillip Cole	Structural stormwater conveyance	41	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Mecklenburg	Drew Jeffery	Stream restoration	35	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
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Wilkes	Wilkes County Schools	Structural stormwater conveyance	18	\$25,000		\$ 25,000
						\$ 177,750

CENTRAL REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Chatham	Saralyn LOA/Kirk McNaughton	Stream restoration	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Franklin	Lake Royale POA	Pet waste receptacle	55	\$ 5,483		\$ 5,483
Wake	Kathryn Lee Clark-Sellers	Stream restoration	55	\$ 21,250	\$ 3,750	\$ 25,000
Davie	Luke Phelps	Structural stormwater conveyance, Critical area planting	52	\$ 22,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 25,000
Chatham	Alan Purvis	Cistern	51	\$ 11,000	\$ -	\$ 11,000
Johnston	Belinda Benton	Abandoned well closure	30	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Davidson	Cheyenne Sluder	Abandoned well closure	28	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
Davidson	Larry Kepley	Abandoned well closure	10	\$ 1,500	\$ -	\$ 1,500
						\$ 95,983

EASTERN REGION

District	Cooperator Name	Best Management Practice(s)	Total Points	BMP funding request	Engineering funds request	Total Project Request
Hyde	Newmans Seafood	Marsh sill	60	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Onslow	Robert Johnson	Cistern	50	\$ 9,170	\$ -	\$ 9,170
Dare	Roanoke Historical Society	Marsh sill	42	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Carteret	Mark Smith	Marsh sill	40	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Dare	Mark Sisk	Marsh sill	40	\$ 25,000	\$ -	\$ 25,000
Craven	Craven County Recreation and Parks Department	Critical area planting, Diversion	40	\$ 25,000		\$ 25,000
Currituck	Diana Settles	Backyard wetland	28	\$ 2,750	\$ -	\$ 2,750
						\$ 136,920

**NC Cost Share Programs Commissioner Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Johnston	51-2023-801	John Langdon	Water Supply Well	\$5,502	

Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 1

Total \$5,502

NCDA&CS
DSWC

NC-CSPs-1A
(05/22)

**ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE
NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS**

As a Soil & Water Conservation Commission Member, I have applied for or stand to benefit* from a contract under the commission's cost share programs. I did not vote on the approval, or denial, of the application, or attempt to influence the outcome of any action on the application. The proposed contract is for the installation of the following best management practices to improve water quality or water resources.

Program: AGWRAP

Best management practice: Water Supply Well

Contract number: 51-2023-801 Contract Amount: \$5,502

Score on priority ranking sheet: 95 out of 150

Cost share rate: 30 % If different than 75%, please list percent: 30%

Reason: We split our allotment between 3 applicants

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 3

Were any higher or equally ranked contracts denied? Yes No

If yes, give an explanation as to why the commission member's contract was approved over the other contracts:

[Empty box for explanation]

Commission member name (Print): JOHN M. LANGDON

[Signature]
(Commission member's signature)

11-23-2022
Date

Approved by (Print): CHARLES HILL

[Signature]
(District Chairperson's signature)

11-21-2022
Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

The Soil & Water Commission has approved the subject application for a contract pursuant to G.S. 139-8(b)(2) on _____. The record of Soil & Water Conservation Commission action is recorded in the _____ meeting minutes.

Approved by:

[Empty box for signature]

(Commissioner of Agriculture) (Pursuant G.S. 139-4(e)(2))

Date

*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

SUPERVISOR ATTENDANCE REPORT

02 NCAC 59A .0301(b) requires District boards to submit a supervisor attendance report, annually, for all members. The report shall cover the time period of December 1 through November 30 of the previous year.

Local soil and water conservation districts have provided these reports through the Division’s FormSite. Responses were received from all 100 districts. Summary information is as follows:

Average number of meetings held from December 1, 2021 – November 30, 2022 = **9.59**.

Average participation rate by district supervisors ~ **83.65%**.

Average meetings held by Association Area:

NCASWCD Area 1	9.76 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 2	10.42 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 3	9.73 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 4	11.27 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 5	8.69 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 6	8.33 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 7	7.89 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 8	10.58 meetings / year

The fewest meetings held in this time period was 4; Craven, Hoke, Rutherford and Sampson.

The most meetings held in this time period was 20; Albemarle – Currituck.

02 NCAC 59A .0301(c) requires District boards to notify the Commission in writing of any member that has failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, except when prevented by illness of the Supervisor. Notification from the District shall include explanation for non-attendance and the actions that the District board has taken to address the Supervisor’s attendance.

Local soil and water conservation districts have reported five supervisors who have failed to attend three consecutive regularly schedule meetings, but are no longer serving as Supervisors as of December 5, 2022, when new terms began. Three sitting Supervisors have been reported by districts due to failure to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings between December 1, 2021 and November 30, 2022:

Beaufort SWCD	Sid Cayton	Staff difficulties	Attendance resumed
Brown Creek SWCD	Kimberly Tyner	Work conflicts	Attendance resumed in November 2022
Henderson SWCD	Jerred Nix	Harvesting	Attendance resumed

Information submitted by districts related to these instances is included as an attachment to this report.

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Friday, December 16, 2022 3:28 PM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Supervisor Failure to Attend Result #13022054

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam.](#)

Reference #	13022054
Status	Complete
District name	Beaufort
Name of supervisor that has failed to attend meetings	Sid Cayton
Number of regularly scheduled meetings missed consecutively	3
Date of first meeting missed (month/year)	04/2022
Reason for non-attendance (if prevented due to illness of the supervisor, reporting not required)	Supervisor Cayton has a large farming operation and a limited number of employees; 3 full time and 3 seasonal. The April, May, and June 2022 meetings were missed due to the absence of 1 full time employee who was out with open heart surgery and 2 other employees out with COVID and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Supervisor Cayton was left to complete the duties of those who were out sick as well as those of his own. Supervisor Cayton worked between planting, harvesting, trucking, and operating grain bins into the night in order to keep trucking shipments flowing.
Actions the district board has taken to address attendance (the Commission has guidelines to encourage participation in their District Supervisor Removal Guidance - https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/commission/policies.html)	The District Board is aware of Supervisor Cayton's situation. He is considered an asset to the Board and has been reminded of the importance of attendance requirements. Supervisor Cayton is committed to the activities of the Beaufort SWCD and will monitor his attendance more closely.
Contact name for questions regarding this submittal	James Allen
Last Update	2022-12-16 15:28:06

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2022 10:11 AM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Supervisor Failure to Attend Result #12984842

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam.](#)

Reference #	12984842
Status	Complete
District name	Brown Creek (Anson)
Name of supervisor that has failed to attend meetings	Kimberly Tyner
Number of regularly scheduled meetings missed consecutively	7
Date of first meeting missed (month/year)	12/21/2021
Reason for non-attendance (if prevented due to illness of the supervisor, reporting not required)	Work schedule issues.
Actions the district board has taken to address attendance (the Commission has guidelines to encourage participation in their District Supervisor Removal Guidance - https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/commission/policies.html)	<p>Gave courtesy phone calls prior to each meeting to remind all board members of the monthly board meetings. On multiple occasions board members Ronald Morgan and Gary Sikes checked in on Kimberly Tyner to discover that her professional obligations were the cause of her attendance issues. More recently Sikes has expressed to Tyner that her lack of attendance needs to be addressed.</p> <p>District staff spoke with Kristina Fisher at CET about Kimberly Tyners attendance issues.</p>
Contact name for questions regarding this submittal	Candace Watson
Last Update	2022-11-30 10:10:59
Start Time	2022-11-30 09:51:10
Finish Time	2022-11-30 10:10:59
IP	40.128.119.176

Fischer, Kristina

From: noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2022 8:15 AM
To: Fischer, Kristina
Subject: [External] Supervisor Failure to Attend Result #13025413

CAUTION: External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [Report Spam](#).

Reference #	13025413
Status	Complete
District name	Henderson
Name of supervisor that has failed to attend meetings	Jerred Nix
Number of regularly scheduled meetings missed consecutively	3
Date of first meeting missed (month/year)	6/13/22
Reason for non-attendance (if prevented due to illness of the supervisor, reporting not required)	Harvest Season
Actions the district board has taken to address attendance (the Commission has guidelines to encourage participation in their District Supervisor Removal Guidance - https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/commission/policies.html)	No actions have been taken
Contact name for questions regarding this submittal	Jonathan Wallin
Last Update	2022-12-19 08:14:36
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Cost Share Programs Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022

NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission





The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Commission) has the statutory responsibility to create, implement and supervise three voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs: Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP), and the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP). These programs are governed by 02 NCAC 59D. This report consolidates the annual reporting for the three programs for fiscal year 2022 (FY2022).

Through these voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs, cooperators are provided educational, technical and financial assistance through their local soil and water conservation districts. The 96 local districts of North Carolina are comprised of 492 elected and appointed district board supervisors, assisted by their staff and partners in natural resource conservation.

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC), the governing body of seven members chosen by the local district boards, provides statutory authority and allocates financial resources for the cost share programs according to rules.

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil and Water Conservation provides administrative and technical support to the local districts. The Division develops the standards of the program approved by the Commission, completes the accounting of funds for program implementation, and provides professional engineering assistance to the local staff. For more information, please refer to Appendix A: Funding and Compliance Process.

Those in the Conservation Partnership include technical and professional employees of the soil and water conservation district or county, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCD&CS), NCD&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation (Division), and the North Carolina State University Cooperative Extension Service as well as local resource conservation groups. Through these partnerships, districts provide the framework for contracting with participants and ensuring the work is performed according to established standards and specifications.

For most practices in the three cost share programs, the amount provided in cost share is based on 75 percent of a predetermined average cost for the practice up to a maximum of \$75,000 per cooperating applicant per year. However, some practices are cost shared on 75 percent of actual cost due to the variable nature of the practice. For ACSP and AgWRAP, farmers who qualify as beginning farmers or limited resource farmers, and farmers participating in an enhanced voluntary agricultural district are eligible to receive up to 90 percent cost share up to a maximum of \$100,000 per year.



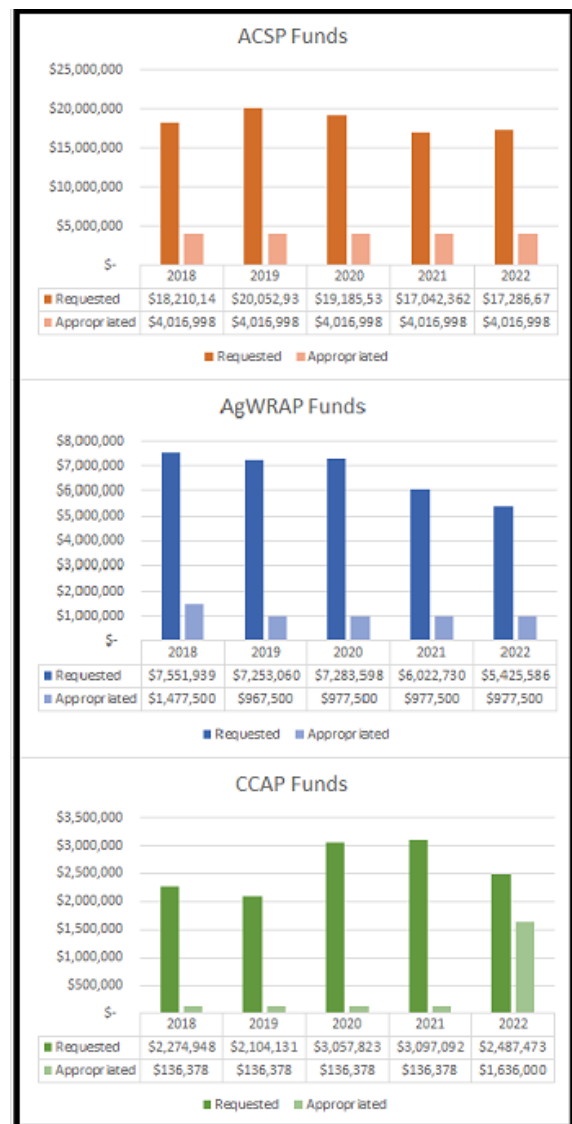
To ensure compliance of the cost share programs, districts complete site visits, also known as spot checks, to a minimum of 5 percent of randomly selected active contracts each year to ensure that practices are being maintained properly. Spot checks for FY2022 showed excellent compliance with maintenance requirements by cooperators. When practices are discovered to need additional maintenance, the district is usually able to assist the cooperator to restore the practice to its intended function. Districts follow the Commission’s Non-Compliance with Maintenance Requirements for Cost Share Contracts Policy which requires cooperators to repair, re-implement or repay a prorated amount of funds for the practice if it is not functioning as planned or not being operated for its intended use as specified in 02 NCAC 59D .0109. For more information, please refer to Appendix A: Funding and Compliance Process.

Cost share programs are operated on a budget approved by the state legislature for each fiscal year. In recent years, the budgets for the cost share programs have remained relatively consistent, as shown on the graphs to the right.

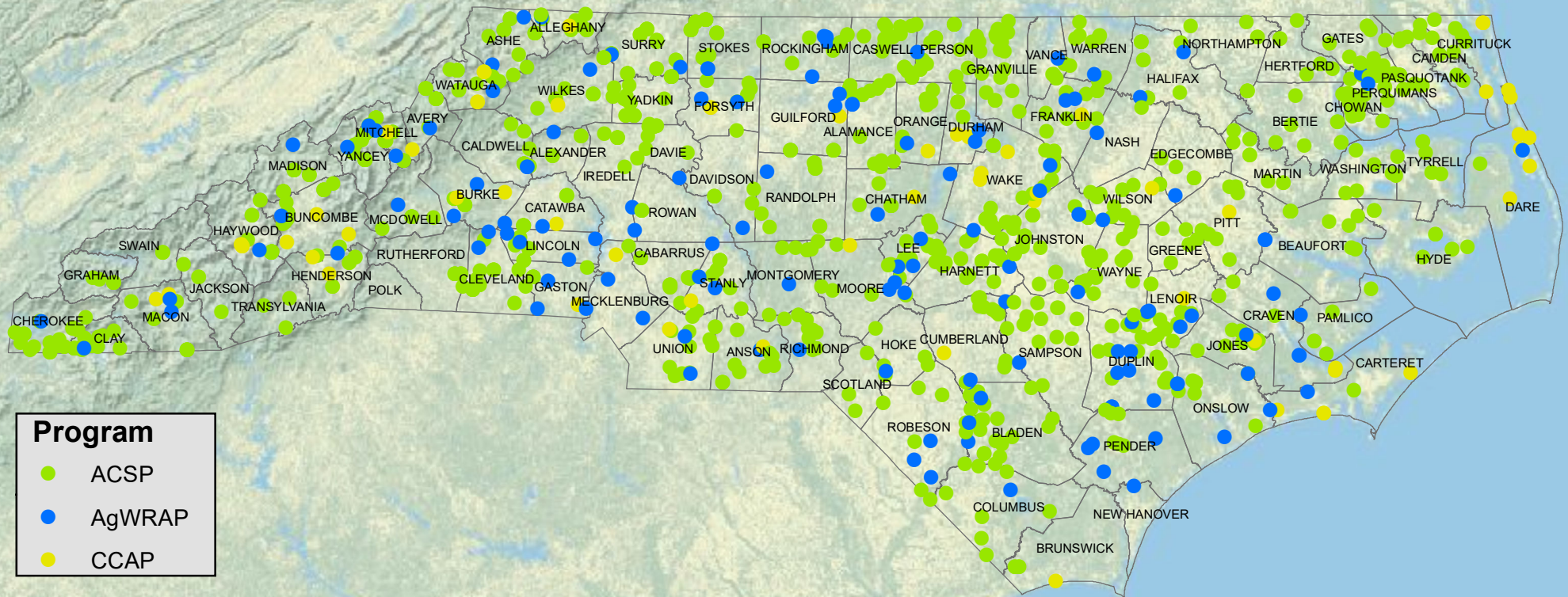
However, current appropriations do not enable districts to meet demand for financial assistance for installing BMPs to protect water quality and improve water resources in North Carolina. Appropriations are often three to five times lower than the requested amount for program funding.

This trend can be seen in each of the last five years, as depicted on the graphs to the right. Additional appropriations given to the programs may go a long way to help improve the water resources in North Carolina and support agriculture in the state.

The maps on the following pages show the location of all BMPs contracted and implemented in FY2022. Please note that while some BMPs are implemented the year they are contracted, cooperators have up to 3 years to install the contracted BMPs to allow for budgeting, weather, and contracting delays.

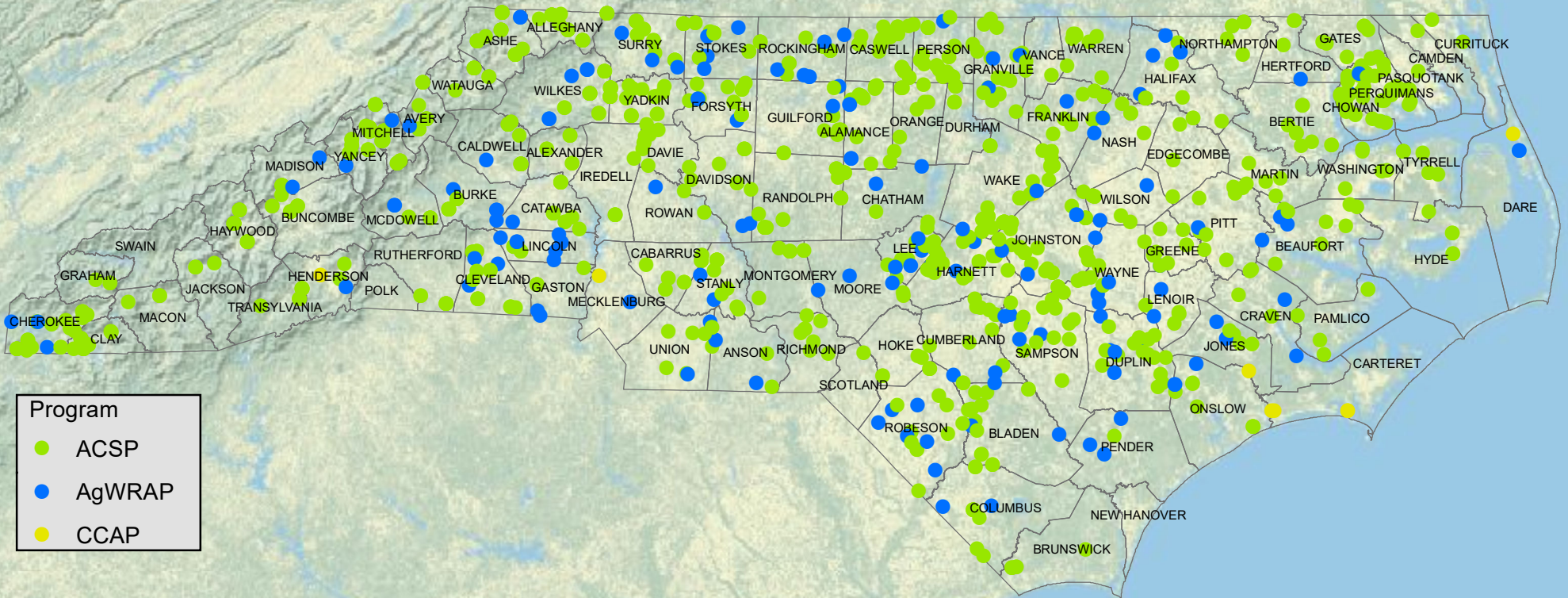


Soil and Water Conservation Commission Best Management Practices Contracted in 2022



0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles

Soil and Water Conservation Commission Best Management Practices Implemented in 2022



- Program
- ACSP
 - AgWRAP
 - CCAP



0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles



AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY

The North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) was authorized by the General Assembly in 1983 to improve water quality associated with agriculture in three nutrient sensitive watersheds covering 16 counties. In 1990, the program was expanded to include 96 soil and water conservation districts covering all 100 counties across the state. In FY2022, there were 64 approved BMPs in the ACSP that cover both short-term and long-term practices.

While the program was established to improve water quality associated with agriculture, ACSP also benefits the general public. The implementation of the program ensures water quality improvements to local bodies of water, improves soil health and reduces erosion, creates local jobs, and improves the sustainability and resiliency of agribusiness in North Carolina.

N.C.G.S 106-850.74(e) requires that each project's benefits to water quality be estimated before funding is awarded. To meet this requirement, the Commission chose three indicators of water quality benefits (not all benefits are required for each type of contract - required benefits are determined by a workgroup of technical experts):

1. Tons of Soil Saved
2. Pounds of nitrogen saved or managed
3. Pounds of phosphorus saved or managed

Soil savings estimates have been required on all ACSP contracts since the start of the program. Beginning with the 1997 program year, estimates of nitrogen and phosphorus savings were required. These estimates have allowed the Division to track progress made by agriculture relative to the nutrient reduction requirements in the Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Jordan Lake and Falls Lake Nutrient Sensitive Water Strategies for agriculture. The ACSP is playing a key role in helping farmers achieve and maintain the nutrient reductions required by these rules.

In FY2022, the Districts obligated \$4,524,835 to 614 new contracts through ACSP.

In FY2022, 523 ACSP contracts were implemented, including those that were contracted in previous years. The BMPs installed through these contracts saved 59,677 tons of soil, managed 55,541 pounds of phosphorus, and 419,244 pounds of nitrogen on 34,290 acres of land.

Since the inception of the program in 1984, the practices implemented through ACSP have saved 7.7 million tons of soil, 21.3 million pounds of phosphorous, and 7.3 million pounds of nitrogen.





AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM SUMMARY

In FY2022, 2106 acres of marginally or environmentally sensitive cropland were contracted to convert to trees, grass or wildlife habitat area. During this timeframe, 2,851 acres were installed and since the program began 219,641 acres have been converted.

ACSP supports assistance for the implementation of wet and dry waste management to ensure the proper storage of animal waste. In FY2022, districts contracted 23 waste management practices and implemented 17 waste management practices, bringing the total to 4,311 implemented.

Mortality management systems are also a recognized BMP under ACSP. These systems ensure proper management of livestock mortalities to minimize water quality impacts. Since the program began, 1,109 systems have been installed, with 10 contracted and 6 installed in FY2022.

In FY2022, 3 chemical handling and management measures were contracted and 6 were installed to provide an environmentally safe means for application, mixing and storing agricultural chemicals. 205 have been implemented since the program began.

No-till, conservation tillage and residue management practices have shown great benefits for water quality, soil health, and carbon storage. In FY2022, 5,188 acres were contracted and 2,468 were implemented using these practices. Through ACSP, no-till or conservation tillage practices have now been implemented on a total of 674,930 acres.

In FY2022, 8 water control structures were contracted with 3 installed. These water control structures improve water management on the farm and reduce nutrient loss. Since the program's inception, 4,497 water control structures have been installed.

Grassed waterways protect water quality by preventing sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances. Through ACSP, 8,422 acres of grassed waterways have been established to reduce sediment and nutrient loss from 258,781 acres of cropland. In FY2022, 46 acres were contracted, and 45 acres were installed, reducing sediment and nutrient loss on 1,325 acres of cropland.

Since the program began, 1,494 miles of fencing have been installed, in combination with other practices (e.g. watering sources) to exclude livestock from streams or other bodies of water. In FY2022, 21 miles of livestock exclusion fencing were contracted and 17 miles were installed.





COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Session Law 2006-78 established the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP). The purpose of the program is to reduce the delivery of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution into the waters of North Carolina by installing best management practices (BMPs) on developed lands not directly involved in agricultural production.

Often times, CCAP BMPs are implemented on public or private property, such as city or county parks, and private lands. These projects add to the aesthetics of the land, contributing to green spaces in urban environments while providing direct positive impacts to water quality in the local community and at the watershed level. In addition, these projects are often completed with volunteers, including school children, and contain educational components, strengthening the communities' bonds and their bond to the natural environment.

Currently there are 17 BMPs that CCAP utilizes to address the site-specific natural resource concerns of the cooperator. These vary in complexity and cost, ranging from stream restoration projects to the closing of abandoned wells.

The CCAP program also has the ability to provide the local districts with the capacity to request innovative practices that are currently not in our standards. These district BMPs allow the districts to request a practice that is recognized by other professional organizations but has not yet been adopted by the CCAP program. This allows districts and CCAP to test newer practices and further develop guidance and policies regarding these innovative practices.

For FY2022, the Commission chose to allocate funds regionally (eastern, central, western) based upon a competitive priority ranking process for CCAP. The Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee reviewed the ranking parameters, cost-shared BMPs including their standards and specifications, and general program guidance. This independent advisory committee provides review of existing and potential future policies for the program and makes their recommendations to the Commission, which then decides the program guidelines and functionality.

Through the Regional Application Process, for FY2022, the CCAP program received one-time non-recurring funds of \$1.5 million. This increased funding resulted in significant expansion in both the number and complexity of projects that could be funded. This allowed districts to obligate \$1,537,189 to contract 75 projects, ranging from backyard raingardens to large-scale marsh sills, in 35 districts.

Since CCAP began, almost 6,412 tons of soil has been saved annually. In addition, nitrogen and phosphorous have been reduced by 1,110 pounds and 476 pounds annually.





COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

Riparian buffers, stream restorations, and marsh sills are recognized BMPs in CCAP. These BMPs help to reduce soil erosion into North Carolina's public bodies of water, thereby helping increase the health of these water bodies.

To date, over 26,548 linear feet of streambank and shoreline protection have been installed, with 3 BMPs contracted and 1 installed in FY2022. In addition, over 37,123 linear feet of streams have been repaired under CCAP and almost 9 acres of riparian buffers have been planted. In FY2022, 13 of these BMPs were contracted and 1 implemented related to these practices.

Marsh sills and other living shoreline protection measure help prevent coastal flooding and the erosion of shorelines. Through CCAP, over 9,000 linear feet of marsh sills have been installed, with 10 marsh sills contracted and 2 implemented in FY2022.

Permeable pavement and impervious surface conversions are also BMPs in CCAP. These practices help ensure rainfall is able to percolate into the ground rather than run off into streams, taking any pollution near by with it during heavy rainfall events. To date, 8 of these practices have been installed.

Backyard raingardens, bioretention areas and grassed swales help ensure that run-off caused from heavy rain events can be filtered before reaching streams. Over 26,640 square feet have been installed since the beginning of the CCAP. In FY2022, six raingardens/ bioretention areas were contracted, and one was implemented.





AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

The North Carolina Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program was authorized through Session Law 2011-145, and became effective on July 1, 2011. This program, referred to as AgWRAP, was established to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following through the implementation of one or more of the 8 eligible BMPs:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

Public benefit of this program is achieved by the following:

- Reducing competition for water resources by public users
- Improving the efficient use of water while enabling the industry to produce food, fiber and other agricultural products
- Preparing the agricultural industry to weather future droughts
- Generating and protecting local jobs in agriculture and agribusiness

In FY2022, the districts obligated \$1,271,126 of state funds to implement 137 contracts through AgWRAP.

These BMPs resulted in over 48 million gallons of water storage increase in FY2022. In addition, these BMPs allowed just over 9,600 acres of cropland to be irrigated.

Since the program began, water storage increased has reached over 1.8 billion gallons and has allowed over 15,000 acres of cropland to be irrigated.

While AgWRAP's primary purpose is water storage, availability and efficiency, the program also has benefits related to soil loss reduction as well as nitrogen and phosphorous savings.

603 water supply wells have been installed to provide a water source for irrigation, livestock, aquaculture, freeze protection and on-farm processing. In FY2022, 110 wells were contracted and 108 were installed.

AgWRAP through both district allocations and the Regional Application Process, has helped install 98 new water supply ponds for irrigation or livestock watering. In FY2022, 5 new water supply ponds were contracted and 7 were implemented.





AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SUMMARY

AgWRAP has also helped repair 57 water supply ponds to ensure adequate water supply and safety measures related to ponds. In FY2022, 11 pond repair/retrofit ponds were contracted and 14 were successfully repaired or retrofitted.

In FY2022, 3 pond sediment removal BMPs were contracted and 9 were implemented to increase water storage capacity. AgWRAP has helped 84 pond sediment removals be implemented.

66 conservation irrigation conversions, including micro-irrigation conversions have been completed to increase water use efficiency. In FY2022, 5 Conservation Irrigation Conversion practices (including Micro-irrigation) were contracted and 8 were implemented.

CONCLUSION

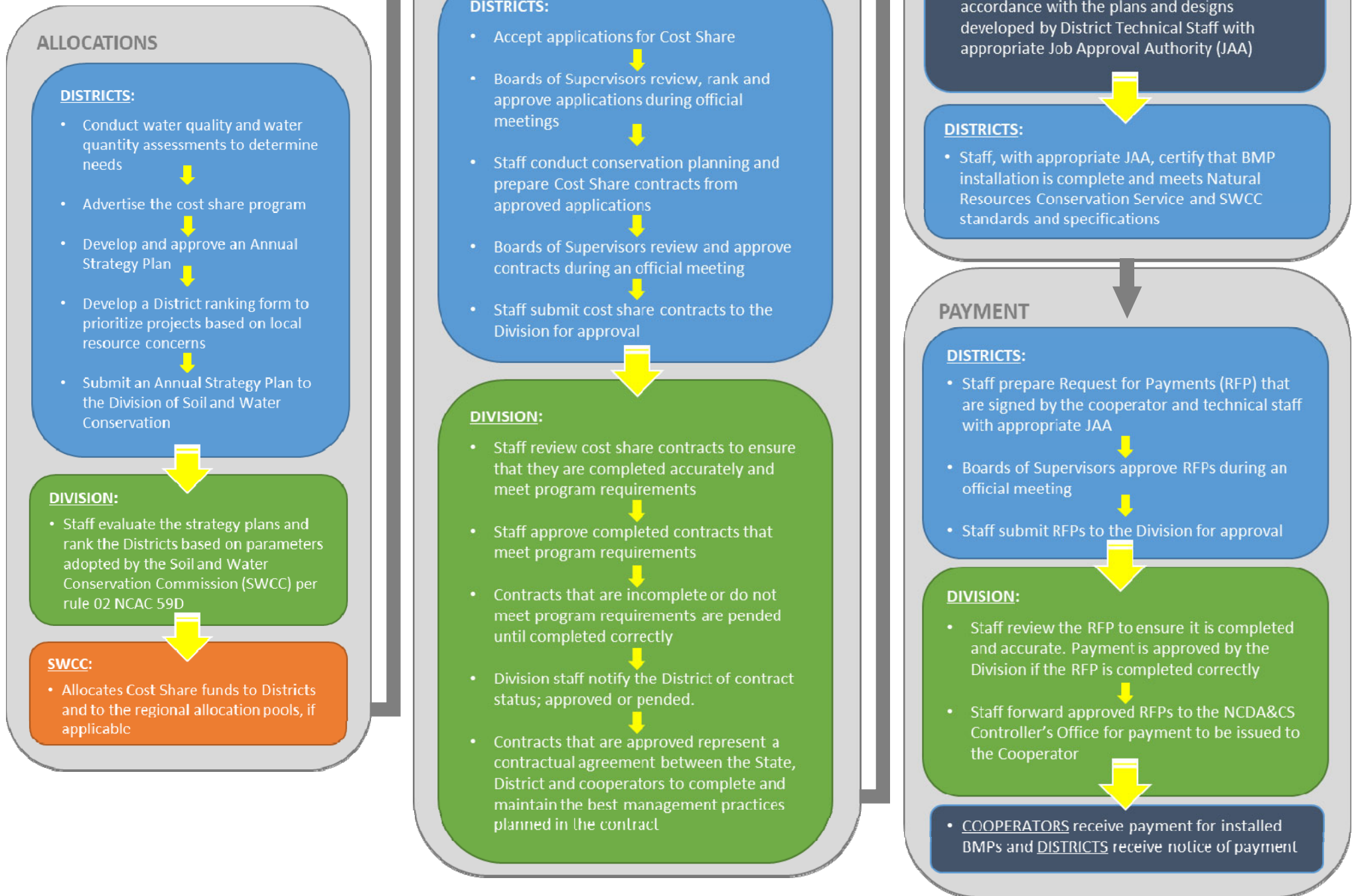
The Commission believes Cost Share Programs are being administered cost-effectively and that considerable water quality and water quantity benefits are being realized for the investment made with state funds. ACSP and AgWRAP aid agricultural operations in making essential water quality and water quantity improvements that benefit the public and the agricultural cooperators the program supports. The cost of the conservation practices installed through these programs cannot be passed on to the consumer in the price of the food or fiber product. ACSP and AgWRAP thereby contribute both to water resource improvement and to sustaining a strong state agricultural economy. CCAP fills a need with voluntary, incentive-based stormwater retrofits where municipal regulatory programs cannot help individual landowners address water quality problems. Where municipalities are hindered by right-of-way and liability issues, CCAP can offer relief to homeowners and businesses to protect their properties and improve water quality. For all three programs, the Commission continues to emphasize prioritization, accountability, adaptability, and the utilization of other funding sources, such as grants, in managing these public funds to further improve the water quality and quantity benefits intended by the General Assembly.

Increased costs of fuel, labor, and materials have significantly impacted the amount of conservation all three programs can implement and the number of cooperators who can be assisted. In the past decade, the appropriations to the ACSP have been reduced by over \$1.1 million. The Commission has taken actions that have helped to offset these impacts in the short-term, but the Commission is still unable to meet over \$17 million requested. ACSP and AgWRAP continue to play a vital role in assisting cooperators with voluntary water quality protection and water resource improvement as well as with state and federal regulatory compliance requirements. CCAP functions as the only program that provides relief to individual property owners that are affected by stormwater that state and local watershed-level regulations cannot address. These programs are our state's cornerstone in efforts to support resiliency and stewardship for the benefit of water quality and quantity and all the citizens of the state of North Carolina.



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

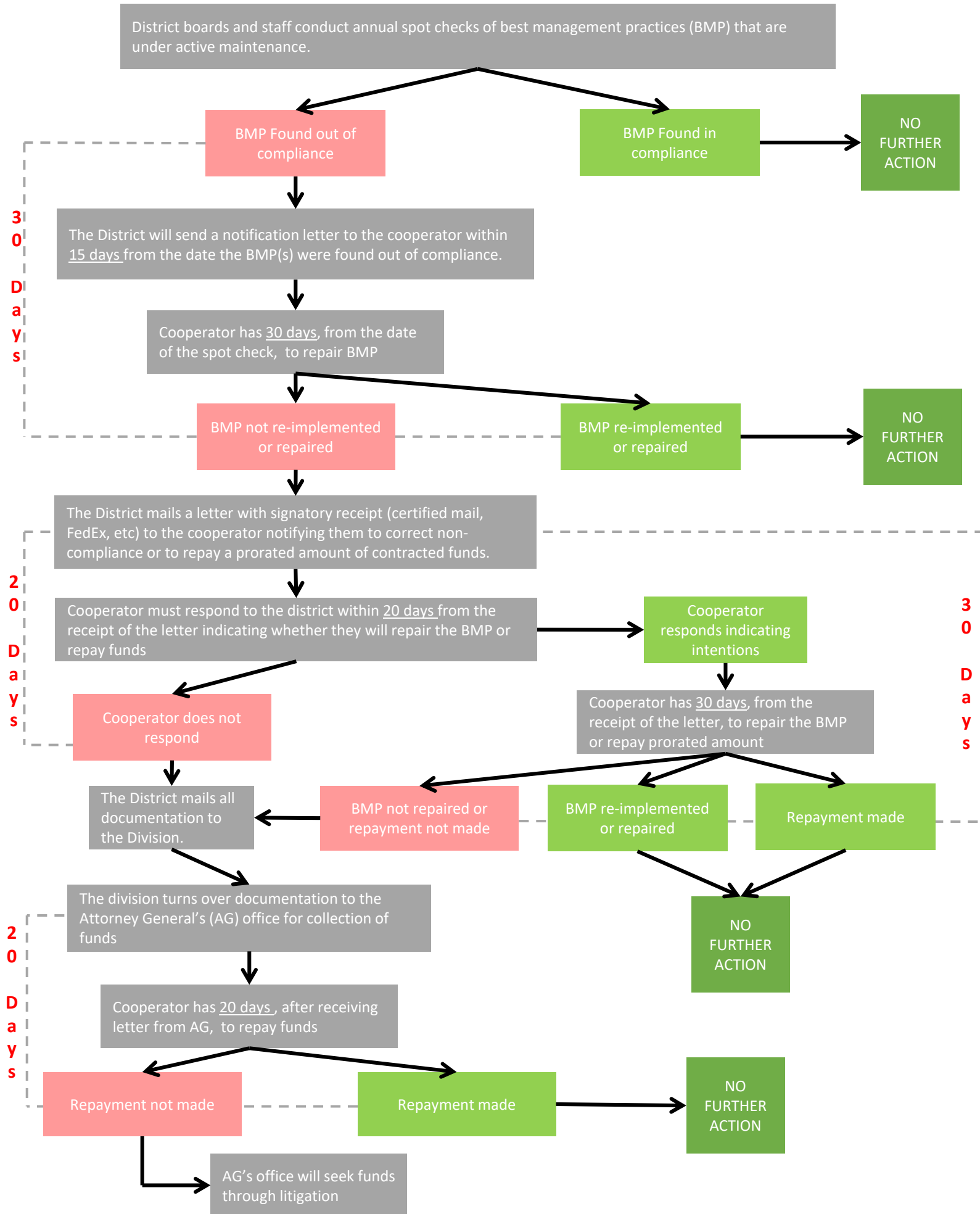
Funding Process



SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

ATTACHMENT 13A

Compliance Process





STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) was authorized by the General Assembly to reduce flood risk and restore drainage infrastructure across North Carolina. S.L. 2021-180 (2021 Appropriations Act) allocated \$38 million in non-recurring funds for the program.

The purpose of StRAP is to assist eligible grantees in protecting and restoring the integrity of drainage infrastructure through routine maintenance to existing streams and drainage ways by removing blockages caused by accumulated debris or sediment, stabilization and restoration of streams and streambanks, and for rehabilitation or improvement of small watershed structural projects constructed pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL-566). Projects eligible for StRAP funding fall into two categories:

Stream Debris Removal Projects

- Vegetative debris removal
- Instream sediment removal
- Streambank stabilization
- Stream restoration
- Other stream repair needs (ex: culvert replacement)

PL-566 Small Watershed Project Rehabilitation

- Structural rehabilitation or replacement of critical components
- Repair of critical eroding or settling areas
- Removal of accumulated sediment from the impoundment

Organizations eligible to apply for StRAP grants include Soil & Water Conservation Districts, county and city/town governments, drainage districts, and nonprofit organizations. Project engineering, permitting, and administrative costs are eligible for payment through the Program. Program funds may also be used to provide nonfederal match for related disaster recovery activities funded by the federal government.

The Soil & Water Conservation Commission began soliciting applications in early 2022, and the application period closed on March 31, 2022. Applicants submitted information on each stream segment where work was proposed. Applicants listed each stream segment in one of three categories: needing only vegetative debris removal, needing removal of vegetative debris and in-stream sediment, or needing streambank stabilization as well as the removal of vegetative debris and in-stream sediment. To assist in prioritizing projects, the application packet requested information on the estimated benefits of the planned project. These benefits included the number of structures (homes, commercial buildings,



farm structures), bridge or culvert structures, and utility crossings that would benefit from the project, as well as how many planned projects were in the watersheds of streams on the 303d list of impaired streams.

125 organizations applied for StRAP funds, and the total request for funds was \$311,528,737. Division staff reviewed applications and recommended applicants to the Commission for selection in the late Spring of 2022. Due to the large interest in the program and high amount of requested funds, the Commission prioritized two categories in awarding grants: vegetative stream debris removal and PL-566 small watershed structural projects. An award cap of \$500,000 was put in place for debris removal projects, and a cap of \$2 million was put in place for grantees conducting projects involving PL-566 small watershed structures.

The Commission awarded a total of \$36,099,996.00 to 111 grantees. Awarded grant amounts ranged from \$7,000 to \$2 million, with an average award amount of \$325,225.19. 103 grantees received funds to conduct vegetative debris removal projects, 4 grantees received funds to conduct PL-566 watershed structure projects, and 4 grantees received funds to conduct both types of projects.

In the summer of 2022, grantees were notified of their awards. As many grantees received smaller award amounts than they applied for, grantees revised their scope of work to an amount that could be completed using their allocated award.

The authorizing legislation for StRAP states that all debris removed from streams using program funds must be “either removed from the 100-year floodplain or processed in such a manner that the debris would not pose a risk of blockage or significant impairment of normal streamflow during a subsequent flood event.” This provision will ensure that debris removed from streams using StRAP funds will not contribute to future flood events. The Commission has approved three methods of processing debris: burning, chipping/mulching, and cabling. Division staff will work with grantees to provide recommendations on using these processing methods and selecting the appropriate methods for each project.

StRAP grantees are required to submit a report each quarter of the calendar year for the length of their project. These quarterly reports include information on expenditures, the amount of encumbered funds, a description of all work done that quarter, all stream segments on the scope of work, and any updates to the project timeline. A budget report should accompany each quarterly report to summarize expenditures and the funds allocated to the project for that quarter.

As work is completed, Division employees will inspect completed stream segments and issue reimbursement payments to the grantees. StRAP contracts will remain in effect until December 31, 2024. Division staff will continue to assist grantees and provide guidance for the length of the contracts.

