

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

**WORK SESSION**

NC State Fairgrounds  
Gov. James G. Martin Building  
4381 Trinity Road @ Gate 9  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
March 14, 2023  
**6:00 p.m.**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

**BUSINESS SESSION**

NC State Fairgrounds  
Gov. James G. Martin Building  
4381 Trinity Road @ Gate 9  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
March 15, 2023  
**9:00 a.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. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations

Mr. Phillip Reynolds

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. January 8, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. January 8, 2023 Business Session Meeting Minutes

4. Division Report

Director Vernon Cox

5. Association Report

President George Teague

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bryan Evans

7. NRCS Report

Mr. Tim Beard

8. Consent Agenda

A. Supervisor Appointments

Mr. David Williams

## ATTACHMENT 1WS BLUE

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| B. Supervisor Contracts  | Mr. John Beck        |
| 9. Job Approval Authority  | Mr. Joshua Vetter    |
| A. Applications  |                      |
| 10. Basic Training Report  | Ms. Kristina Fischer |
| 11. StRAP Progress Update  | Mr. Matt Safford     |
| 12. Engineering Services Workload Report   | Mr. Scott Melvin     |
| 13. Consideration of Pasture Renovation BMP Revisions  | Mr. John Beck        |
| 14. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation   | Mr. John Beck        |
| 15. District Special Requests  | Mr. John Beck        |
| A. Post Approval for Contract 14-2023-801  | Caldwell SWCD        |
| B. Post Approval for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract 31-2023-301   | Mr. Joshua Vetter    |
| 16. Consideration of Resolution from the Public Private Partnership Called for in the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment | Mr. Jimmy Johnson    |

#### IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### V. ADJOURNMENT

NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA  
BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA  
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**II. PRELIMINARY – Business Meeting**

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

Chairman John Langdon

**III. BUSINESS**

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Chairman John Langdon

2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations

Mr. Phillip Reynolds

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. January 8, 2023 Work Session Meeting Minutes

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4. Division Report

Director Vernon Cox

5. Association Report

President George Teague

6. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bryan Evans

7. NRCS Report

Mr. Tim Beard

8. Consent Agenda

A. Supervisor Appointments

Mr. David Williams

**ATTACHMENT 1BS BLUE**

- B. Supervisor Contracts Mr. John Beck
  
  - 9. Job Approval Authority Mr. Joshua Vetter
    - A. Applications
  
  - 10. Basic Training Report Ms. Kristina Fischer
  
  - 11. StRAP Progress Update Mr. Matt Safford
  
  - 12. Engineering Services Workload Report Mr. Scott Melvin
  
  - 13. Consideration of Pasture Renovation BMP Revisions Mr. John Beck
  
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    - A. Post Approval for Contract 14-2023-801 Caldwell SWCD
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  - 16. Consideration of Resolution from the Public Private Partnership Called for in the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment Mr. Jimmy Johnson
- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- V. ADJOURNMENT**



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. William Kilpatrick  
Prospective Appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. William Kilpatrick's** 2023 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Soil and Water Conservation Commission (the "Commission")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission was established to approve petitions for and assist supervisors of soil conservation districts, review applications for planning assistance, and approve, supervise and review small watershed work plans. In addition, the Commission has the authority to develop and implement programs for the approval of water quality and animal waste management systems technical specialists and water quality protection programs. The Commission is also responsible for the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, including the review and approval of applications of district supervisors that apply for a grant from this program, as well as the Community Conservation Assistance Program.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Kilpatrick would fill the role of a member who is the First Vice President of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. In addition, he is a livestock farmer. As such, he has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any entity with which he is associated or any entity in which he or his spouse own a financial interest come before the Commission for official action.

In addition to the conflict standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,



Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: William Kilpatrick  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide



## STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

POST OFFICE BOX 27685

RALEIGH, NC 27611

PHONE: 919-814-3600

### Via Email

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Roy A. Cooper III  
Governor of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-0301

**Re: Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest Filed by Mr. Brian Parker  
Prospective Appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

Dear Governor Cooper:

Our office has received **Mr. Brian Parker's** 2023 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the **Soil and Water Conservation Commission (the "Commission")**. We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act (the "Act").

Compliance with the Act and avoidance of conflicts of interest in the performance of public duties are the responsibilities of every covered person, regardless of this letter's contents. This letter, meanwhile, is not meant to impugn the integrity of the covered person in any way. This letter is required by N.C.G.S. § 138A-28(a) and is designed to educate the covered person as to potential issues that could merit particular attention. Advice on compliance with the Act is available to certain public servants and legislative employees under N.C.G.S. § 138A-13.

**We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.**

The Soil and Water Conservation Commission was established to approve petitions for and assist supervisors of soil conservation districts, review applications for planning assistance, and approve, supervise and review small watershed work plans. In addition, the Commission has the authority to develop and implement programs for the approval of water quality and animal waste management systems technical specialists and water quality protection programs. The Commission is also responsible for the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, including the review and approval of applications of district supervisors that apply for a grant from this program, as well as the Community Conservation Assistance Program.

The Act establishes ethical standards for certain public servants and prohibits public servants from: (1) using their positions for their financial benefit or for the benefit of their extended family or business, N.C.G.S. § 138A-31; and (2) participating in official actions from which they or certain associated persons might receive a reasonably foreseeable financial benefit, N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(a). The Act also requires public servants to take appropriate steps to remove themselves from proceedings in which their impartiality might reasonably be questioned due to a familial, personal, or financial relationship with a participant in those proceedings. N.C.G.S. § 138A-36(c).

Mr. Parker would fill the role of a representative from the mountain region serving on the Commission. He is employed by Vulcan Materials and owns a financial interest in the company. In addition, he is the Chair of the Wilkes County Soil & Water Conservation District and owns the Brian Parker Farm which could be affected by decisions made by the Commission. As such, Mr. Parker has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any entity with which he is affiliated or any entity in which he and his spouse own a financial interest come before the Commission for official action.

In addition to the conflict standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. § 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in N.C.G.S. § 138A-32(e).

When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. § 138A-24(e), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act. N.C.G.S. § 138A-15(c).

Finally, the Act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. § 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.

Please contact our office if you have any questions concerning our evaluation or the ethical standards governing public servants under the Act.

Sincerely,



Mary Roerden, SEI Unit  
State Ethics Commission

cc: Brian Parker  
Attachment: Ethics Education Guide





**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

<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Guests</b>
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
<b>Commission Counsel</b>	Ken Parks	<b>Guests - Online</b>
Phillip Reynolds	Lisa Fine	Sydney Mucha
<b>Guests</b>	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

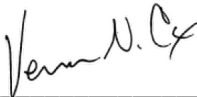
**13. FY2022 Soil and Water Conservation Commission Programs Annual Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck and Mr. Matt Safford. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

**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

<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Guests</b>
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
<b>Commission Counsel</b>	Rick Karriker	Randy Freeman
Phillip Reynolds	Arnold Weatherman	Delmon Dewitt Hardee
<b>Guests</b>	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

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 projects 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

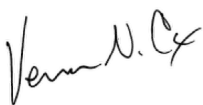
Chairman Langdon thanked Commissioner Hughes for his work as President of the Association and for the work of Executive Director Bryan Evans.

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  
March 14, 2023**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
NC State Fairgrounds @ Governor James G. Martin Building  
4381 Trinity Road  
Raleigh, NC 27607

<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Guests - Online</b>
John Langdon	Ralston James	Daniel McClellan
Chris Hughes	Rick McSwain	Daphne Cartner
Billy Kilpatrick	Sydney Mucha	Dru Harrison
George Teague	Abel Ferry	Duane Vanhook
James Lamb	Rachel Smith	Elliot Swain
George Teague	Cayle Aldridge	Eric Pare
Brian Potter	Evan Crawley	Frankie Singleton
<b>Commission Counsel</b>	Tommy Houser	Fredrick Cox
Phillip Reynolds	Madison Bridges	Gail Hughes
<b>Guests</b>	Rob Baldwin	Heather Reichert
Vernon Cox	Daniel Brinn	Jamey Walker
David Williams	Greg Walker	Jessica Perrin
Julie Henshaw	Jason Walker	Jim Iannucci
John Beck	Keith Larick	Luke Baker
Bryan Evans	Vivien Zhong	Macon SWCD
Michael Shepherd	Matt Safford	Marla Ashworth
Joshua Vetter	<b>Guests - Online</b>	Mikey Woodie
Scott Melvin	Angie Quinn	Morgan Hayes
Helen Wiklund	Anne Coan	Robert Moore
Kristina Fischer	Amanda Sand	Stephen Francis
Brandy Myers	Paula Day	Susannah Goldston
Tom Hill	Brandon Lovelace	Wayne Floyd
Ken Parks	Charlie Sanders	Alan Aldridge
Lisa Fine	Cole Strickland	Columbus SWCD

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 will recuse himself from Item 11. Commissioner Hughes will recuse himself from Items 8A and 11. Commissioner Teague will recuse himself from Item 11. Chairman Langdon stated the agenda has

been amended; Item 16 will move up to allow Mr. Larick to leave the meeting early. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. None were declared. Chairman Langdon stated Mr. Keith Larick will present immediately after Item 2.
- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Phillip Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated the evaluations will be read into the minutes at tomorrow's meeting.

Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Keith Larick to present Item 16.

**16. Consideration of Resolution from the Public Private Partnership Called for in the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment:** Mr. Larick stated there is a resolution to support additional funding for Cost Share Programs that comes from the N. C. Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP). The N.C. Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP) was mandated by the Legislature and was created by the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) in 1997. The goal of the plan is long-term enhancement of coastal fisheries through habitat protection and enhancement efforts. The last time the document was updated was in 2021 and the plan was approved by three commissions, i.e., the Marine Fisheries, Environmental Management, and Coastal Resources. As part of the updating process, a stakeholder group put together a series of recommendations to increase funding for cost share programs. The stakeholder group submitted the recommendations, and they were adopted as part of the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Appendix. A Coastal Water Quality Summit was held to discuss how to move these ideas forward. The three commissions have endorsed the resolution. The request is for the N. C. Soil & Water Conservation Commission to also endorse this resolution. Mr. Jimmy Johnson will be in attendance tomorrow to present this resolution. The N. C. Farm Bureau fully supports the resolution.

Commissioner Potter stated the problem at the coast is not the coast, but rather that these pollutants flow downhill and end up at the coast. The problem is west of the coast where this nitrogen and phosphorus are coming from, which is upstream.

Mr. Larick stated the funding is for the entire state and not just for the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), but it will also address the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) and programs endorsed by the General Assembly for stormwater management and the municipalities.

Mr. Reynolds stated this is about replicating and extending the existing programs and stop it before it become a problem on the coast and to make more funds available for the coastal area. The resolution will put more practices into place across the state and improve the coastal habitats.

Commissioner Hughes stated this resolution was not brought before the Legislative Board for the N. C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts and questioned what organization will bring this before the Legislature.

Mr. Larick stated the N. C. Farm Bureau or NC Forever may advocate for increased funding from the Legislature.

- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. None were declared.

**3A.** January 8, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes

**3B.** January 8, 2023, Business Session Meeting Minutes

- 4. 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.
- 5. Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Teague to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Teague stated the report will be presented tomorrow.
- 6. 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 State level MOU is not ready to be presented and will be deleted from the report tomorrow. Mr. Evans stated per Commission rule, the Commission should approve the content for the upcoming year's Supervisor Training which includes the following topics:
- Understanding the Partnership
  - Understanding the Cost Share Programs and the Rules that Govern
  - Potential Pitfalls for Districts Boards Related to Open Meetings, Public Records, and Budget and Fiscal Finances
  - Scenario Based Board Issues
- 7. NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Beard to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Cox stated Mr. Beard will present the report tomorrow.
- 8. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. David Williams and Mr. John Beck to present. Copies of the reports are included as part of the minutes. Commissioner Hughes recused himself.

**8A. Supervisor Appointments:**

- Mason Ricks Taylor, Northampton SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Mr. Eugene W. Brown Jr. for 2022-2026
- William G. Westcott II, Rowan SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Mr. Jim Summers for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Summers
- Chris Hughes, Watauga SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Mr. Jimmy South for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. South and attached resignation letter from Mr. Hughes' elected seat

**8B. Supervisor Contracts:** 7 contracts; totaling \$85,241

Mr. Crawley, from Lincoln SWCD, stated this is for a supervisor contract for Mr. Tommy Houser. The expense is to cover the large amount of gravel and fill material on a long road. A field border will be added and additional diversions to move the water past and stop the issues. The land is sublet, and the erosion is on open fields. There is an easement on the property and Mr. Houser is trying to make sure there are no issues and that it meets the requirements of the conservation plan. Ms. Bridges, from Lincoln SWCD, stated the district had to seek assistance from a neighboring district and received assistance from an NRCS employee. The contract is for \$34,525.

**9. 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.

**9A. Applications:** Mr. Vetter stated there are six applications and all applications are recommended for approval by the Job Approval Authority Committee.

**10. Basic Training 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 according to the new Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0202, the Division is required to submit documentation about participants who attended Basic Training by April 1 of each year. There were a total of 104 supervisors that attended training in Cherokee in January and at the three regional trainings in February. At the November Commission meeting, conditional appointments were made to local district boards, contingent upon attendance at Basic Training. In addition, newly elected, and re-elected supervisors who had not previously attended the training, were required to attend Basic Training in 2023. Also at the November Commission meeting, three supervisor’s names were sent to the Inquiry Committee due to their re-election without meeting the Basic Training requirements or achieving at least 6.0 Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) during their full term of service; all three did attend Basic Training in February 2023. As of February 28, 2023, the following 13 district supervisors have not met the Basic Training requirement:

District	First Name	Last Name	Elected / Appointed	Current Term	Start Month	Start Year
Bladen	Albert	Shaw	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Caswell	Lynn	Massey	Elected	22-26	December	1998
Caswell	Joan C.	Slade	Elected	22-26	March	1997
Davie	Justin	Miller	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Granville	Jason West	Dixon	Elected	22-26	March	2012
Harnett	John	Hairr	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Harnett	Jeff	Turlington	Elected	22-26	December	1978*
Hertford	J. David	Simons, III	Elected	22-26	March	2004
Pamlico	Benjamin Derek	Potter	Elected	22-26	December	2006
Randolph	Brian	Ward	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Rutherford	Alice	High	Appointed	20-24	May	2022
Stanly	Rebecca	Gibson	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998



Attached are three written justifications from Mr. Jeff Turlington, Mr. David Simons, and Mr. Brian Ward. The asterisk next to Jeff Turlington's start date in Harnett SWCD is due to a discrepancy in his start date. We tried to look for meeting minutes or an Oath of Office for his term. According to his recollection and a plaque in the Harnett office, he began in December 1974 and the Division's record shows December 1978. The Division recommends sending these 13 individuals to the Inquiry Committee established under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration, along with the three individuals that were named in November 2022. The Inquiry Committee can refer the individual to a hearing, extend the supervisor one year, or close the matter. The recommendation is to send these 13 individuals and the three supervisors named in November to the Inquiry Committee for follow up.

Chairman Langdon stated a break at 6:42 p.m. The meeting resumed at 6:50 p.m.

**11. StRAP Progress Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Matt Safford to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Safford stated the following:

- Division has paid \$5,072,883.98 in reimbursements to grantees
  - 96.8% was paid for completed stream debris removal
  - 2.1% was paid for PL-566 work
  - 1.1% was paid for administrative expenses
- Payments made to 31 grantees in 25 counties
- Reimbursed work includes:
  - 886,689 linear feet of stream debris removal work
  - One completed PL-566 watershed structure project
- Fourteen grantees have completed their planned Scope of Work (SOW)
  - Six grantees have submitted final reports and contracts closed out
- Total available unused StRAP funds for reallocation is \$1,376,767 for supplemental allocation.
  - Division recommends retaining the \$500,000 per grantee cap and prioritizing supplemental allocations as follows:
    - 1. Currently funded sponsors who received less than the cap and less than their full request for vegetative debris removal and who have already expended at least 75% of their contracted funds for vegetative debris removal as of April 30, 2023. As of today, 7 of 109 existing local sponsors meet this criterion.
    - 2. Currently funded sponsors who meet criterion 1 above, and who are in counties that exceed the \$2M per county cap. As of today, 3 local sponsors meet this criterion, and the number will most likely increase between now and April 30, 2023.
- 50% Progress Report
  - Seventy-eight grantees met the goal of having 50% of their funds encumbered by February 28
  - Total amount of funds encumbered by these grantees is \$18,217,917
  - Thirty-one grantees did not meet the 50% goal of having their funds encumbered by February 28 and encumbered \$2,952,522
  - Eleven grantees had 0% of funds encumbered

- Error in the handout -- Town of Spencer shows \$0.00 encumbered and actually had \$60,539 of funds encumbered which is 21.6% of their contract
- Thirty-one grantees that did not hit the 50% goal had selected contractors but were finalizing their contracts. Between February 28 and today, they plan to have the contract signed
- Grantees submitted letters that did not hit the 50% goal and have asked the Commission to not revoke their funding
- the grantees have been asked to attend in person or virtually
- Division recommends no funds be revoked

There was discussion about getting the work done. These funds were appropriated by the Legislature, and it is the Commission's responsibility to put pressure on the grantees yet be flexible. The Commission wants the work to be completed by May but will wait until July before considering any reallocation of funds.

Commissioner Potter requested a timeline of when these funds were appropriated by the Legislature and when the grantees will have the work completed.

Chairman Langdon, Commissioner Hughes, and Commissioner Teague recused themselves and the gavel was passed to Commissioner Potter.

Mr. Safford invited any StRAP grantees to step forward and explain their circumstances.

Mr. Jason Walker from Yadkin SWCD stated the district encumbered \$541,500 to a contract for a PL-566 project, but the district is waiting for permits, which is six months behind. The permits should be in by the end of the month and contractors selected by the end of March.

Mr. Evan Crawley from Lincoln SWCD stated the district is working on a stream debris removal project for \$60,000, and the district received additional funding which increased the funding to \$134,000. The challenge is to get approval from the county board, but it is contracted with the county.

Mr. David Williams stated Mr. Charlie Sanders from Dare SWCD is online. Mr. Sanders stated his predecessor was working on the stream debris removal project, but he passed away last October. Mr. Sanders started working one week ago, and other staff have been trying to work on the project, but the funds are not encumbered yet. The staff is working on getting permits and hope to get it done by the end of the month. Being brand new in the position, Mr. Sanders cannot provide an exact date.

Mr. Safford stated one issue that grantees have encountered is that the bids are coming in lower than in their initial budget. The grantees are revising their Scope of Work (SOW) to use their full funds and get the projects contracted.

Mr. Parker Phillips from Nash SWCD stated they are waiting for signatures. The \$174,375 has been encumbered and request keeping the remaining balance of \$254,569 of the contract. Mr. Cole Strickland stated he has not been in his job very long and that the transition has caused some issues. The \$174,375 is encumbered, but just needs a signature to begin the work and NASH SWCD is requesting to keeping the balance.

Mr. Greg Walker from Johnston County stated their county processes have caused delays, but the county attorney is looking after us. Also, the bids came in lower, so we are revising our Scope of Work (SOW).

Ms. Gail Hughes from Orange SWCD stated the district has had several issues with navigating the county processes to do this type of contracting and working with finance and legal. Two out of three technical staff members retired in January. The board did approve two bid proposals last week on our two unencumbered projects and the projects are under budget. There has been heavy rain and beavers had to be removed. Our landowner agreements have been signed.

Ms. Morgan Hayes from Columbus SWCD stated the district did about five projects which came in lower, and four projects are complete, and one is 50% complete with 25% payment but water levels are high. The project costs came in at 46.9%, just under the 50% target. Mr. Tyler Hodge has ranked the new projects, getting the bid packets together, and posted online. The district has 77,000 linear feet completed of the 46% under contract.

Mr. Elliot Swain from Brunswick SWCD stated the district submitted their agreement for beaver removal, and the contract is signed for \$157,920, but the district is under 50%. The district's Scope of Work (SOW) was revised twice due to low bids.

Mr. Gary Cox from Guilford SWCD stated the district has a contract and after going through the bid process, the accepted bid was for \$61,500, which is 47% of the allocated amount. The contractor is on site and should be finished by the end of the week.

Commissioner Lamb stated this is an unprecedented time. To deal with getting permits and paperwork done can turn weeks into months or days into weeks. There is a lot of job turnover in the government and private sector that can cause snags.

Vice Chairman Potter returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

**12. Engineering Services Workload Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Scott Melvin to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Melvin stated the report will be presented tomorrow. The report will highlight how the sections are organized, the technical assistance requests and prioritization matrix, teamwork overview, reporting process, workload data, and interpretation of the data. Director Cox stated this report will provide a baseline for where we are with our technical service requests for technical staff. The report will be provided every six months.

**13. Consideration of Pasture Renovation BMP Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck stated a few modifications have been made to the Pasture Renovation BMP Policy. The revisions to the policy include an additional Planning Guide for the districts to complete and add to the materials that they use to provide guidance to the producer to use for the practices installed. The main changes are the reduction of the maintenance period to five years and the addition of the requirement to have a soil test. The links that are applied to the Planting Guide are clearer to find and there is no pre-made sheet for maintenance and management. The changes to the guide sheet will go into effect for the DIP for FY2024. Commissioner Potter

suggested the soil test sampling requirement should be every two years; three years is too long. Mr. Beck stated the proposed policy will be revised from three years to two years.

**14. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck stated the Commission's rules allow for the allocation of additional Ag Cost Share funds if there is at least \$200K available. For districts to receive a supplemental allocation, the districts must submit their request by March 1 and have 75% of their funds encumbered to contracts. The allocation parameters were presented based on Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103, which are the same parameters as the initial allocations. Forty-six districts submitted requests for over \$1.5M. These requests were between \$1,500 and \$165,000 and we can fund all 46 requests totaling \$944,606. The proposed allocations range between \$1,500 to \$44,429.

**15. District Special Requests:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck and Mr. Josh Vetter. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

**15A. Post Approval for Contract 14-2023-801:** Mr. Beck stated this is a special request from Caldwell SWCD for Mr. Rusty Dillinger for an AgWRAP contract for \$11,000 for an irrigation well. Mr. Aaron Franks will be in attendance tomorrow to present. The issue was due to repeated staff turnover and miscommunication. The district did not get Division approval prior to installation of the practice. The well was installed properly. The new staff has been trained on the Division's contract approval process to follow procedures in the future.

Commissioner Potter thanked Mr. Beck for his assistance in Pamlico SWCD for helping the new staff get onboarded.

**15B. Post Approval for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract 31-2023-301:** Mr. Josh Vetter stated the contract is from Duplin SWCD for Miss Grace Farms for CREP contract #31-2023-301 for cropland conversion for trees. The landowner proceeded with site preparation and tree planting before the district was notified about this contract. The cooperator worked with Lenoir FSA to create the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and CREP contract. The cooperator began work on the project after receiving approval of their CRP contract from FSA. Duplin staff was never notified until the cooperator notified Duplin staff that the trees had been planted and was seeking funds. This is no fault of the cooperator and district staff. The fault lies between Lenoir FSA and CREP staff. The cooperator worked out of the Lenoir FSA office, but the property is in Duplin County.

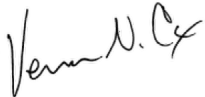
Mr. Reynolds reminded Commissioner Kilpatrick that he cannot participate in Item 15B; he must recuse yourself.

Mr. Vetter stated there are five more CREP contracts that will require post-approval. The reason why there will be several more post-approval contracts presented to the Commission is due to a lack in communication, understanding, training, education, and the vacancy of the CREP manager, which has been filled. We have put processes into place to improve the partners' understanding, provide education and training, notify the cooperators and district staff. Mr. Vetter stated there is an allocation for CREP funds through the Ag Cost Share Program (ACSP).

**16. Consideration of Resolution from the Public Private Partnership Called for in the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment: *Presented after Item 2.***

**IV. Public Comments:** Commissioner Teague asked if the representatives from the districts that presented tonight were required to attend the business session tomorrow and present again with regards to StRAP. Director Cox stated there may be some staff that were not available tonight and may attend the business session tomorrow that will want to make a comment about StRAP either virtually or in person. Those that did attend tonight's meeting do not have to participate tomorrow.

**V. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.



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



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Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

***These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on May 17, 2023.***



**NORTH CAROLINA  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
March 15, 2023**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
NC State Fairgrounds @ Governor James G. Martin Building  
4381 Trinity Road  
Raleigh, NC 27607

<b>Commission Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>Guests - Online</b>
Chris Hughes	Rusty Dellinger	Sydney Mucha
Billy Kilpatrick	Jimmy Johnson	Heather Reichert
James Lamb	Daniel Brinn	Jane Humphrey
John Langdon	<b>Guests - Online</b>	Jason Walker
Brian Parker	Alan Aldridge	Jason Turner
Derek Potter	Anne Coan	Joshua Thomas
George Teague	Abel Ferry	Jessica Perrin
<b>Commission Counsel</b>	Anne Phillip	Kristy Dail
Phillip Reynolds	Andrea Webb	Lincoln SWCD
<b>Guests</b>	Angie Quinn	Kaitlyn Johnson
Vernon Cox	Cindy Safrit	Luke Baker
David Williams	Eric Pare	Timothy Lowe
Joshua Vetter	Billy Ivey	Doug Johnson
Bryan Evans	Brandi Talton	Patrick Baker
John Beck	Brandon Higgins	Randy Freeman
Michael Shepherd	Brody W. Brown	Macon SWCD
Scott Melvin	Charlie Sanders	Vickie Baker
Kristina Fischer	Cole Strickland	Maria Polizzi
Julie Henshaw	Gail Hughes	Martin McLawhorn
Rob Baldwin	Daniel McClellan	Nicole Warren
Tim Beard	Daphne Cartner	Marla Ashworth
Cayle Aldridge	Dru Harrison	Stephen Francis
Rick McSwain	Elliot Swain	Travis Smith
Brandy Myers	Evan Crawley	Tyler Hodge
Matt Safford	Millie Langley	Hannah Smith
Helen Wiklund	Frankie Singleton	Matthew T. Reel
Rachel Smith	Paula Day	Madison Bridges
Levi Preston	Ken Parks	Russell Hunter
Ralston James Jr.	Lisa Fine	Rockingham SWCD
Chris Love	Chuckie Bass	JoAnn McCall

Guests	Guests - Online	Guests - Online
Vivien Zhong	Morgan Hayes	Robert Moore
Aaron Franks	Joe Morris	Wayne Floyd

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:03 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 11. Commissioner Hughes stated he will recuse himself from Items 8A and 11. Commissioner Teague stated he will recuse himself from Item 11. Commissioner Kilpatrick stated he will recuse himself from Item 11. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.
- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Phillip Reynolds. Mr. Reynolds stated the Statements of Economic Interest have been received for Mr. Kilpatrick and Mr. Parker. The Governor's Office sent the paperwork to the Division where it will be kept on file. By statute, portions of the letter must be read into the minutes and the letters available upon request.

From the State Ethics Commission to Governor Cooper for the Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. William Kilpatrick for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

*Our office is in receipt of Mr. William Kilpatrick's 2023 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission ("the Commission"). We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act.*

*We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.*

*Mr. Kilpatrick will fill the role of a member who is the First Vice President of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. He also serves as the Vice Chairman of the Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors. In addition, he is a livestock farmer. As such, he has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any entity in which he or his spouse own a financial interest that come before the Commission for official action.*

From the State Ethics Commission to Governor Cooper for the Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. Brian Parker for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

*Our office is in receipt of Mr. Brian Parker's 2023 Statement of Economic Interest as a prospective appointee to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission ("the Commission"). We have reviewed it for actual and potential conflicts of interest pursuant to Chapter 138A of the North Carolina General Statutes ("N.C.G.S."), also known as the State Government Ethics Act.*

*We did not find an actual conflict of interest, but found the potential for a conflict of interest. The potential conflict identified does not prohibit service on this entity.*

*Mr. Parker will fill the role of a representative from the mountain region serving on the Commission. He is employed by Vulcan Materials and owns a financial interest in the company. In addition, he is the Chair of Wilkes County Soil & Water Conservation District and owns the Brian Parker Farm which could be affected by decisions made by the Commission. As such, Mr. Parker has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any entity in which he is affiliated or any entity in which he and his spouse own a financial interest that come before the Commission for official action.*

Mr. Reynolds stated the following pertains to both appointees:

*In addition to the two conflict standards noted above, the Act prohibits public servants from accepting gifts from (1) a lobbyist or lobbyist principal, (2) a person or entity that is seeking to do business with the public servant's agency, is regulated or controlled by that agency, or has financial interests that might be affected by their official actions, or (3) anyone in return for being influenced in the discharge of their official responsibilities. N.C.G.S. Chapter 138A-32. Exceptions to the gifts restrictions are set out in the N.C.G.S. Chapter 138A-32(e).*

*When this letter cites an actual or potential conflict of interest under N.C.G.S. 138A-15(c), the conflict must be recorded in the minutes of the applicable board and brought to the membership's attention by the board's chair as often as necessary to remind all members of the conflict and to help ensure compliance with the Act.*

*The act mandates that all public servants attend an ethics and lobbying education presentation. N.C.G.S. Chapter 138A-14. Please review the attached document for additional information concerning this requirement.*

Chairman Langdon asked Mr. David Williams to identify those participating online. Mr. Williams stated there are over 50 attendees online and due to time constraints, the names were not read aloud but will be recorded into the meeting minutes.

- 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval on the minutes. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

**3A.** January 8, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes

**3B.** January 8, 2023, Business Session Meeting Minutes

- 4. 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 welcomed the new commissioners and reminded the commissioners, with the exceptions of Commissioners Kilpatrick and Parker, to update their Statement of Economic Interest by April 15. Director Cox stated the following:

- Personnel Update
- Senate Bill 27
  - Establish partisan elections for only Union County SWCD Supervisors



- For vacancies, the Commission must appoint the selection of the county political party executive committee if a recommendation is made within 30 days
- Local Bill does not require the Governor's signature
- Referred to Senate Committee for redistricting and elections
- May meeting will be held in Wilmington with a tour of the NC Port on Tuesday afternoon and the meetings will be held on either the USS North Carolina Battleship or at the State port

**5. Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Teague to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Teague stated the following:

- Working to reserve the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham for the 2024 Annual Meeting
- Finished three Basic Trainings in February. Another session may be scheduled in the summer and the Association will discuss the curriculum for 2024
- Good attendance at the NACD meeting in New Orleans. Director Cox and Mr. Evans presented on leadership development. Four resolutions were submitted and three resolutions passed, which included increased funding for PL-566 rehab projects and Waters of the US (WOTUS) rules language passed, but the UK Trade Agreement did not pass
- NACD Fly-in scheduled for March 22-23 in Washington to discuss the Farm Bill

**6. 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 following:

- Thanked the Area chairs and the Division Regional Coordinators for hosting the Area Spring meetings; trainings went well and good speakers that promoted conservation
- 2022 Legislative Items: Submitted a request to the Division for all funds to be recurring
  - \$4M for ACSP for Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - \$600K for ACSP technical assistance
  - \$1.5M for CCAP for Best Management Practices (BMPs)
  - \$225K for CCAP technical assistance
  - \$20M for StRAP
  - Association will advocate for more funding
- Following Senate Bill 27. The Association's policy is to oppose partisan elections for all conservation district officials
- State Level MOU is in the process of being updated
- Per Commission rules, the Association must provide the content for the upcoming Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, which must be approved by the Commission before the next cycle of trainings. The four topics are:
  - Understanding the Partnership
  - Understanding the Cost Share Programs and the Rules that Govern
  - Potential Pitfalls for Districts Boards Related to Open Meetings, Public Records, and Budget and Fiscal Finances
  - Scenario Based Board Issues
- Richard Whisnett is retiring; General Counsel Phillip Reynolds will assist with the training

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the four Basic Training topics and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon asked Mr. Evans to highlight the PL-566 rehab projects and WOTUS. The PL-566 projects are funded by the Federal Government. The resolution supports 100% federal cost share when the rehabilitation project meets NRCS standards. There was also a second part of the resolution that was to provide 65% federal and 35% local cost share when the renovation meets a minimum State dam safety rule design requirement. President Biden signed the Waters of the US (WOTUS) rule to revert to the previous version of the rule. The Association does not support this latest version.

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

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Update
  - NRCS was slated to get \$20B in the next 3-4 years to address Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF), funding will last until 2026, and practices must be installed by 2031
  - Sign up closed on March 13 for EQIP and CSP
  - North Carolina received IRA allocations of \$8M in financial assistance for EQIP and CSP and \$5M in technical assistance,
  - The funding must go towards Climate Smart practices, e.g., cover crop
  - Statute requires a portion of CSP funds to be designated to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers at 5% for each category and 10% of EQIP funds will go towards wildlife-related conservation practices
- National Level
  - RCPP-IRA, ACEP, and WRA signups end March 17
- North Carolina Update
  - Received \$45.5M in financial assistance of which \$27M is for EQIP, ~\$15M is for CSP, and \$15.5M in technical assistance
- Working on Urban Soils Survey
  - Phase I of the survey is in Raleigh-Durham and scheduled to be completed in 2023
  - Phase II will begin in the Charlotte area
- Offer EWP virtual training in the eastern part of the state on March 28 and on March 29. The training is on site with both district and NRCS employees in attendance
- An emphasis on the local workgroup efforts during Area Meetings to encourage board members to participate in the process and identify what their needs and priorities are at the local level. NRCS is trying to do a better job during local workgroup meetings to provide feedback so the local boards know what they are doing is making a difference in funding decisions
- Hired Diana Irizarry as our Statewide Outreach Coordinator

**8. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Hughes recused himself. Commissioner Potter moved to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

**8A. Supervisor Appointments:**

- Mason Ricks Taylor, Northampton SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of Eugene W. Brown Jr. for 2022-2026
- William G. Wescott II, Rowan SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of James F. Summers for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Summers
- Chris Hughes, Watauga SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Jimmy South for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. South and attached resignation letter from Mr. Hughes' elected seat

**8B. Supervisor Contracts:** 7 contracts; totaling \$85,241

Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

- 9. 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.

**9A. Applications:** Mr. Vetter stated there are six applications and all applications are recommended for approval and have been reviewed by the Job Approval Authority Workgroup.

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

- 10. Basic Training 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 the following:

- Under NCAC 59A .0301(d)(1) the Division is required to submit documentation and participation by April 1 to the Commission with regards to basic training. There were 104 supervisors that attended basic training which was held in Cherokee prior to the Annual Meeting and at three regional locations in February.
- At the November 2022 Commission meeting, there were conditional appointments made contingent upon the newly elected and re-elected supervisors attending training. Three supervisors were sent to the Inquiry Training Committee and all three supervisors attended the 2023 training
- Thirteen individuals have not met the training requirements and written justifications were received from three supervisors which included Supervisor Simons from Hertford SWCD, Supervisor Turlington from Harnett SWCD, and Supervisor Ward from Randolph SWCD
- Recommendation to send these 13 individuals to the Inquiry Committee along with the three supervisors that were referred in November 2022

Commissioner Potter stated these individuals are being sent to the Inquiry Committee and are not in violation until December 1. Commissioner Potter recused himself.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to approve. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve these individuals to be sent to the Inquiry Committee and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

**11. StRAP Progress Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Matt Safford to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Chairman Langdon, Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Kilpatrick, and Commissioner Teague recused themselves and Vice Chairman Potter was handed the gavel.

Mr. Safford stated the following:

- Division has paid \$5,072,883 to date in reimbursements to grantees
  - 96.8% was paid for completed stream debris removal work
  - 2.1% was paid for PL 566 work
  - 1.1% was issued as reimbursement for administrative expenses
- Payments have been made to 31 grantees in 25 counties
- Reimbursements include: 886,689 linear feet of stream debris removal work and one completed PL-566 watershed structure project
- Fourteen grantees have completed their Scope of Work
  - Six grantees submitted their final reports and contracts are closed
  - Eight completed their work and either have unused funds remaining or have not submitted their final report
- Reallocation of unused StRAP funds
  - \$1,376,767 is available for a supplemental allocation from funds returned or originally set aside for program administration. The Division recommends retaining the \$500,000 per grantee cap and prioritizing supplemental allocation as follows:
    - 1. Currently funded sponsors who received less than the cap and less than their full request for vegetative debris removal and who have already expended at least 75% of their contracted funds for vegetative debris removal as of April 30, 2023 (based upon requests for payment submitted on or before that date). As of March 14, 2023, seven of 109 existing local sponsors meet this criterion.
    - 2. Currently funded sponsors who meet Criterion 1 above, and who are in the counties that exceed the \$2M per county cap. As of March 14, 2023, three existing local sponsors meet this criterion.
- 50% Progress Report
  - 78 grantees met the goal of having 50% of funds encumbered to contracts by February 28. A total of \$18,217,917.02 was encumbered by these grantees.
  - 31 grantees did not meet the goal of having 50% of funds encumbered to contracts. By the deadline, these 31 grantees had a total of \$2,952,522 encumbered, with 11 grantees having 0% of funds encumbered to contracts.
  - The Division recommended that no funds be revoked from the grantees who have not met the 50% goal.
  - The Division will provide an update on the encumbered funds at the May and July Commission meetings.

Commissioner Potter asked for approval to extend the encumbrance date to July 2023 and if the funds are not encumbered by July, the funds will be returned. Commissioner Lamb moved to extend the deadline to July and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Potter returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon. Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to reallocate the funds in May. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the reallocation plan and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**12. Engineering Services Workload Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Scott Melvin to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Melvin stated the following:

- Highlighted the Eastern and Western Regional Engineering Maps
  - Eight engineers across the state and four engineering technicians
- Requests for Technical Assistance
  - Requests are made through Formsite
- Prioritization Matrix provides a ranking method to determine workload priority
  - Workload only allows us to handle Priority Level I and Level II projects unless otherwise directed
- Teamwork Project Management Software
  - Allows users across various organizations to collaborate on specific projects within the system
  - Technical Services began using teamwork in 2017 primarily for engineering project management
- Commission funded projects are heavy in the west and some districts are more active with requests for technical assistance
- Overall Project Type Distribution was highlighted
- Commission Funded Project Fiscal Year Distribution is down from FY14 – FY19
  - Overall project count went down from 77 to 37 projects between 7/1/2021 – 6/30/2022
- Project Status for FY14 – FY19 Data Comparison
  - Progress measured by project status numbers shifting through each phase in subsequent reports
  - Canceled, design review complete, and construction complete projects will not appear on subsequent reports
  - Positive shift in project status from 7/1/2022 – 1/1/2023
- Fiscal Years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Project Status were highlighted

Chairman Langdon called a break at 10:44 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:56 a.m.

**13. Consideration of Pasture Renovation BMP Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck stated the following:

- Pasture Workgroup Purpose - review current pasture BMPs, address policy that prohibits practice adoption, investigate and develop new pasture related BMPs, and expand program ability to address water quality through pasture management
- Pasture Renovation
  - Drafted revisions to the Pasture Renovation BMP policy
  - Developing a Forage Management Planning Sheet

- Website Updates – JAA, Planning and Design Tools
- Draft Pasture Renovation BMP Policy Changes
  - Maintenance period reduced to five years
  - Updated reference titles and links
  - Added requirement for a pre-plant soil test
    - \$ no change to average cost list
- The original Pasture Renovation policy revision for Item number 4 stated, *“Soil test reports can be no more than three years old.”* The Commission has revised the recommended use to state, *“Soil tests can be no more than two years old.”*
- Draft Forage Planning Guide will be paired with the 512 IR sheet (planting) and will include the stocking rate, pasture condition score, and grazing start/stop height
- Pasture Renovation Workgroup presented the revisions to the Technical Review Committee (TRC) on February 16 and approved the recommended changes to the Pasture Renovation BMP policy and new Pasture Renovation Forage Management Plan to take effect with the FY2024 Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP)

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the BMP Revisions. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the recommended changes to the Pasture Renovation BMP policy and new Pasture Renovation Forage Management Plan to take effect with the FY2024 DIP and Commissioner Potter seconded. Motion carried.

**14. Agriculture Cost Share Program Supplemental Allocation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck stated the following:

- Each Spring additional ACSP funds greater than \$200,000 can be allocated to eligible districts by submitting a request by March 1
  - Districts must have 75% of funds encumbered to contracts; the same allocation parameters in Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103 are used
- Requests
  - 46 districts totaling \$1,531,430; range from \$1,500 - \$165,000
- Allocations
  - 46 districts totaling \$944,606; range from \$1,500 - \$44,429

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the Supplemental Allocations. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the recommended allocations and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

**15. District Special Requests:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck stated this is a post approval request from Caldwell SWCD for an AgWRAP project for an irrigation well totaling \$11,000. Mr. Rusty Dellinger and Mr. Aaron Franks will present the issue.

**15A. Post Approval for Contract 14-2023-801:** Mr. Dellinger stated this is a post approval contract. The project was initiated last summer and there was staff turnover from July 1 – October 1 where a conservationist and program assistant found other jobs. The local board approved the funds in September and the information was entered into CS2. The board notified

the landowner; however, the program assistant had found another job, and when Mr. Franks joined the staff and started reviewing the current projects, it was determined the information was never submitted into CS2.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of Contract 14-2023-801. Commissioner Potter moved to approve Contract 14-2023-801 and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

**15B. Post Approval for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract 31-2023-301:**

Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Josh Vetter to present. Chairman Kilpatrick recused himself. Mr. Vetter stated this is a post approval CREP contract from Duplin County for cropland conversion for trees. The cooperators started working on the contract after receiving approval of their CRP contract from FSA. Duplin staff was not made aware of the CREP contract by FSA or CREP staff until site preparation and tree planting had already been completed. Duplin SWCD has paid a portion of the implemented practices. The trees have been installed per program policy and the Division staff is recommending post approval.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of CREP Contract 31-2023-301. Commissioner Potter moved to approve CREP Contract 31-2023-301 and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

- 16. Consideration of Resolution from the Public Private Partnership Called for in the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Jimmy Johnson to present. Mr. Johnston stated that he is asking for support for the 2021 Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHPP). The N.C. Coastal Habitat Protection Plan (CHIPP) was unanimously adopted in December 2004. The Plan must be revised every five years to reflect changes in the status of habitat protection in North Carolina. The last time the document was amended was in 2021.

A group of stakeholders came together and asked us, as those responsible for the Plan, to add some recommendations from the stakeholder's group and added an Appendix. The first issue of discussion was that a public-private partnership should be formed. We, as staff, cannot lobby the General Assembly to seek funding from other sources. The group, called Stakeholder Engagement for Collaborative Coastal Habitat Initiatives (SECCHI), came together at the North Carolina Coastal Water Quality Summit in New Bern, North Carolina, to create a resolution to fully support reoccurring funding for Cost Share Programs that will assist landowners in managing and reducing the amount of nutrient runoff into the State's waters. Mr. Johnson asked if the Commission would endorse and/or support the Resolution. The Resolution is broad to help support the Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) as well as the Urban Retrofit Cost Share Programs, etc., as these programs work together to improve water quality.

Commissioner Potter reiterated his concern that the water flows to the coast and does not want blame on the coast when problems are caused upstream. This is a program that will enhance the State's programs and eliminate the issues.

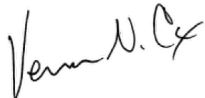
Chairman Langdon asked for approval to endorse the resolution. Commissioner Potter moved to support the resolution and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

**IV. Public Comments:** Mr. Rob Baldwin stated the High Rock Lake Initiative is ongoing. The committee had never heard of CREP or conservation easements where the farmer or the landowner would be paid. Mr. Baldwin believes this is a great opportunity, especially for the CREP program. Wilkes, Caldwell, and Yadkin SWCDs will most likely take advantage of the CREP Program.

Mr. Baldwin asked when the Commission decides to reallocate the StRAP funds, each district should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis because each district works autonomously, and each district has different attorneys and county managers. If the Commission takes away some districts StRAP funds, Wilkes would be the beneficiaries of the reallocation.

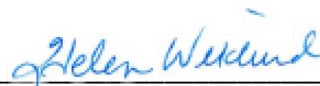
Chairman Langdon stated it is a balancing act for the Commission. The districts may have legitimate reasons but it is the Commission's responsibility to encourage them to report in a timely manner. Every district is not consistent and it is our responsibility to get as much done as soon as possible.

**V. Adjournment:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Potter moved to adjourn and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 a.m.



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



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Helen Wiklund, Recording Secretary

***These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on May 17, 2023.***



# **NCDA&CS**

## **Division of Soil and Water Conservation**

### **Vernon Cox, Director**



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Vernon Cox, Director  
March 15, 2023



# Personnel

- **New Hires:**

- CREP Manager – Jennifer Roach (3/20/23)

- **Vacancies:**

- Engineer II (Chris Love) – Hire Recommendation
- Engineer II (*Daphne Cartner*) - Interview
- AgWRAP Coordinator (Sydney Mucha) - Hire Recommendation
- Environmental Specialist I (CREP) – Hire Recommendation
- Environmental Specialist I (CREP) – Interview
- Environmental Specialist I (*Martin McLawhorn*) - Advertise
- Engineer Tech I (Taryn Hendrickson) – Re-advertise



# Senate Bill 27

- Partisan Elections for Union County SWCD Supervisors
- Vacancies: SWCC must appoint the selection of the county political party executive committee if a recommendation is made within 30 days.
- Local Bill – does not require Governor Signature
- Referred to Senate Committee for Redistricting and Elections.



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Vernon Cox, Director  
March 15, 2023



# May Meeting

- Location: Wilmington - NC Port
- Work Session: May 16, 2023 (6:00 p.m.)
- Business Meeting: May 17, 2023 (9:00 a.m.)



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Vernon Cox, Director  
March 15, 2023



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

S

1

**SENATE BILL 27**

Short Title: Partisan Elections for Soil & Water/Union Co. (Local)

Sponsors: Senator Johnson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

January 27, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ELECTIONS IN UNION COUNTY BE CONDUCTED ON A PARTISAN BASIS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 139-6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 139-6. **District board of supervisors – elective members; certain duties.**

After the issuance of the certificate of organization of the soil and water conservation district by the Secretary of State, an election shall be held in each county of the district to elect the members of the soil and water conservation district board of supervisors as herein provided.

The district board of supervisors shall consist of three elective members to be elected in each county of the district, and that number of appointive members as provided in G.S. 139-7. Upon the creation of a district, the first election of the members shall be held at the next succeeding election for county officers.

All elections for members of the district board of supervisors shall be held at the same time as the primary and regular election for county officers beginning in ~~November 1974.~~ 2024. The election shall be nonpartisan and no primary election shall be held. The election shall be partisan and held and conducted by the county board of elections.

Candidates shall file their notice of candidacy on forms prescribed by the county board of elections. The notice of candidacy must be filed ~~no earlier than noon on the second Monday in June and no later than noon on the first Friday in July preceding the election.~~ in accordance with the time for filing under G.S. 163-106.2(b). The candidate shall pay a filing fee of five dollars (\$5.00) at the time of filing the notice of candidacy.

~~Beginning with the election to be held in November 1974, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of four years, and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected for a term of two years; thereafter, as their terms expire, their successors~~ Members of the district board of supervisors shall be elected for terms of four years. If the position of district supervisor is not filled by failure to elect, then the office shall be deemed vacant upon the expiration of the term of the incumbent, and the office shall be filled as provided in G.S. 139-7. If a vacancy occurs in the office of supervisor, the Commission shall consult the county executive committee of that political party before filling the vacancy and shall appoint the person recommended by the county executive committee of that party if the party makes a recommendation within 30 days of the occurrence of the vacancy.

The persons elected in ~~1974~~ 2024 and thereafter shall take office on the first Monday in December following their election.



1       ~~The terms of the present members of the soil and water conservation districts, both elective~~  
 2 ~~and appointive members, are hereby extended to or terminated on the first Monday in December~~  
 3 ~~1974.~~

4       All qualified voters of the district shall be eligible to vote in the election. Except as provided  
 5 in this Chapter, the election shall be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Articles  
 6 23 and 24 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

7       The district board of supervisors, after the appointment of the appointive members has been  
 8 made, shall select from its members a chairman, a vice-chairman and a secretary. It shall be the  
 9 duty of the district board of supervisors to perform those powers, duties, and authority conferred  
 10 upon supervisors under this Chapter; to develop annual county and district goals and plans for  
 11 soil conservation work therein; to request agencies, whose duties are such as to render assistance  
 12 in soil and water conservation, to set forth in writing what assistance they may have available in  
 13 the county and district."

14       **SECTION 2.** G.S. 139-7 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 139-7. District board of supervisors – appointive members; organization of board;**  
 16 **certain powers and duties.**

17       The governing body of a soil and water conservation district shall consist of the three elective  
 18 supervisors from the county or counties in the district, together with the appointive members  
 19 appointed by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission pursuant to this section, and shall be  
 20 known as the district board of supervisors. When a district is composed of less than four counties,  
 21 the board of supervisors of each county shall on or before October 31, 1978, and on or before  
 22 October 31 as the terms of the appointive supervisors expire, recommend in writing two persons  
 23 from the district to the Commission to be appointed to serve with the elective supervisors. If the  
 24 names are not submitted to the Commission as required, the office shall be deemed vacant on the  
 25 date the term is set to expire and the Commission shall appoint two persons of the district to the  
 26 district board of supervisors to serve with the elected supervisors. The Commission shall make  
 27 its appointments prior to or at the November meeting of the Commission. Appointive supervisors  
 28 shall take office on the first Monday in December following their appointment. Such appointive  
 29 supervisors shall serve for a term of four years, and thereafter, as their terms expire, their  
 30 successors shall serve for a term of four years. The terms of office of all appointive supervisors  
 31 who have heretofore been lawfully appointed for terms the final year of which presently extends  
 32 beyond the first Monday in December are hereby terminated on the first Monday in December  
 33 of the final year of appointment. Vacancies for any reason in the appointive supervisors shall be  
 34 filled for the unexpired term by the appointment of a person by the Commission from the district  
 35 in which the vacancy occurs. Vacancies for any reason in the elected supervisors shall be filled  
 36 for the unexpired term by appointment by the Commission of a person from the county in the  
 37 district in which the vacancy ~~occurs~~ occurs in accordance with G.S. 139-6.

38       ...."

39       **SECTION 3.** In applying this act, a candidate's party affiliation or unaffiliated status  
 40 shall be based on the party affiliation or unaffiliated status under which the candidate registered  
 41 at the general election immediately preceding the candidate's filing for office pursuant to this act.

42       **SECTION 4.** This act applies to Union County Soil and Water Conservation District  
 43 only.

44       **SECTION 5.** This act is effective with respect to primaries and elections held on or  
 45 after January 1, 2024.



## **Association Report to the Commission**

**March 15, 2023**

### **2024 Annual Meeting**

We are currently working on the contract for the Annual Meeting and anticipate being at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham. This is a good venue and perfectly sized for our meeting.

### **Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors**

We completed the regional Basic Training for 2023. This year offered three regional trainings and one as part of the Annual Meeting in January. We had 104 Supervisors participate.

Bryan Evans, Executive Director, will be bringing the curriculum for the 2024 Basic Training at this Commission meeting as part of his report.

### **National NACD Meeting**

The National NACD meeting was held February 12-14, 2023, in New Orleans. North Carolina had 32 attendees. Vernon Cox and Bryan Evans presented in one of the breakouts on Building Future Conservation Leaders and focused on our Leadership Development project and the Resource Conservation Workshop. We had four resolutions from NC and three passed. Increased funding for PL-566 rehab projects and Waters of the US (WOTUS) rules language were the three that passed, and the UK Trade Agreement did not make it through the committee.

### **NACD Fly In**

NACD will host a Fly In in person this year for the first time since the COVID pandemic on March 22 and 23. NC will have a delegation there to discuss our resolutions and other conservation issues such as the new Farm Bill.



## **Association Executive Director's**

### **Report to the Commission**

**March 15, 2023**

#### **Areas Report**

Most of the Areas have completed their Spring meetings. Training for Supervisor Training Credits had continued to be built into the meetings. We have welcomed 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.

In addition, Senate Bill 27 has been introduced to make Union Soil and Water Conservation elections partisan. Our Association has taken a position that we oppose partisan elections for all Conservation District officials. The introduced bill also makes appointments of vacated positions the responsibility of the party of the vacancy. We are following this bill.

#### **State Level MOU**

We have finalized 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. If the Commission approves the MOU, we plan to sign during the business session today.

#### **Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors**

Per Commission rules, we are to provide the content of the upcoming trainings to you for approval. Today we propose the following topics that will be covered in the next cycle of trainings:

- Understanding the Partnership
- Understanding the Cost Share Programs and the Rules that Govern
- Potential Pitfalls for Districts Boards Related to Open Meetings, Public Records, and Budget and Fiscal Finances
- Scenario Based Board Issues



# Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

## North Carolina



### Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Program Updates

#### Inflation Reduction Act

On August 18, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. The IRA invests around \$40 billion into existing The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs promoting climate smart agriculture, rural energy efficiency and reliability, forest conservation, and more. Approximately \$20 billion of this investment supports USDA's conservation programs within NRCS

- N.C-NRCS has received Fiscal Year 2023 Initial Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Allocations, \$8,257,127 in financial assistance (FA) and \$5,092,699 in technical assistance (TA) for a total of \$13,349,826.
- For EQIP-IRA and CSP-IRA, NRCS may only use IRA funds for contracts that include at least one core Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) conservation practice or activity identified by national headquarters (NHQ) that directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions associated with agricultural production.
- For RCPP-IRA, NRCS will prioritize programmatic partnership agreements (PPAs) targeting resource concerns that directly improve soil carbon, reduce nitrogen losses, or reduce, capture, avoid, or sequester carbon dioxide, methane, or nitrous oxide emissions associated with agriculture production. NRCS may use IRA funds to obligate land management and rental producer contracts and easement agreements under these PPAs.
- The IRA statute requires a portion of CSP funds be designated to assist beginning farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers (at least 5 percent for each category).
- The IRA statute requires 10 percent of EQIP funds be targeted to wildlife-related conservation practices.

#### General

In addition to IRA funds, N.C-NRCS has received Fiscal Year 2023 Initial Full Year Allocations:

- \$45,534,061 in FA for all mandatory and discretionary programs.
- \$15,593,606 in TA for all mandatory and discretionary programs.

\*Total funds- \$61,127,667

### General FY 2023 Updates

#### Certified Conservation Planners

Conservation planners are personnel who possess the necessary skills, training, and experience to implement the NRCS planning process to meet client objectives in solving resource concerns.

#### Number of Certified Planners across the state

Level I (Formerly Apprentice Conservation Planner)- 27

Level III (Certified Conservation Planner)- 36

Level IV (Master Certified Conservation Planner)- 2

Total- 65

#### COVID Update

The CDC Community Levels guide mask wearing as follows:

- Low and Medium: No masks are required, but employees, customers and visitors are welcome to continue wearing a mask if they choose.
  - Service Centers may eliminate the requirement for customers to have an appointment to visit and unlock main doors.
  - The agency has ceased approval for any event/meeting with more than 50 people.
- High: Masks are required at all times in USDA facilities and vehicles
  - USDA-hosted meetings, conferences or events attended by 50 or more in-person participants require approval by the Agency head

#### Urban Soil Survey

N.C-NRCS is currently working on an Urban Soil Survey. This project was started in FY '22 by a mutual agreement (verbal) between N.C-NRCS and Soil and Plant Science Division and is meant to support the push for Urban Agricultural activity. It is planned to be a 3 year project broken into 3 phases, (Phase 1) Raleigh-Wake Co, (Phase 2) Cary-Research Triangle-Apex - Wake Co., (Phase 3) Durham-Durham Co, and Chapel Hill-Orange Co. The areas will reach out to the more developed suburbs of each which do extend beyond the city limits. Phase 1 is approximately 15% complete as of February 8, 2023 and is expected to be completed in FY '23.

Future urban updates are being talked about/planned that include the Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, Asheville-Hendersonville-Mars Hill, Winston-Salem-Greensboro-High Point, and possibly other areas of the state (Wilmington, Greenville, Outer Banks, Statesville Rocky Mount)

**North Carolina  
Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service**

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## State Engineer

Training is being made available covering our Emergency Watershed Protection program. The state Engineering section will be hosting a virtual class on Mar. 28th and anyone interested can attend. The following day on Mar. 29, the section will be conducting a field site training. Space is limited to:  
15 for N.C-NRCS  
15 for Partners

To RSPV please contact Joy Sherrod for NRCS via email [joy.sherrod@usda.gov](mailto:joy.sherrod@usda.gov) and for partners contact David Williams via email at [david.b.williams@ncagr.gov](mailto:david.b.williams@ncagr.gov).

## Local Working Groups (LWG)

The local working group process exists to provide the Partnership recommendations on resource priorities and activities. In the past, these groups have provided direct input to NRCS on priority resource issues and practices best suited to address them for funding on a local, state, and national level. Local working groups are a key pathway for producers to communicate with partners.

- LWGs Members can review resource concerns/ranking priorities to help meet the needs of their localities in our EQIP and CSP programs. During Farm Bill Planning years, the questions may be tied to how we administer the programs.
- The LWG is great opportunity for Districts to review their priorities and gather input from the stakeholders to help shape their Cost share programs, etc.
- May 31, 2023 is the deadline to have LWG documentation submitted to the state office.

## Urban Agriculture and Innovation Production Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making available up to \$7.5 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories, Planning Projects and Implementation Projects. USDA will accept applications on Grants.gov until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 27, 2023.

### Planning Projects

- initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers and the development of plans related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

### Implementation Projects

- accelerate existing and emerging models of urban, indoor and other agricultural practices that serve farmers and communities. Projects may improve local food access, include collaboration with partner organizations, and support infrastructure needs, emerging technologies, and educational endeavors.

## Employee Highlight

The latest addition to the State office, NRCS Outreach Coordinator- Diana Irizarry

"I have been with NRCS for 15 years and have multi-state experiences: in Puerto Rico, North Dakota, Michigan, and North Carolina. Previously to this new role, I held the Supervisory Soil Conservationist for Team 10 which included Chatham, Durham, Johnston, and Wake Counties. In addition, I served as District Conservationist in multiple Field Offices. I was Acting State Agronomist in 2017, was Chair of the NC NRCS Civil Right Advisory Committee, and Tribal Liaison with NRCS in Calhoun County, Michigan."



### 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](mailto:Joshua.Hammond@usda.gov)

[WWW.NC.NRCS.USDA.GOV](http://WWW.NC.NRCS.USDA.GOV)



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**Wiklund, Helen**

**From:** noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2023 11:35 AM  
**To:** Wiklund, Helen  
**Subject:** [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #12554699

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

<b>Reference #</b>	12554699
<b>Status</b>	Complete
<b>Login Username</b>	joan.downing@nhcnc.net
<b>Login Email</b>	joan.downing@nhcnc.net
<b>Appointment or Reappointment</b>	New Appointment
<b>District:</b>	Northampton
<b>Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:</b>	Eugene W. Brown, Jr.
<b>Elected/Appointed</b>	Appointed
<b>Term of Office</b>	December 2022 to December 2026
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	Mason Ricks Taylor
<b>Nominee Mailing Address:</b>	4184 Hwy 35
<b>City:</b>	Conway
<b>State:</b>	NC
<b>Zipcode:</b>	27820
<b>Nominee Email Address:</b>	masonrickstaylor@yahoo.com
<b>Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:</b>	252-578-1817

Age 44 ATTACHMENT 8A

Occupation: Farmer

Education: Bachelor of Science-Industrial Technology

Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee: Northeast Academy School Board member

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

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
• State Meetings

Nominee Signature:
Mason Ricks Taylor

Typed/printed name: Mason Ricks Taylor

Date: 1/26/2023

District Board Chair Signature (or Vice Chair if Chair is being nominated):
William M. Stephens

<b>Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?</b>	Yes
<b>Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:</b>	Mr. Taylor is an active farmer in our county.
<b>Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.</b>	4
<b>Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the nominee improves the ag diversity of the board:</b>	Trying new things such as low input farming.
<b>Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:</b>	Mr. Taylor is very innovative, trying new ideas.
<b>Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe the new advocacy skills the nominee brings to the board:</b>	He is willing to work with the local district.
<b>Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the geographic representation for the board:</b>	Mr. Taylor is located in the middle part of the County.
<b>Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:</b>	Was former employee of a local industry which built diesel farm engines and maybe able to open some partnership.

<b>Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:</b>	Private industry knowledge.
<b>Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?</b>	No
<b>Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:</b>	Work related business outside of the county.
<b>Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment strengthens the District's opportunity to raise funds?</b>	His wife is employee of a local bank which might be able to offer some funding.
<b>Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?</b>	Yes
<b>How will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?</b>	Good representative of young farmers.
<b>Does the District wish to provide other justification in support of the nomination? If so, enter here:</b>	Mr. Taylor comes from a family of farming and his father and grandfather were supervisors..
<b>Last Update</b>	2023-02-06 11:34:35
<b>Start Time</b>	2023-02-06 11:09:05
<b>Finish Time</b>	2023-02-06 11:34:35
<b>IP</b>	204.85.26.34
<b>Browser</b>	IE
<b>Device</b>	Desktop

**Wiklund, Helen**

**From:** noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 12:09 PM  
**To:** Wiklund, Helen  
**Subject:** [External] Nomination For Appointment of Supervisor Result #13179229

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

<b>Reference #</b>	13179229
<b>Status</b>	Complete
<b>Login Username</b>	kelli.isenhour@rowancountync.gov
<b>Login Email</b>	kelli.isenhour@rowancountync.gov
<b>Appointment or Reappointment</b>	New Appointment
<b>District:</b>	Rowan
<b>Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:</b>	Jim Summers
<b>Elected/Appointed</b>	Appointed
<b>Term of Office</b>	December 2020 to December 2024
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	William G. Wescott II
<b>Nominee Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 389
<b>City:</b>	Gold Hill
<b>State:</b>	NC
<b>Zipcode:</b>	28071
<b>Nominee Email Address:</b>	wescottenvironmentalservices@gmail.com
<b>Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:</b>	252-402-9662

**Nominee Business Phone:**

252-402-9662

ATTACHMENT 8A

**Age**

56

**Occupation:**

NCDOT Division Environmental Officer and private wetland consultant

**Education:**

BS in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology and a Masters in Soil Science from NC State University

**Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:**

NCDOT Division Environmental Officer for 5 counties and owner and president of Westcott Environmental Services, Inc

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

Biologist for the NCWRC, Wetland Regulatory Specialist, Private consultant assisting farmers with NRCS wetland determinations; see application

**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
- State Meetings

**Typed/printed name:**

William G. Westcott II

**Date:**

2/23/2023

**Printed certification signature page for nominee. Only necessary if signature box is not signed above.**

[William Wescott Signature \(27 KB\)](#)

**Typed/printed name:**

Bruce Miller

**Date:**

2/23/2023

**Printed certification signature page for board approval. Only necessary if signature box is not signed above.**

[Nomination letter for William Westcott.pdf \(28 KB\)](#)

**Resignation letter (only needed if vacancy is due to resignation).**

[Jim Summers resignation letter 2 2023.pdf \(18 KB\)](#)

**Optional additional documentation (e.g, candidate resume').**

[William Westcott Board application.pdf \(1.01 MB\)](#)



<b>Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?</b>	No
<b>Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.</b>	3
<b>Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?</b>	No
<b>Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:</b>	William is knowledgeable regarding NRCS and USACE wetland rules and regulations. He coordinates with county and state NRCS offices.
<b>Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?</b>	Yes
<b>Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the geographic representation for the board:</b>	William lives in the eastern part of the county on the family farm.
<b>Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:</b>	He works with NC Wildlife Resources Commission, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and non-profit conservation groups.
<b>Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:</b>	He has experience with land uses involving wildlife management, solar farms, development, and chicken farms.
<b>Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?</b>	No
<b>Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:</b>	William has assisted in training school Envirothon teams at the local, district, and state level.

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

Yes

ATTACHMENT 8A

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

He has some exposure to grants and funding sources for land management practices.

**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?**

William has previous experience with Envirothon and connections with other organizations.

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

William received unanimous support from the board. He is well-spoken and well-versed, and has a vast knowledge of environmental issues that he can express fluently.

**Last Update**

2023-02-27 08:53:49

**Start Time**

2023-02-27 08:41:31

**Finish Time**

2023-02-27 08:53:49

**IP**

24.123.188.14

**Browser**

Chrome

**Device**

Desktop

**Referrer**

N/A

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



**PO Box 133  
Woodleaf, NC 27054**

**February 1, 2023**

**Dear Bruce,**

**With this letter I submit my resignation from the Rowan Soil & Water Conservation District Board (SWCD). I have enjoyed serving the last 36 years on the Board and I am proud of what was accomplished during that time. Please feel free to contact if I can be of assistance in the future.**

**Yours in conservation.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James F. Summers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

**James F. Summers**



February 23, 2023

I hereby certify that the board of supervisors considered the Guiding Principles for Supervisor Nomination for Appointment when selecting William G. Wescott II as candidate for nomination. I also certify that this nomination has been considered and approved at an official meeting of the board of supervisors and entered in the official minutes of the board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Miller".

**Bruce Miller**  
**Board Chairman Rowan SWCD**

**Certification letter by Nominee for the Board of Supervisors**

February 23, 2023

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

Yes

No

Attended previously (enter years of attendance) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes

No

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

Local District Meetings  Area Meetings  State Meetings

I hereby certify that the above information is true and accurate.

Sincerely,



William G. Wescott II  
Candidate for Rowan SWCD Board of Supervisors



Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District  
 2727 -C Old Concord Rd. Salisbury, NC 28146  
 Chris.sloop@rowancountync.gov 704-216-8999

## Application for Appointment to the Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District's Board

All applicants must be 18 years of age or older, be qualified to vote in the state of NC, and reside in Rowan County for a period of one year or more.

Name: William G. Wescott II Date: 1/25/2023

Address: Physical Address: 365 Pine Needle Trail, Salisbury, NC 28146  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 389, Gold Hill, NC 28071

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (252) 402-9662

Email:  
wescottenvironmentalservices@gmail.com

Occupation: NCDOT Division Environmental Officer and private wetland consultant

Former occupation(s) or positions that may contribute to applicant's qualifications:

7 years as a biologist with NC Wildlife Resources Commission; 12 ½ years as a wetland regulatory specialist with US Army Corps of Engineers; 1 ½ years as a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) coordinator for the US Marine Corps; 8 years as a private wetland consultant assisting farmers with NRCS wetland determinations in addition to site evaluations for chicken houses associated with Mountaire Farms and Sanderson Farms

Position(s) of leadership currently held by applicant: NCDOT Division Environmental Officer for five counties; and Owner and President of Wescott Environmental Services, Inc.

Other pertinent information: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think you would be an asset to the Rowan Soil and Water Board of Supervisors?

I bring a unique knowledge to the Rowan County Soil and Water Board due to my wildlife, environmental and regulatory experience as well as in the past 8 years successfully assisting 35+ farmers in obtaining NRCS wetland determinations and helping 7 farmers appeal incorrect NRCS wetland determinations. \_\_

Will the applicant be available to: (please circle)

Attend monthly board meetings the third Thursday of the month at 7pm?  Yes  No

Attend daytime Spring and Fall meetings?  Yes  No

Attend the 3-day annual meeting in January?  Yes  No

Attend a full-day supervisor training within the first year of being on the board?  Yes  No

Is the applicant 18 years of age or older?  Yes  No

Has the applicant ever been convicted of a felony? Yes  No

By signing this application, the applicant affirms that the statements in this Application for Appointment to the Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District Board are true.

Signature of Applicant: William G. Wenzel III Date: 1-25-2023

This application is subject to the NC Public Records Law. The Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Wiklund, Helen**

**From:** noreply@fs3.formsite.com on behalf of Formsite <noreply@fs3.formsite.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 1, 2023 1:04 PM  
**To:** Wiklund, Helen  
**Subject:** [External] Nomination for Supervisor Appointment Result #13123531

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

<b>Reference #</b>	13123531
<b>Status</b>	Complete
<b>Login Username</b>	michelle.kasey@watgov.org
<b>Login Email</b>	michelle.kasey@watgov.org
<b>Appointment or Reappointment</b>	New Appointment
<b>District:</b>	Watauga
<b>Unexpired/Expired Term of Supervisor:</b>	Jimmy South
<b>Elected/Appointed</b>	Appointed
<b>Term of Office</b>	December 2022 to December 2026
<b>Name of Nominee:</b>	Chris Hughes
<b>Nominee Mailing Address:</b>	183 Freds Drive
<b>City:</b>	Boone
<b>State:</b>	NC
<b>Zipcode:</b>	28607
<b>Nominee Email Address:</b>	pastorchrishughes@gmail.com
<b>Nominee Mobile or Home Phone:</b>	8507970899



Age

59

Occupation:

Retired Christmas Tree Farmer and Government Employee

Education:

DMin

Positions of leadership NOW held by nominee:

Commissioner - NCSWCC, Past President NCASWCD, Secretary WSWCD, Legislative Committee - NCASWCD, NCSW Foundation Board Member

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

Christmas Tree Farmer, President Northwest Florida Fair Association, Tax Collector, US Navy, Executive VP Okaloosa Walton Building Industry Assoc.

Other pertinent information:

Chancellor of Fogg Christian College

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

- Yes
- Attended previously (enter years of attendance below) (3)


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
- State Meetings

Nominee Signature:



Chris Hughes

Date:

1/23/23

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



<b>Date:</b>	1/31/23
<b>Resignation letter (only needed if vacancy is due to resignation).</b>	<a href="#">Hughes Resignation from Elected position to Appointed position.pdf (103 KB)</a>
<b>Optional additional documentation (e.g, candidate resume').</b>	<a href="#">Jimmy South Resignation letter zDie.pdf (122 KB)</a>
<b>Is the nominee actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation?</b>	Yes
<b>Please explain the nominee's connection to agriculture:</b>	Comes from a multi-generational farming family. Third generation Christmas Tree Farmer.
<b>Number of current District Supervisors actively engaged in, or recently retired from, an agricultural operation.</b>	4
<b>Will the appointment provide an opportunity to engage a segment of agriculture not currently being served?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the nominee improves the ag diversity of the board:</b>	Chris is currently on the Board and has working knowledge and experience in this area.
<b>Will the appointment bring new leadership skills to the board?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe the new leadership skills the nominee brings to the board:</b>	Chris is currently on the Board and has working knowledge and experience in this area.

<b>Will the appointment strengthen the political connection/influence of the district, especially at the county level?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe the new advocacy skills the nominee brings to the board:</b>	Chris Hughes is known by all county and State officials in his area.
<b>Will the appointment provide representation from a portion of the county not currently represented?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the geographic representation for the board:</b>	Chris is currently on the Board and has working knowledge and experience in this area.
<b>Will the appointment improve opportunities to work with non-traditional partners?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment improves partnership opportunities for the district:</b>	Chris Hughes experience as immediate Past President of the State Association will open doors for new partnerships with the Watauga District.
<b>Will the appointment improve the make-up of the board from an agricultural/nonagricultural perspective?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the appointment improves the non-ag representation for the board:</b>	Chris is currently on the Board and has working knowledge and experience in this area.
<b>Will the appointment improve the diversity of the board?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment improves the diversity of the board:</b>	Chris is currently on the Board and has working knowledge and experience in this area.
<b>Has the nominee shown past involvement in an organization beyond the local level?</b>	Yes
<b>Describe how the nominee has been involved in an organization beyond the local level:</b>	Chris Hughes is a former Lt. Governor of the Kiwanis clubs of the Carolinas, is involved in his Church, serves on the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council, and is involved in numerous state and local organization, both conservation, farming and civic.

<b>Will the appointment strengthen the District's opportunity to raise funds?</b>	Yes
<b>Please describe how the appointment strengthens the District's opportunity to raise funds?</b>	Chris Hughes has developed a written plan to increase grant and other funding for the district through his community, state and national contacts.
<b>Will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?</b>	Yes
<b>How will the appointment strengthen the District's education, marketing, and outreach efforts?</b>	Chris ;:Hughes has developed a written plan to strengthen the District's reach through partnerships with the Board of Education, Community College and Appalachian State University and has a strong relationship with local apress.
<b>Does the District wish to provide other justification in support of the nomination? If so, enter here:</b>	In areas where Chris Hughes checked "no", it is because he already serves on the Board and is already contributing in those areas.
<b>Last Update</b>	2023-03-01 13:04:18
<b>Start Time</b>	2023-03-01 13:03:52
<b>Finish Time</b>	2023-03-01 13:04:18
<b>IP</b>	69.77.154.34
<b>Browser</b>	Chrome
<b>Device</b>	Desktop
<b>Referrer</b>	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.



**Michelle Kasey**

---

**From:** Michelle Kasey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** canddfarms190@gmail.com; Bill Moretz (bhave995@gmail.com);  
pastorchrishughes@gmail.com; toddcombs@icloud.com  
**Subject:** FW: Jimmy South resignation

**From:** jrfarm@skybest.com <jrfarm@skybest.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:32 PM  
**To:** Michelle Kasey <Michelle.Kasey@watgov.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Jimmy South

>

>Good afternoon Michelle and Board Members,  
Hope you all are doing well. I (Brenda) apologize that I haven't sent this sooner. Jimmy South request to resign from the Watauga County Soil & Water Board due to health problems. It has been great serving with you all. If I can ever be of a help to any of you please let me know. Prayers and best wishes to all of you.

Thank you,  
Jimmy and Brenda South

**Michelle Kasey**

---

**From:** pastorchrishughes@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2023 5:13 PM  
**To:** Helen Wiklund  
**Cc:** Michelle Kasey  
**Subject:** Conditional Resignation Effective March 16, 2023

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I humbly submit my resignation as an Elected Watauga Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor effective March 16, 2023, contingent on my appointment to fill the Appointed Watauga Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor position recently vacated by the resignation of Supervisor Jimmy South.

Thank you for your consideration.

Chris Hughes  
Watauga Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Pastorchrishughes@gmail.com  
850-797-0899

Sent from my iPhone

## NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts

## Soil and Water Conservation Commission

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Franklin	35-2023-800	Charles Mitchell	Water Well	\$10,964	
Lincoln	55-2022-388	Tommy Houser	Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization	\$34,525	1,412 linear foot road repair. Large contract amount due to large amount of stone.
Macon	56-2023-001	Pam Bell	Precision Agrichemical Application	\$2,700	
Pitt	74-2023-802	Carl Briley, Jr	Water Supply Well	\$8,701	
Robeson	78-2023-003	Michael Herndon	Cropland Conversion-Grass	\$5,544	
Wake	92-2023-017	Thomas Dean	Cover Crop	\$998	
Wayne	96-2023-012	Donna Mills	SDAP Closure - Waste Impoundment	\$21,809	Swine Dairy Assistance Program

**Total Number of Supervisor Contracts: 7**

**Total**      \$85,241

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 Franklin 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: AgWrapBest management practice: Well, Pump, HousingContract number: 35-2023-800 Contract amount: \$ 10,964Score on priority ranking sheet: 85 out of 110Cost 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 1Were 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): Charles Mitchell

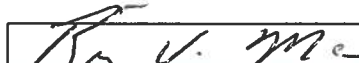

---

(District Supervisor's signature)

1/18/2023

Date

Approved by (Print): Ricky May


---

(District Chairperson's signature)

1/19/2023

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 Lincoln 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: Ag. Road Repair

Contract number: 55-2022-388 Contract amount: \$ 34,525

Score on priority ranking sheet: 225 out of 1044

Cost Share Rate: 90 % If different than 75%, please list % percent: 90

Reason: Farm is in an Enhanced Voluntary Ag. District, making it eligible for 90% cost share.

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 3 out of 15

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): Tommy D Houser

Tommy D. Houser  
(District Supervisor's signature)

2-14-23  
Date

Approved by (Print): Patty H. Dellinger

Patty H. Dellinger  
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-14-23  
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.

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

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Macon 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: Precision Agrichemical Application

Contract number: 56-2023-001 Contract amount: \$ \$2700

Score on priority ranking sheet: 7 out of 15

Cost Share Rate: 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent: n/a

Reason: n/a

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 out of 1

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:

n/a

Supervisor name (Print): Pam Bell

Pam Bell  
(District Supervisor's signature)

1/30/23  
Date

Approved by (Print): Melinda James

Melinda James  
(District Chairperson's signature)

1-30-23  
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.

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

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Pitt 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: AgWrap

Best management practice: Water Supply Well

Contract number: 74-2023-802 Contract amount: \$ 8701.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 55 out of 75

Cost 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 1

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): Carl + Britley Jr

[Signature]  
(District Supervisor's signature)

2/24/23  
Date

Approved by (Print): W. Steve Sutton

[Signature]  
(District Chairperson's signature)

2/24/23  
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 Robeson 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: Cropland Conversion to Grass

Contract number: 78-2023-003 Contract amount: \$ 5,544

Score on priority ranking sheet: 230 out of 190+

Cost Share Rate: 75 % If different than 75%, please list % percent: N/A

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 out of 1

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): MICHAEL HERMAN

[Signature]  
(District Supervisor's signature)

2/15/23  
Date

Approved by (Print): Walter K. McGa

[Signature]  
(District Chairperson's signature)

2-17-23  
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 Wake 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: Warm Season Cover Crop

Contract number: 92-2023-017 Contract amount: \$ \$998

Score on priority ranking sheet: 95 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): 4 out of 4

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): Thomas Dean

Thomas R Dean

(District Supervisor's signature)

2-8-23

Date

Approved by (Print): Jennifer (Jenna) A. Wadsworth

Jennifer A Wadsworth

(District Chairperson's signature)

02/08/23

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 Wayne 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 / SDAP

Best management practice: Lagoon Closure

Contract number: 96-2023-012 Contract amount: \$ 21,809<sup>00</sup>

Score on priority ranking sheet: N/A out of \_\_\_\_\_

Cost Share Rate: 90% If different than 75%, please list % percent: 90%

Reason: Swine + Dairy Assistance Program

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 1 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): Donna C Mills

Donna C Mills

(District Supervisor's signature)

2-28-23  
Date

Approved by (Print): Ronald W Parks

Ronald W Parks

(District Chairperson's signature)

2-28-23  
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.

<b>JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MARCH 15, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING</b>				
	<b>APPLICANT NAME</b>	<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED</b>	<b>JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</b>
1	Pamela Bowman	Alexander SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Critical Area Planting</li> <li>2. Prescribed Grazing</li> <li>3. Nutrient Management</li> <li>4. Rooftop Runoff Management System</li> <li>5. Heavy Use Area Protection</li> <li>6. Trough or Tank</li> <li>7. Water Supply Well</li> <li>8. Stream Protection Well</li> <li>9. Livestock Exclusion Fencing</li> <li>10. Waste Application System</li> <li>11. Manure/Litter Transportation Incentive</li> </ol>
2	Matthew Lowe	Gates SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land Smoothing</li> <li>2. Conservation Cover</li> <li>3. Sod-based Rotation</li> <li>4. Cover Crops</li> <li>5. Residue and Tillage Management</li> <li>6. Critical Area Planting</li> <li>7. Cropland Conversion</li> <li>8. Pasture Renovation</li> <li>9. Field Border</li> <li>10. Filter Strip</li> <li>11. Nutrient Management</li> <li>12. Rooftop Runoff Management System</li> </ol>
3	Russell Hunter	Yadkin SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization</li> <li>2. Rooftop Runoff Management System</li> <li>3. Heavy Use Area Protection</li> <li>4. Trough or Tank</li> <li>5. Drystack</li> <li>6. Livestock Mortality Management System - Incinerator</li> </ol>

**ATTACHMENT 9**

<b>JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE MARCH 15, 2023 NC SWCC MEETING</b>				
	<b>APPLICANT NAME</b>	<b>EMPLOYER</b>	<b>TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED</b>	<b>JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL</b>
4	Jake Barbee	Union SWCD	Comparable NRCS JAA	1. Conservation Cover 2. Cropland Conversion
5	Caleb Lippard	Wake SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	1. Grassed Waterway
6	Brandi Talton	Wayne SWCD	Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills	1. Grassed Waterway



**BASIC TRAINING REPORT**

02 NCAC 59A .0301(d)(1) requires the Division to submit documentation of participants in Basic Training by April 1 of each year.

The Division is pleased to report 103 supervisor attendees at four Basic Training sessions in 2023:

- January 7 – Cherokee, North Carolina
- February 7 – Greenville, North Carolina
- February 21 – Wilkesboro, North Carolina
- February 28 – Raleigh, North Carolina

At the Commission’s November meeting, conditional appointments were made to local soil and water conservation district boards, contingent upon attendance at Basic Training. Additionally, newly elected and re-elected supervisors were required to attend Basic Training in 2023 under 02 NCAC 59A .0202.

Also at the Commission’s November meeting, three supervisors were sent to the Inquiry Committee due to their re-election without meeting Basic Training requirements or achieving at least 6.0 Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) during their full term of service; all three of these individuals attended Basic Training in 2023.

The following fourteen local soil and water conservation district supervisors have not met the Basic Training requirement as of February 28, 2023:

District	First Name	Last Name	Elected / Appointed	Current Term	Start Month	Start Year
Bladen	Albert	Shaw	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Caswell	Lynn	Massey	Elected	22-26	December	1998
Caswell	Joan C.	Slade	Elected	22-26	March	1997
Davie	Justin	Miller	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Edgecombe	Casey	Webb	Appointed	22-26	December	2022
Granville	Jason West	Dixon	Elected	22-26	March	2012
Harnett	John	Hairr	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Harnett	Jeff	Turlington	Elected	22-26	December	1978
Hertford	J. David	Simons, III	Elected	22-26	March	2004
Pamlico	Benjamin Derek	Potter	Elected	22-26	December	2006
Randolph	Brian	Ward	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Rutherford	Alice	High	Appointed	20-24	May	2022
Stanly	Rebecca	Gibson	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998

Written justifications have been sent from several of these individuals and are attached to this report.

The Division recommends sending these fourteen individuals to the Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration, along with the three individuals that were named in November 2022.

February 7, 2023

John David Simons, III  
931 Benthall Bridge Road  
Murfreesboro, NC 27855  
252-209-7855

Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
NCDA&CS Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-1614

RE: UNC School of Government Supervisor Training

Dear Sirs,

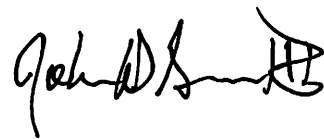
I am sorry but I am unable to attend the trainings scheduled in 2023 for the UNC School of Government. My work schedule was already planned for both dates, the one in Greenville and the one in Raleigh.

I plan to attend the UNC School of Government training at the next scheduled session in 2024. Please make the date available to me as soon as possible in order for me to schedule this into my daily work plan.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

If you have any questions, please send me correspondence by mail or phone me at the number listed above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. Simons, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John D. Simons, III  
Hertford SWCD Supervisor

Dear Chairman John Langdon, Division of Soil and Water Conservation

My name is Brian Ward, and I am serving as a Supervisor for Randolph County Soil and Water. I received a letter in the mail concerning Basic Training for supervisors to attend. I am a contract poultry grower for Pilgrims Corporation, and unfortunately was unable to travel to Greenville or Wilkesboro for the first two training sessions due to being too far away. I was planning to attend the Raleigh session on February 28<sup>th</sup>, but have since learned I will have a scheduled vaccination for one of my farms on Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to this, I will have to raise my equipment on Tuesday for the vaccination crew and am therefore unable to attend this training session as well,

I have no issue attending the next training within reasonable distance, when I have a more time to prepare to find someone to watch things while I am gone or would even be willing to do an online training if something like that is available.

If there is anything I can do for you or you would like to discuss in more detail, feel free to contact me anytime.

Brian Ward

Cell: 336-362-0008

Email: wardbrian33@yahoo.com



HARNETT  
SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

126 Alexander Drive, Suite 200  
PO Box 267  
Lillington, NC 27546  
Phone: 910-893-7584

March 9, 2023

Supervisor Training Committee Members,

It has been brought to my attention that there is no record of my attendance of the UNC School of Government's Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. I understand the need for qualified and knowledgeable Supervisors that are well equipped to promote a comprehensive conservation program in order to conserve our natural resources, protect our agricultural assets and, support our District staff. I respect the policy outlined in NC General Statute 139-7.2 and have fulfilled this requirement.

I have been an elected Supervisor for 49 years with my first term starting in December of 1974. Shortly after being elected, I participated in the UNC School of Government's Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. I have reached out to current School of Government Registrar, Brian Newport. He has checked historical records both event-level and individual registration and both only go back to 1976. They have some partial records dating back to mid 1975. The training that I attended was in early 1975 so they do not have a record of my attendance. I distinctly recall traveling to UNC Chapel Hill for multiple days to attend this training.

In addition to attending the training, I have also been a speaker at the training on several occasions during my terms as NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts President in 1999 and again as NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission Chairman. I presented on the topic of the importance of working with government officials.

I respectfully request that due to my specific recollection of training attendance and because of UNC School of Government records not going back far enough to record my attendance, that the Training Committee accept my word as having attended and consider the requirement fulfilled.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Jeffrey Turlington", written in a cursive style.

G. Jeffrey Turlington  
Harnett Soil and Water Conservation District  
Board Vice-Chair

**BASIC TRAINING REPORT**

02 NCAC 59A .0301(d)(1) requires the Division to submit documentation of participants in Basic Training by April 1 of each year.

The Division is pleased to report 104 supervisor attendees at four Basic Training sessions in 2023:

- January 7 – Cherokee, North Carolina
- February 7 – Greenville, North Carolina
- February 21 – Wilkesboro, North Carolina
- February 28 – Raleigh, North Carolina

At the Commission’s November meeting, conditional appointments were made to local soil and water conservation district boards, contingent upon attendance at Basic Training. Additionally, newly elected and re-elected supervisors were required to attend Basic Training in 2023 under 02 NCAC 59A .0202.

Also at the Commission’s November meeting, three supervisors were sent to the Inquiry Committee due to their re-election without meeting Basic Training requirements or achieving at least 6.0 Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) during their full term of service; all three of these individuals attended Basic Training in 2023.

According to Division records the following thirteen local soil and water conservation district supervisors have not met the Basic Training requirement as of February 28, 2023:

District	First Name	Last Name	Elected / Appointed	Current Term	Start Month	Start Year
Bladen	Albert	Shaw	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Caswell	Lynn	Massey	Elected	22-26	December	1998
Caswell	Joan C.	Slade	Elected	22-26	March	1997
Davie	Justin	Miller	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Granville	Jason West	Dixon	Elected	22-26	March	2012
Harnett	John	Hairr	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Harnett	Jeff	Turlington	Elected	22-26	December	1978*
Hertford	J. David	Simons, III	Elected	22-26	March	2004
Pamlico	Benjamin Derek	Potter	Elected	22-26	December	2006
Randolph	Brian	Ward	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Rutherford	Alice	High	Appointed	20-24	May	2022
Stanly	Rebecca	Gibson	Elected	22-26	December	2022
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998

Written justifications have been sent from several of these individuals and are attached to this report.

The Division recommends sending these thirteen individuals to the Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration, along with the three individuals that were named in November 2022.



North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Division of Soil and Water Conservation*

## Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

Program Updates- March 14 & 15, 2023

### Program Status and Reimbursements

- Division has paid \$5,072,883.98 in reimbursements to grantees
  - \$4,911,871.65 (96.8%) was paid for completed stream debris removal work
  - \$105,400 (2.1%) was paid for PL-566 work
  - \$55,612.33 (1.1%) was issued as reimbursement for administrative expenses
- Payments made to 31 grantees in 25 counties.
- Reimbursed work includes:
  - 886,689.3 linear feet of stream debris removal work (out of 3.6 million)
  - 1 completed PL-566 watershed structure project
- 14 grantees have completed their work on SOW.
  - 6 grantees have submitted final reports and contracts closed out
  - 8 completed work, and either have unused funds remaining, or have not yet submitted final report

### Reallocation

The Division has determined that as of March 14, 2023, \$1,376,767 of StRAP funds are available for a supplemental allocation at the May Commission meeting. These funds come from allocations returned and freeing up funds originally set aside for program administration. The Division recommends retaining the \$500,000 per grantee cap and prioritizing supplemental allocation as follows:

1. Currently funded sponsors who received less than the cap and less than their full request for vegetative debris removal and who have already expended at least 75% of their contracted funds for vegetative debris removal as of April 30, 2023 (based on requests for payment submitted on or before that date). As of March 14, 2023, 7 of 109 existing local sponsors meet this criterion.
2. Currently funded sponsors who meet criterion 1 above, and who are in counties that exceed the \$2,000,000 per county cap. As of March 14, 2023, 3 existing local sponsors meet this criterion.

### 50% Progress Report

- 78 Grantees met the goal of having 50% of funds encumbered by February 28
- 31 Grantees did not meet the 50% goal.
- **It is the Division's recommendation that no funds be revoked and reallocated from grantees who did not meet the 50% goal.**



North Carolina Department of Agriculture  
and Consumer Services  
*Division of Soil and Water Conservation*

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## StRAP- Met 50% Goal

Organization Name	Date received 50% Encumbered Report	Total Contract	Total Encumbered	Did they reach 50% Encumbered by Feb 28th
Albemarle Drainage District (Beaufort County Drainage District Number 5)	10/24/2022	\$281,384.00	\$272,160.00	Yes
Alexander SWCD	2/28/2023	\$384,805.00	\$351,350.00	Yes
Alleghany SWCD	2/20/2023	\$247,200.00	\$162,000.00	Yes
Avery SWCD	2/27/2023	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	Yes
Beaufort SWCD	2/28/2023	\$334,931.00	\$173,682.72	Yes
Bertie SWCD	11/3/2022	\$153,000.00	\$96,000.00	Yes
Blue Ridge RC&D	2/28/2023	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00	Yes
Buncombe SWCD	2/24/2023	\$ 336,649.00	\$336,449.00	Yes
Burke SWCD	2/8/2023	\$256,684.00	\$205,000.00	Yes
Caldwell SWCD	2/17/2023	\$259,437.00	\$186,350.00	Yes
Camden SWCD	2/27/2023	\$ 74,850.00	\$74,850.00	Yes
Carteret SWCD	2/23/2023	\$500,000.00	\$390,670.00	Yes
Catawba SWCD	2/24/2023	\$282,400.00	\$248,902.00	Yes
Cherokee SWCD	2/28/2023	\$236,150.00	\$120,500.00	Yes
Chowan SWCD	2/27/2023	\$344,435.00	\$199,348.00	Yes
City Of Rockingham	2/6/2023	\$250,000.00	\$220,000.00	Yes
City of Washington	1/27/2023	\$31,600.00	\$31,600.00	Yes
City of Whiteville	2/27/2023	\$273,466.00	\$145,848.20	Yes
Clay SWCD	2/14/2023	\$55,230.00	\$55,230.00	Yes
County of Bladen	3/2/2023	\$405,666.00	\$339,285.00	Yes
County of Cumberland	2/28/2023	\$78,100.00	\$42,000.00	Yes
County of Hoke	1/27/2023	\$375,507.00	\$367,750.00	Yes
Craven County	1/31/2023	\$388,939.00	\$378,450.00	Yes
Cumberland SWCD	3/2/2023	\$279,014.00	\$183,248.00	Yes
Currituck SWCD	1/3/2022	\$248,800.00	\$202,865.00	Yes
Davidson SWCD	2/28/2023	\$399,497.00	\$312,030.00	Yes
Edgecombe SWCD	2/27/2023	\$385,226.00	\$385,226.00	Yes
Forsyth SWCD	1/26/2023	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00	Yes



Harnett County	2/9/2023	\$379,528.00	\$379,528.00	Yes
Henderson SWCD	2/21/2023	\$367,282.00	\$340,000.00	Yes
Iredell SWCD	2/27/2023	\$351,154.00	\$274,470.00	Yes
Lenoir SWCD	2/28/2023	\$500,000.00	\$275,598.25	Yes
Madison SWCD	2/22/2023	\$291,573.00	\$247,775.00	Yes
Martin SWCD	3/2/2023	\$299,769.00	\$259,500.00	Yes
Mills River Partnership	2/28/2023	\$65,000.00	\$34,236.00	Yes
Mitchell SWCD	1/30/2023	\$278,037.00	\$287,037.00	Yes
New River SWCD	3/1/2023	\$245,000.00	\$245,000.00	Yes
Onslow SWCD	2/28/2023	\$377,335.00	\$320,766.31	Yes
Pamlico SWCD	3/1/2023	\$340,379.00	\$340,379.00	Yes
Pasquotank SWCD	2/27/2023	\$227,100.00	\$226,217.58	Yes
Pender County	2/9/2023	\$357,888.00	\$279,201.78	Yes
Pender SWCD	2/22/2023	\$402,376.00	\$323,679.99	Yes
Perquimans SWCD	2/28/2023	\$341,389.00	\$234,753.08	Yes
Person SWCD	10/31/2022	\$63,000.00	\$42,000.00	Yes
Pitt County Government	3/3/2023	\$414,975.00	\$354,728.75	Yes
Polk County Local Government	2/28/2023	\$400,052.00	\$390,912.20	Yes
Randolph SWCD	2/16/2023	\$422,194.00	\$235,000.00	Yes
Robeson County Drainage District 1	2/28/2023	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00	Yes
Robeson County Drainage District 4-Meadow Branch	2/28/2023	\$272,649.00	\$271,149.00	Yes
Robeson County Drainage District-2 Moss Neck	2/28/2023	\$344,159.00	\$344,159.00	Yes
Robeson SWCD	2/24/2023	\$388,504.00	\$311,945.00	Yes
Rockingham SWCD	3/6/2023	\$500,000.00	\$495,796.00	Yes
Rowan County Government	2/27/2023	\$313,972.00	\$313,972.00	Yes
Stokes SWCD	2/20/2023	\$246,761.00	\$189,500.00	Yes
Surry SWCD	2/20/2023	\$261,666.00	\$200,000.00	Yes
Town of Black Mountain	2/21/2023	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	Yes
Town of Chadbourn	2/27/2023	\$272,207.00	\$136,497.00	Yes
Town of Fairmont	2/27/2023	\$250,000.00	\$198,000.00	Yes
Town of Hertford	3/3/2023	\$46,000.00	\$40,136.00	Yes
Town of Kill Devil Hills	2/6/2023	\$258,458.00	\$258,458.00	Yes
Town of Kitty Hawk	2/9/2023	\$154,000.00	\$120,645.00	Yes
Town of Leland	2/27/2023	\$258,429.00	\$216,425.00	Yes

Town of Pink Hill	3/2/2023	\$487,002.00	\$295,000.00	Yes
Town of Wallace	2/27/2023	\$110,000.00	\$103,987.00	Yes
Transylvania SWCD	2/27/2023	\$90,000.00	\$57,728.00	Yes
Triangle Land Conservancy	2/27/2023	\$337,390.00	\$317,000.00	Yes
Wayne Drainage District #1	2/24/2023	\$266,266.00	\$165,000.00	Yes
Wayne SWCD	1/18/2023	\$337,975.00	\$231,159.00	Yes
Wilkes SWCD	2/1/2023	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00	Yes
Wilson County Government	2/28/2023	\$280,463.00	\$264,463.28	Yes
Yadkin Valley Sewer Authority	2/21/2023	\$251,357.00	\$142,135.00	Yes
Yancey SWCD	3/3/2023	\$271,324.00	\$271,324.00	Yes
<b>Contract Closed</b>				
City of Havelock				
Coharie Intra-Tribal Council				
Friends of Sampson County Waterways				
Greene County				
Robeson County	10/13/2022	\$357,052.00	\$357,052.00	Yes
Jones SWCD	9/22/2022	\$376,921.00	\$376,921.00	Yes
<b>Contract Canceled</b>				
Lee SWCD				
Stanly SWCD				

## StRAP- Did Not Meet 50% Goal

Organization Name	Date received 50% Encumbered Report	Total Contract	Total Encumbered	Did they reach 50% Encumbered by Feb 28th	% of Funds Encumbered	Received Letter to Commission	Delays	Progress	Timeline
Brunswick County	2/28/2023	\$394,905.00	\$8,000.00	No	2.03%	Yes	Scheduling conflicts, staffing availability limitations, County Commissioner meeting availability, long County legal review, overestimates for project work several revisions of SOW has been needed to utilize the grant funding.	Signed agreement for beaver trapping and dam removal, advertised and re-advertised have resulted in selecting bids	District staff continue to collect remainign entry permits, inform appropriate agencies and coordinate with landowners. Contract for stream debris removal work will be executed at the March 20, 2023, Board of Commissioner meeting. SOW Expected to be completed by September, 2023
Cabarrus SWCD	2/20/2023	\$258,798.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	No-rise permitting process	District is currently waitling for the no-rise permit approval	hopes to have 50% encumbered by April-May, 2023
Chatham SWCD	2/28/2023	\$256,689.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Writing, administering and managing a grant following Chatham County procedures and policies, high workload of staff	Receieved approval from Chatham County Commissioners and SWCD Board of Supervisors, working on Bid Packers and procedures with County Procurement Manager. Planned with flood plain mangers and aware of regulations and processes for working in floodplain.	April-June: publish bid request, site visits with bidders, open bid, Draft contract agreement, Legal review of contract, SWCD approval of contract, County Commissioners approval of Contract. July-Sept: Engage contractor, legal review of landowner access, flood plain permits if needed, BMAP agreements
Columbus SWCD	1/25/2023	\$500,000.00	\$223,500.20	No	44.70%	Yes	Bids came in lower than expected	ranking sights to add to SOW to use remaing funds in contract	Once ranking is complete the 5 highest ranking project will be presented to Columbus SWCD Supervisors for approval. SOW will be revised and placed out for bids.

ATTACHMENT 11

Dare SWCD	2/23/2023	\$35,710.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Death of SWCD employee	New employee beginning March 6th	finish all access permissions and finalizing the contract
Davie County Watershed Improvement Commission	2/27/2023	\$369,736.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Lack of landowner response to mailed Letter	Working to directly contact the landowners that have not responded, final negotiations with Davie County Resue Squad to have signed contract to remove debris, quotes have been obtained for repairs on PL-566.	Have signed contract with Davie County Resue Squad and they begin work
Davie SWCD	2/27/2023	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Lack of landowner response to mailed Letter	Working to directly contact the landowners that have not responded, final negotiations with Davie County Resue Squad to have signed contract to remove debris.	Have signed contract with Davie County Resue Squad and they begin work
Duplin SWCD	3/2/2023	\$1,656,157.00	\$501,896.00	No	30.30%	Yes	Permit & engineering requirements associated with PL-566 work. Additionally, High hazard dame requires an emergency action plan to be produced.	Debris removal completed on 1 section, underway on second section. Work completed on 11 small PL-566 structures.	Debris removal will be completed by late May. Have selected an engiener for repairs to dam.
Graham SWCD	2/28/2023	\$264,622.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	First bid did not receive enough bids, Bids were higher than expected	negotiated with bidder and lowered cost to be within budget, legal review is complete, anticipates contract signed March 6,2023.	Start contrution date mid-April, Completion date mid-Aug

ATTACHMENT 11

Guilford SWCD	2/17/2023	\$150,600.00	\$61,250.00	No	40.67%	Yes	Costs came in lower than expected, entire scope of work contracted.	Contract signed with Southern Disaster Recovery LLC for debris removal	Work will start by end of March, completed by April 29.
Haywood SWCD	2/27/2023	\$ 493,466.00	\$0.00	No	0%	Yes	Developing project plan	Engineering firm selected to oversee StRAP and EWP projects. Initial site surveys completed. Identifying landowners to contact for access	Develop right of access agreements, acquire permits.
Hyde SWCD	2/28/2023	\$195,000.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	PL-566 has nontraditional gate design, lack of similar examples of projects, Project will likely be over grant ward	Drawing has been developed using original as-built design. Identified several capable contractors on Hyde Counties vendors list	NRCS will review drawings, Mid-March contract contractors on Counties vendors list and advertise using State and Federal Procurement Standards. End of April: bids due. Beginning of May Vendor notified.
Johnston SWCD	2/28/2023	\$416,103.00	\$198,003.00	No	47.59%	Yes	Costs came in lower than expected, delays working through county contracting policies.	Beaver trapper hired through USDA and dam removal underway. Landowner access acquired, initial scope of work contracted on 2/17 and 2/21.	Currently contracted work will be completed by July. Additional sites will be contracted in April-May, and work will begin. Beaver removal work will continue until fall.
Lincoln County	2/28/2023	\$273,392.00		No	0.00%	Yes	County leading bidding. County process is arduous. Most of bid and contract work was out of District's hands.	Have 3 open bids on three sites,	Executed contract is expected in a month, bids will open on more sites shortly

Macon SWCD	2/20/2023	\$282,559.00	\$46,988.42	No	16.63%	Yes	Bids came in lower than expected	Phase 1- staff identify sites and secured necessary permits and access agreements. Bids were received for phase 1 work was completed and inspected beginning of Jan 2023. Working on bid packet for Phase 2. Identified two sites that will be Phase 3.	Phase 2 is to be put out of bid in late March. Meet with landowners March 9, 2023 for phase 3 sites
McDowell SWCD	2/22/2023	\$929,020.00	\$30,024.00	No	3.23%	Yes	Cost of repairing dam is expected to higher than funding level. Complete dam analysis may need to done.	Design team has completed an evaluation and alternatives analysis of Dam. Have had conversations with permitting agencies. Looking to other grant opportunities in addition to StRAP to complete this project.	Looking to other grant opportunities in addition to StRAP to complete this project.
Nash SWCD	2/28/2023	\$254,569.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Bid process delays, waiting on county finance office to authorize contract.	Bid awarded to contractor on February 20, amount over 50%. Draft contract created and forwarded to county finance office for review and approval. Contacted landowners for access.	Anticipate signing contract within several weeks. Work will start in late March.
New Hanover SWCD	3/1/2023	\$263,594.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Allocated funds to accounts before bids advertised.	Bids received on Feb 22, sent to County Finance to create contract.	Contracts will be executed in March, work will be completed within 120 days.

Orange SWCD	2/28/2023	\$60,097.00	\$4,117.31	No	6.85%	Yes	Working through county processes for starting project, gathering landowner permissions, increased beaver activity between application and selecting contractor, project work coming in lower than expected. 2 District staff retiring.	Beaver control site visit and contracting beaver removal, gained landowner access permission, preparing and advertising bid information packet, with 2 bids received 2/28.	Orange SWCD Board will review bids on 3/8. Contracted executed in April.
Rutherford County	2/20/2023	\$492,132.00	\$156,000.00	No	31.70%	Yes	Delays in receiving signed landowner access, winter weather has delayed work	2 stream segments contracted with 25,000 feet completed. 7 PL-566 projects put out for bid, due Feb 4 and contract being developed.	First dam inspection scheduled 2/27. Landowner access being acquired. Remaining debris removal completed Winter 2023.
Southeastern Drainage Office, Inc.- PL566	2/24/2023	\$2,000,000.00	\$795,000.00	No	39.75%	Yes	Engineering design and surveys required for PL-566 dam rebuild.	Engineering company contracted to oversee dam rebuild. Initial surveys completed, and work on engineering portion of project underway.	Once engineering completed, permitting will begin, then construction work will be bid.
Town of Canton	2/27/2023	\$253,125.00	\$49,865.00	No	19.70%	Yes	Changes to site conditions, issues in acquiring access from landowners and DOT, delays in town procurement process due to small staff and ongoing flood recovery efforts.	Contract with engineering firm to oversee project, mapping of debris, identification of required permits. Bids for work release on 2/22.	Bids due early March, work will be contracted in March, work beginning in April, work completed July.

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Town of Louisburg	2/28/2023	\$257,769.00	\$38,600.00	No	14.97%	Yes	Rebidding work, town hired new town manager to oversee project..	Engineering firm hired to oversee project, development of construction details, acquiring permits.	Bids will be advertised in April, with contract awarded in June. Work completed by December.
Town of Navassa	2/28/2023	\$22,800.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Major turnover in town staff, town still hiring staff to oversee project.	Request for proposals announced with deadline of February 24.	Recommendation on contractor will be made to Town council on March 6, and contractor selected March 16.
Town of Princeton	2/26/2023	\$257,006.00	\$46,300.00	No	18.02%	Yes	Changes in staff turnover, new town manager hired. Delays in project design.	Preliminary permit documentation acquired, engineering firm selected to oversee project.	Project will be bid in April, with bids due in May. Contract will be signed in June with work completed by October
Town of Rowland	2/27/2023	\$250,000.00	\$67,625.00	No	27.05%	Yes	Costs came in lower than expected, entire scope of work contracted.	Entire scope of work contracted. Scope of work revision submitted to Division to add work to project.	Preconstruction meeting scheduled for March 9, work to begin in March and be completed by May.
Town of Spencer	2/27/2023	\$280,251.00	\$0.00	No	0.00%	Yes	Costs came in lower than expected, entire scope of work contracted.	Entire scope of work contracted. Landowner access acquired.	Work will start in April once site dries, with work completed in June. Town will add additional stream segments to project.
Town of Tabor City	2/27/2023	\$276,198.00	\$50,340.00	No	18.23%	Yes	Cost came in lower than expected,	Scope of Work revision has been submitted for additional areas in order to use remaining funds, the Town has approved the award of a contract and expects to have it fully signed on 3/7/23.	Work will begin this month and completed by early May. The addition SOW will be negotiated with current contractor or bid out.



ATTACHMENT 11

Union SWCD	2/28/2023	\$318,780.00	\$51,875.00	No	16.27%	Yes	Floodplain administrator wants a no-rise on one segment, another segment is in th county system waiting on approval.	Beaver trapper will start 3/6/23, contract on one segment is on the county agenda for 3/6/23.	Complete all projects and use all funds by 12/31/24.
Watauga SWCD	2/28/2023	\$159,750.00	\$21,100.00	No	13.21%	Yes	Staff change at SWCD, delays in bidding process, low bids, several landowners have been difficult to communicate with. The counties bidding process has caused significant delays.	Bid packets and bidding out project have been worked on, obtained landowner access, ensured planned work meets local and state requirements, site visits, maps, measurements and photoes have been taken. Contract for first stream section is signed and work will begin in 2 weeks. The other two segments were bid out in Feb.	The two other segments are expected to be awarded at County board of Commissioners meeting on 3/7/23. 1st section should be complete by early May. Other two sections are to be completed by Dec of this year.
Yadkin SWCD PL566	2/27/2023	\$2,000,000.00	\$541,500.00	No	27.08%	Yes	Waiting on permits approval from NC Dam Safety and US Army Corps of Engineers.	Contract with engineering firm to oversee project to design and help through the permitting process. Test on sediment in PL-566 to determin if sediment could be removed. Finalized the design of project. Submitted permit applications to NC Dam Safety and US army Corps of Engineers-waiting on approval. Bids were advertised and due by 3/8/23.	Once Permits come in contract will be awarded within 30 days. Project is expected to be dinished mid-Nov 2023.



**Brunswick Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**10 Referendum Drive**  
**Bolivia, N.C. 28422**  
**Telephone: 910-253-2830**  
**Email: [www.co.brunswick.nc.us/swc](http://www.co.brunswick.nc.us/swc)**

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February 28, 2023

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission

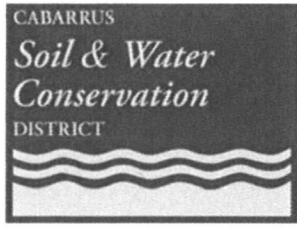
On behalf of the Brunswick Soil and Water Conservation District I would like to thank the commission for giving use the opportunity to participate in the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program. As our first time participating in the program, we have experienced some difficulties, learning curves and setbacks while implementing this project. Delays experienced have included scheduling conflicts and staffing availability limitations, County Commissioner meeting availability, and long lead times for Brunswick County Legal Review. Additionally, due to overestimates for project work, the District has made several revisions to the approved grant scope in order to fully utilize the grant funding. And in turn, extended the time of project execution.

However, progress has been made. The District has a signed agreement for beaver trapping and dam removal. We have advertised and re-advertised the request for proposals with addenda for the stream debris removal services for the project and have selected a winning bid. Further, District staff continue to collect remaining entry permits, inform appropriate agencies and coordinate with landowners.

If the commission will allow us to retain sufficient funding, the contract for stream debris removal work will be executed at the March 20, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting. The contractor will have 30 days to start and 120 days to finish the project. The current approved scope of work would be expected to be completed by September, 2023.

Sincerely,

Elliot Swain  
Brunswick SWCD Director



March 27, 2023

John Langdon, Chairman  
Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
NC Department of Agriculture  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Dear Mr. Langdon:

Cabarrus SWCD request an extension on encumbering 50% of the allocated STRAP funds. The District has been delayed with the no-rise permitting process. We have worked with the City of Concord floodplain administrator on a no-rise permit and have submitted for their review. Division Engineering staff came out and provided a no-rise certification for our permit application. The District is currently waiting for the no-rise permit approval so that we can put the project out for bid.

The District believes that we have a large project that will encumber most if not all of our funding. Once we have approval from the City on our permit, we will receive bids and select a contractor. We hope to have the 50% encumbered by the April- May timeframe.

We appreciate consideration of this request by the Commission.

Sincerely,

Daniel McClellan  
Cabarrus Soil and Water Conservation District

715 Cabarrus Ave. W.  
Room 301  
Concord, NC 28027-6214  
Telephone: 704-920-3300  
Fax: 704-795-6432

Email:

[wdmcclellan@cabarruscounty.us](mailto:wdmcclellan@cabarruscounty.us)

Website:

<https://www.cabarruscounty.us/Government/Departments/Planning-and-Development/Soil-and-Water-Conservation>

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

*Vicky Porter*  
Chair

*Jeff Goforth*  
Vice-Chair

*Tommy Porter*  
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*Daniel McClellan*  
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Specialist

*Tammi Remsburg*  
Resource Conservation  
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*Chuckie Bass*  
Resource Conservation  
Specialist

*Shelby Carroll*  
Resource Conservation  
Facsimile Specialist

*Providing Visionary Environmental Stewardship Since 1938*



---

**Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District**  
1192 US HWY64W Business - Suite 200 - Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: (919) 542-8240 - Fax: (919) 542-8267

February 28, 2023

Dear NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission,

Chatham Soil & Water Conservation District was unable to encumber 50% of our StRAP award by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

While we appreciate the opportunity to participate in a new Division program, the hurdles associated with writing, administering, and managing a grant following Chatham County government procedures and policies, along with extraordinary workloads for our staff, has held up the process. With hindsight, a less cumbersome way to implement these projects would be through your established cost share system where funds pass directly from the state to the contractor for the BMP implementation. This method would also fall under the cost share technical assistance scope of work.

We request that our award not be reallocated. If allowed, we should be able to effectively complete the scope of work by the grant deadline.

As mentioned in our quarterly reports, we have been able to execute our contract and received approval from our Chatham County Commissioners and our SWCD Board of Supervisors. We are currently working on Bid Packets and procedures with our County Procurement Manager however, it is county budget season and support staff workloads are full. We have also planned with the relevant and jurisdictional flood plain managers, and we are aware of the regulations and processes for working in the floodplain.



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**Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District**  
1192 US HWY64W Business - Suite 200 - Pittsboro, NC 27312  
Phone: (919) 542-8240 - Fax: (919) 542-8267

The primary reason for our delay is the increased workload that Chatham SWCD has seen over the past two years. Examples of recent *additional* projects and responsibilities include:

- Urgent Farmland Preservation Priorities
  - Updating our 2010 Farmland Preservation Plan (to be finalized by Dec 2023)
  - Updating Cost of Community Services
  - Establishment of Chatham Farmland Preservation & Development Trust Fund
    - \$900,000 fund established October 2022
    - SWCD & CES responsible for developing Trust Fund program
    - Establishing priorities, eligibility, and implementation of Trust Fund projects
- Waste Lagoon Closure Planning and Implementation
  - One dairy lagoon qualified for Covid relief funds
  - One dairy lagoon closure not qualified for Covid relief funds
  - One additional general permit waste lagoon closure and dry waste storage structure construction
- Regional RC&D workload from the organization's staff resignations has fallen to SWCD staff and includes management of three ongoing grants in Chatham County
- NRCS currently have no permanent staff in the county and SWCD staff are trying to ensure federal program participation and retain adequate customer relations through federal staffing transitions
- Since Covid restrictions have been lifted and in-person trainings have resumed, Chatham SWCD has hosted many partner events including:
  - Area 4 Stocktrail training
  - Area 3 Conservation Contest Judging
  - CCAP Permeable Paver Showcase
  - 2022 & 2023 Cost Share Program Training
  - Mobile Soils Classroom Training
  - NC Envirothon committee meetings
  - PCC RC&D Retreat
  - NRCS Team 10 HEL training
  - NRCS Team 10 Conservation Desktop training
  - 2022 NC School of Government Supervisor Training




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**Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District**  
 1192 US HWY64W Business - Suite 200 - Pittsboro, NC 27312  
 Phone: (919) 542-8240 - Fax: (919) 542-8267

To complete this project, our amended timeline for project with the remaining scope of work is below.

2023 2nd Quarter – If extension granted, continue bid process and contract with contractor

- Publish Request for Bid
- Site visits with bidders
- Q&A with bidders
- Bid opening
- Re-post if less than 3 bidders
- Draft contract agreement
- Legal Review of contract
- SWCD approval of contract
- Chatham County Commissioners approval of contract
- County budget amendment to reflect contract amount

2023 3rd Quarter—Landowner agreement, access agreements, flood plain permit process

- Engage contractor
- Legal review of landowner access agreement
- Flood Plain permits or exemptions
- Beaver Management Assistant Program agreements (2 sites)

2023 4th Quarter to Deadline – Initiate and complete scope of work as agreed with contractor’s schedule.

Thank you for understanding the current state of Chatham SWCD and our limitations to meet your 50% deadline with the StRAP program. We will continue to do our best to provide technical and educational assistance for your programs.

Respectfully,

Susannah Goldston

Environmental Specialist & District Director, Chatham SWCD



**Columbus County Soil and Water  
Conservation District**

45 Government Complex Rd. - Suite B - Whiteville, NC 28472-0545  
(910) 642-2196 ext. 3 - Fax (910) 642-6766

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March 02, 2023

NCDA&CS  
Division of Soil and Water Conservation  
Commission of Soil and Water  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC, 27603

Re: Columbus Soil and Water 50% Progress Reporting Period for Contract 22-080-4091.

Dear NC Soil and Water Commissioners,

The Columbus Soil and Water Conservation District (Columbus SWCD) appreciates the opportunity given to us to complete stream rehabilitation through the StRAP program offered by the Division of Soil and Water.

Our office here in Columbus County has been actively involved in stream restoration efforts set forth by the StRAP Program. We have a total of five (5) projects currently placed on the Scope of Work forms and four (4) of those jobs have been completed. The fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) project is still underway and a 25% State Inspection has been completed.

We completed the bid process on October 10, 2022 for the five (5) projects on the initial Scope of Work. The bids taken in came in lower than expected, therefore our total project costs of \$223,500.20 are lower than the 50% requirement. However, the administration cost for this project have brought our total expenditure cost closer to the 50% mark.

Staff at Columbus SWCD are currently in the process for ranking future StRAP Projects that would fall under the remaining \$258,693.74 on contract 22-080-4091. When the ranking process is complete, our staff will present the five (5) highest ranking projects to the Columbus SWCD Supervisors for approval to pursue the next round of bids. These five (5) additional jobs will be placed on a Revised Scope of Work Form and submitted to Matt Safford with the Division.

The Columbus SWCD is confident that we will be able to complete our planned StRAP Contract 22-080-4091. As a result, we would like to request that the remaining allocation amounts given to Columbus SWCD remain intact to our contract. The remaining allocations will allow us to complete much needed rehabilitation practices in areas across Columbus County.

If any questions or concerns arise, please contact the Columbus SWCD at (910) 642-2196 ext. 3

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Sarvis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James A. Sarvis  
Columbus SWCD Chairman

Soil and Water Commission,

On behalf of the Dare Co. Soil and Water board we ask you to preserve funding for our stream debris removal project. Although we are behind in the project the untimely death of our friend and employee Adam Simon left a big gap to fill. Adam had begun work on the project, bids were submitted and Lanes Environmental was chosen as low bidder. Adam was completing access permissions before the contract was signed at the time of his death.

Barton Grover the grants and waterways administrator with Dare Co Planning has continued with the project and will continue to do so as we train our new employee Charles Sanders beginning March 6<sup>th</sup>. I would assure you we (the board) will make finishing all access permissions and finalizing the contract for this a top priority. We do see this project as completable and it should move along quickly with the job now being filled. We ask the commission to please extend our deadlines and preserve our funding at this time to allow the project to be successful.

Matthew Paulson

Board Chair



Davie Soil and Water Conservation District  
277 Meroney Street, Suite 120  
Mocksville NC 27028  
Office: 336-751-5011  
Website: daviesoilandwater.com

NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-1614

**RE: Contract # 22-080-4018**

Dear Chairman:

The Davie Soil and Water Conservation District would like to request that none of the awarded funding (\$500,000) from StRAP be reallocated and that we have access to the full amount awarded.

The Davie Soil and Water Conservation District will be doing stream debris removal on Hunting Creek. In early December of 2022, the staff mailed out approximately 67 ingress and egress letters of permission. We have only received 24 responses, so we have had difficulty obtaining permission to look at blockages in Hunting Creek. We are currently trying to directly contact the landowners who have not responded by home visits and/or phone calls.

The Davie Soil and Water Conservation District is also in the final negotiation stages with the Davie County Rescue Squad (very similar to the contract that the Wilkes SWCD has with the Wilkes County Rescue Squad) to sign a contract to complete the debris removal.

Please see attached the contract proposal between the Davie SWCD and the Davie County Rescue Squad.

Sincerely,

*Frankie Singleton* (signed electronically)

Frankie Singleton, Resource Specialist  
Davie Soil and Water Conservation District

Davie County Watershed Improvement Commission  
277 Meroney Street, Suite 120  
Mocksville NC 27028  
Office: 336-751-5011  
Website: daviesoilandwater.com

NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh NC 27699-1614

**RE: Contract # 22-080-1020**

Dear Chairman:

The Davie County Watershed Improvement Commission would like to request that none of the awarded funding (\$369,736) from StRAP be reallocated and that we have access to the full amount awarded.

The Davie County Watershed Improvement Commission will be doing stream debris removal on Hunting Creek, as well as repair work on PL-566 structures in Davie County. In early December of 2022, the staff mailed out approximately 67 ingress and egress letters of permission. We have only received 24 responses, so we have had difficulty obtaining permission to look at blockages in Hunting Creek. We are currently trying to directly contact the landowners who have not responded by home visits and/or phone calls.

The Davie County Watershed Improvement Commission is also in the final negotiation stages with the Davie County Rescue Squad (very similar to the contract that the Wilkes SWCD has with the Wilkes County Rescue Squad) to sign a contract to complete the debris removal. Quotes have been obtained by a separate contractor to complete the needed repairs on the PL-566 structures also.

Please see attached the contract proposal between the Davie SWCD and the Davie County Rescue Squad, as well as the quotes for the repairs of the PL-566 structures.

Sincerely,

*Frankie Singleton* (signed electronically)

Frankie Singleton, Resource Specialist  
Davie Soil and Water Conservation District



March 2, 2023

Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation

DuPlin Soil & Water Conservation applied and received funding through both StRAP and the USDA/NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Programs.

We are currently in Stage I (Assessment Stage) We have obtained an engineer for the Assessment. We are unsure at this time how much the repairs will be for the dam.

The Cabin Lake Dam PL — 566 last NC State inspection categorized this dam as HIGH HAZZARD. We are now required to produce a current EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN.

The available funding for Strap funds under scope of work under PL — 566 Cabin Lake Dam Watershed is \$696,157.00. We plan to use this funding for the both the dam assessment and the Emergency Action Plan.

To date with the StRAP funds, we have completed a maintenance contract on Limestone and Muddy Creeks and a Stream Debris Removal Project on Limestone Creek.

We have a contractor currently working on Muddy Creek. The completion date is set for May 28, 2023.

We are in the process of our annual watershed inspections. During these inspections, we will determine if more work needs to be contracted on our watershed and if additional streams in the county need debris removal. We are confident we can utilize the remaining funding.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Safford", is written over a faint, light blue circular watermark or seal.



*Graham County Board of County Commissioners*

*12 North Main Street  
Robbinsville, NC 28771*

*Jacobi Nelms  
Chairman*

*Natasha Williams  
Vice-Chairman*

*Lynn Cody  
Member*

*Phone: 828-479-7961  
Fax: 828-479-7988*

*Keith Eller  
Member*

*Connie Orr  
Member*

*Kim Crisp  
Clerk to the Board  
Interim County Manager*

To: NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation Commission

Subj.: StRAP Contract # 22-080-4138

Graham County respectfully requests that none of the StRAP award for the contract referenced in the subject line be reallocated and that Graham County is granted continued access to the full award amount.

Graham County bid the Little Snowbird EWP project for the second time on June 16, 2022, after not receiving enough bids to open from the first bid attempt. Pursuant to NC General Statutes the bid was opened and found to be in excess of the Engineers estimate and budget amount. Graham County entered into negotiations with the lowest responsive bidder to try and value engineer and/or de-scope the project in order to bring the cost within budget. After extensive negotiations Graham County was able to get the cost down and bring into budget. With negotiations taking longer than anticipated we conducted a legal review to make sure we can continue and award a contract. The legal review is complete, Graham County is currently reviewing the Notice of Award (NOA), Notice to Proceed (NTP), construction documents and contract with an anticipated issue date for the NOA the week of March 06, 2023. Graham County anticipates a timeline as follows: after the NOA is issued an NTP will be issued on April 17, 2023, with a substantial completion date of August 18, 2023.

Graham County fully intends to complete this StRAP project.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Crisp".

Kim Crisp  
Interim County Manager  
Clerk to the Board



**GUILFORD SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3309 Burlington Road, Greensboro, NC 27405 Phone: 336-641-2440 Fax: 336-641-2441

DATE: February 28, 2023

TO: North Carolina Soil & Water Commission

RE: StRAP- Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program- Guilford County

Dear Commission Members,

The Guilford County Soil & Water Conservation District request that the remaining funds (\$89,350.00) be reallocated. Guilford County received \$ 150,600.00. The contract that was awarded was for \$61,250.00. Guilford County received 5 bids, ranging from \$15,000.00 to \$132,528.00.

Please see the following time line:


- 12-29-22 Guilford County StRAP committee selected Contractor.
- 12-29-22 Recommendation letter sent to Guilford County Purchasing Department.
- 1-13-23 Sent to County MWBE (Minority and Women Business Enterprises) for Compliance.
- 2-09-23 Contract signed by Guilford County Finance.
- 2-10-23 Contract signed by Guilford Country Manager's Office.
- 2-14-23 Contract signed by Alvie McClaran VP of Civil Construction Services, Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC.
- 2-14-23 Fully executed contract received from Guilford County.
- 2-17-23 Sent Matt Safford and Heather Reichert 50% progress report and signed contract.

Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC and Pride Contracting Inc. will begin work in the next 30 days. The projected date to be completed is April 29, 2023.

Sincerely,

  
George Teague, Chair  
Guilford SWCD

  
Josh Myers, Vice-Chair  
Guilford SWCD

  
Gary Cox, District Tech.  
Guilford SWCD



---

**Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District**  
589 Raccoon Road, Suite 203      Waynesville, NC 28786  
(828) 452-2741 Ext. 3

Date: 2/27/23

To: NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission

The Haywood Soil and Water Conservation District requests that none of our funds is reallocated and that we continue to have access to our full award amount. Haywood County has contracted with McGill and Associates to manage design, bidding, construction oversight, and payment close out forms for all of Haywood County's debris removal projects. This includes NRCS EWP funds as well as NC OEM funds received because of Tropical Storm Fred. This Project includes over 60 stream reaches and several miles of streams. We have completed and shared with McGill a GIS database of all project maps, coordinates, and BMPs for each site. McGill has completed initial site surveys for over 75% of our total project. Our next steps include right of entry agreements, designs, and permits. It is important that our debris removal occur in a correct order within the Watershed. We want to start upstream and work down so debris is not moving into completed stretches while we work. We have included a Project Schedule that has been completed by McGill.

Our contract amount with McGill reflects the first phase of the Project. We did not break down the contract by the various funding sources. If there are further questions, please let us know.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Vanhook".

Duane Vanhook  
Haywood Soil and Water  
District Director

# HYDE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Hyde Government Center • P.O. Box 264 • Swan Quarter, NC 27885  
Phone: (252) 926-4195 • Fax: (252) 926-3705

February 28th, 2023

North Carolina Soil & Water Commission

Reference: Hyde SWCD StRAP Contract #22-080-4111

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for Supporting our District with Funding through StRAP,

This funding will be used to replace and improve 30 year old tide gates on the West Quarter PL566 dike which is part of the Swan Quarter Dike System. The Dike System protects 11,000 acres, hundreds of homes, multiple businesses', and a majority of critical infrastructure within Hyde County.

This Project has been very challenging. The delay is because of the uniqueness of the infrastructure, the nontraditional gate design, loss of previous vendors and lack of similar examples of projects to glean from as examples. We have finally reached a point where we are ready to procure a contractor to perform the stated work.

With the Drawings developed and use of the original as-built drawings from 1989-1992 we have developed a Request for Proposals to be advertised. This RFP will be provided to NRCS for review as they hold a 50 year easement on the dike system. We have pre identified several capable contractors on Hyde Counties vendors list that will be notified of the RFP. The RFP will also be advertised using State and Federal Procurement Standards including outreach to Women and Minority owned Businesses.

It is likely that the Scope of the project will yield bids in excess of the \$195,000.00 grant award. If this is the case it will be possible and likely that the Hyde SWCD and Hyde County will fund the remaining balance through the West Quarter Service District Operations and Maintenance Fund.

The following is the timeline proposed.

- 3-15-2023 RFP Issued
- 4-14-2023 Pre-proposal Conference
- 4-18-2023 Deadline for Written Questions
- 4-21-2023 Addenda Posted
- 4-28-2023 Proposal Due Date
- 5-1-2023 Consideration by the Hyde SWCD and Hyde County. (Joint or concurrent meeting)
- 5-2-2023 Vendors are notified of award decision.
- 6-1-2023 Contract term begins.

**Board of Supervisors:** J.W. Spencer • Daren Hubers • Earl O'Neal • Demock Mann • Chad Spencer

*"Soil and Water, Yours for Life"*

## HYDE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Hyde Government Center • P.O. Box 264 • Swan Quarter, NC 27885  
Phone: (252) 926-4195 • Fax: (252) 926-3705

This Gate Replacement project is unique and challenging and the District is working to ensure this funding is used most effectively and efficiently. We understand we have failed to meet the 50% encumbering requirement of the grant, but because of the challenges this project presents we ask that the Commission not reallocate this funding and allow us to continue to have access to the full award amount.

Thank you for your Consideration,

Daniel Brinn, Hyde County Flood Control, NCACSP Tech.

J. W. Spencer, Chairman



**Board of Commissioners**

Earl Pugh, Jr., Chair  
Shannon Swindell Vice-Chair  
Benjamin Simmons, III  
Randal Mathews  
Jan Moore

# COUNTY OF HYDE

30 Oyster Creek Road  
PO Box 188  
SWAN QUARTER, NORTH CAROLINA 27885  
252-926-4400  
252-926-3701 Fax

ATTACHMENT 11

Kris Cahoon Noble  
County Manager

Franz Holscher  
County Attorney

Richard Mann  
Clerk to the Board



February 28th, 2023

North Carolina Soil & Water Commission

Reference : Hyde SWCD StRAP Contract #22-080-4111

Dear Commission Members,

First I would like to express my thanks to you for the support over many years, Hyde County has been the beneficiary of a considerable amount of post disaster funding from storms including Isabel, Irene, Matthew, and Florence/Dorian. The work that has been completed through those projects has been immense and invaluable.

The Hyde Soil & Water Conservation District currently has funding through StRAP to perform gate replacements on the West Quarter Service District which is part of the Swan Quarter Dike System. This system is very critical to Hyde County and protects hundreds of homes, multiple businesses, and many county facilities including the Hyde County Government Center and Public Safety Center.

This Gate Replacement project is unique and challenging and the District and County are working to ensure this funding is used most effectively and efficiently. I understand that the funding being as of yet unencumbered fails to meet the requirement of the grant, but because of the challenges this project presents I implore the Commission to not reallocate this funding and allow us to continue to have access to the full award amount.

Thank you for your Consideration,

Kris Noble, Hyde County Manager



## JOHNSTON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

736 NC Highway 210 • Smithfield, North Carolina 27577 • (919) 934-7156 ext. 3 • Fax (919) 989-5659

February 28, 2023

Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Subject: StRAP Progress Report

Dear Soil and Water Conservation Commission,

Thank you for the **\$416,103** in funding received by Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District to carry out StRAP priorities. We believe that we have a very effective plan of action in Johnston County. Johnston SWCD will be slightly under the 50 percent obligation target on February 28, 2023. We have had some delays (outlined in the 28 February StRAP Report, attached) working through the County contracting policies. However, our first five projects have come in well under our cost estimates owing to our current status of fund obligation less than our projected 50 percent. As a result of available fund balance, staff now will be working on our next three stream debris removal projects.

Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District *requests* that all funds awarded to our county not be reallocated. We will easily have these funds contracted for priority work items.

### **Work Items Encumbered to Date**

#### **Priority - Stream Debris Removal (Encumbered total \$78,885)**

Middle Creek at Raleigh Road – Approximately 950 feet upstream contracted for \$12,495

Vendor: Hall American Property Pros LLC

Little River at NC Highway 39 – Approximately 1200 feet downstream contracted for \$17,640

Vendor: Hall American Property Pros LLC

Little River at NC Highway 96 – Approximately 1200 feet downstream contracted for \$16,800

Vendor: CCIR LLC

Page 1 of 3

John M. Langdon  
7728 Raleigh Road  
Benson, NC 27504

Charles D. Hill  
356 Wiggs Road  
Selma, NC 27576

J. Dennis Durham Jr.  
337 Jackson Road  
Four Oaks, NC 27524

Dewitt Hardee  
7325 Elevation Road  
Benson, NC 27504

Donald E. Rogers  
2040 Dove Lane  
Clayton, NC 27527

*Yours for Life*

Black Creek at Federal Road – Approximately 1750 downstream contracted for \$15,750

Vendor: CCIR LLC

Little Creek at Rains Crossroad (Road) – Approximately 1800 feet upstream for \$16,200

Vendor: CCIR LLC

**Priority - Hire Beaver Trapper** dedicated to Johnston County through the USDA -Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service (APHIS) Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP). On 8/22/22 a contract was executed for **\$119,118** with the USDA-APHIS BMAP to hire the trapper (Nick Ryan). The trapper's salary will be paid for one year with StRAP funds. The intent is for Johnston County to provide for the trapper's salary at the end of the StRAP grant funding.

Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District staff identified stream reaches with high water due to beaver dams in the streams. Sites visible to the public were strategically chosen for our first phase of beaver trapping and dam removal. The initial sites include reaches of: Sasserixa Swamp, Pole Branch, Hannah Creek, Little Creek, Burnt Stocking Branch, reach of Buffalo Creek, and a small tributary at the NCSU Agricultural Research Farm at Clayton.

Nick Ryan, Wildlife Specialist was hired the end of September 2022 and began training. As of February 24, 2023, Mr. Ryan has trapped 141 beaver, removed 20 dams by hand and used explosives to remove 4 dams.

**Priority – Moccasin Creek Watershed Project (streambank stabilization)**

Initially an amount of \$40,000 was set aside for streambank stabilization on this 22-mile constructed existing drainage project built in the 1960s. The District secured a grant in 2021-2022 to provide a preliminary engineering study to better plan a multi-year stabilization effort at Moccasin Creek. As a result of this engineering study, there are now 8 project sites (as a first phase) within the 22-mile project in design stage at the present time using an existing grant other than StRAP. The intent is to contract these 8 sites for construction in an April-May 2023 timeline this spring. The \$40,000 from StRAP may be used along with existing grant funding depending on the amounts of the construction bids. If the \$40,000 isn't needed for construction on the 8 sites, then funds could be added back to other stream debris removal projects.

**Current Work on Stream Debris Removal Projects**

Staff are working on developing projects to remove woody debris from three more projects. A modification to the Scope of Work will be forthcoming.

**Project 1 – Swift Creek at Swift Creek Road 2900 feet downstream** - Project has the two landowners in agreement. Three bids have been received but the project is in delay as a Wetland Mitigation Easement has been discovered that could affect access to the project. Staff is working with easement holders to determine whether the project can proceed. Project low bid is \$24,900

**Project 2 – Little River between NC 42 and NC 39, 2000 feet** – Project has three landowners in agreement. Formal written approvals for access are in the process at the present time. Project Estimate is \$16,000

**Project 3 – Middle Creek at Jackson King Road** – The project could be 500 feet. Project Estimate \$12,500

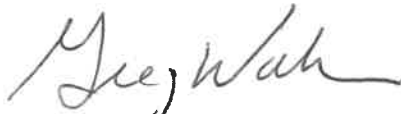
**Timeline of StRAP Moving Toward Completion**

It is anticipated that the above-mentioned stream debris removal projects could easily be added to the work under contract and completed by June 30, 2023. Additional projects will be developed until all funds are obligated. After the initial bid reception of the first five projects, staff is better able to estimate costs moving forward.

Beaver Trapping with BMAP will continue as this has proven to be very popular with our landowners. Staff believes that over 75% of our streams in Johnston County are adversely affected by beaver activity. Therefore, work to remove beaver and remove dams likely is the most effective strategy to improve stream flow and reduce potential flooding. The District has sent approximately 150 letters to landowners to assist the BMAP Trapper. Only three landowners have elected not to participate.

If there are questions about the Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District Report, please contact me at 919 934 7156 x3.

Sincerely,



Greg Walker

Director

cc: Johnston SWCD Board of Supervisors

# StreamFlow Assistance Progress Report

**Due NO LATER than February 28, 2023**

Grantee Name: Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District

Person completing report: Greg Walker

## SECTION 1: FINANCIAL REPORTING

Amount of Contract: \$416,103.00

Amount of funds encumbered by contracts: \$ 198,003.00

Does this amount equal 50%?                      YES                      NO

- If you answered **yes**, complete section 2 and 3 of this report.
- If you answered **no**, completed section 2 and 4 of this report.

## SECTION 2: CONTRACT INFORMATION

For **each** contract provide the following information:

- Name and address of contractor CCIR, LLC 75 Gibson Dairy Rd, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
- Amount of contract: \$ 15,750.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Stream debris removal at Black Creek at Federal Road
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?  
    YES                      NO  
       \*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred. Board approved 1/12/23
- Date contract signed 2/20/23
- Contract Number Black Creek at Federal Road
- When is work expected to begin? 3/3/23
  
- Name and address of contractor CCIR, LLC 75 Gibson Dairy Rd, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
- Amount of contract: \$ 16,200.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Stream debris removal
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?  
    YES                      NO  
       \*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred. Board approved 1/12/23
- Date contract signed 2/20/23
- Contract Number Little Creek at Rains Crossroads
- When is work expected to begin? 3/3/23

- Name and address of contractor CCIR, LLC 75 Gibson Dairy Rd, Elizabethtown, NC 28337
- Amount of contract: \$ 16,800.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Stream debris removal
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?

YES                      NO

\*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred. Board approved 1/12/23

- Date contract signed 2/20/23
- Contract Number Little River at NC Highway 96
- When is work expected to begin? 3/3/23

- Name and address of contractor: Hall American Property Pros, LLC
- Amount of contract: \$ 17,640.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Stream debris removal
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?

YES                      NO

\*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred. Board approved 1/12/23

- Date contract signed 2/21/23
- Contract Number Little River at NC Highway 39
- When is work expected to begin? 3/3/23

- Name and address of contractor: Hall American Property Pros, LLC
- Amount of contract: \$ 12,495.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Stream debris removal
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?

YES                      NO

\*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred. Board approved 1/12/23

- Date contract signed 2/21/23
- Contract Number Middle Creek at Raleigh Rd.
- When is work expected to begin? 3/3/23

- Name and address of contractor: United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services
- Amount of contract: \$ 119,118.00
- Contribution to project (brief description of what work they will complete) Beaver and beaver dam removal
- Did a Council/Committee/Commission have to provide approval for the contract?

YES                      NO

\*\*If yes, provide the date this occurred.

- Date contract signed 08/22/22
- Contract Number WS Agreement Number: 22-7237-5630-RA
- When is work expected to begin? September 26 2022

**SECTION 3: PROGRESS REPORT**  
**(If 50% goal has been met)**

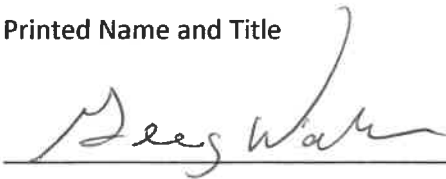
*Provide a detailed update on all work that has been completed since contracts with NCDA&CS have been signed. This should be a very detailed report that provides the commission with information about the work that is being done to advance the project.*

By signing the report below, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the report is true, complete and all expenditures reported are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the subaward documents.

Greg Walker, Director 2/ / 2023

Printed Name and Title

Date



Signature

**SECTION 4: Progressing toward 50% goal****(If 50% goal has NOT been met)**

*If you have been unable to secure the required contracts, please provide the reasons why this has occurred and what is being done to move the project forward. Provide details on the next steps and information on when you expect to meet the 50% of award under contract requirement.*

Once the district was informed of the receipt of the StRAP grant, staff began work in identifying locations that had stream debris and chose thirteen sites. The staff reviewed with Emergency Management and choose the top 5 priority sites. These sites are known for frequent flooding in heavy rain events. The staff also identified stream reaches with high water due to beaver dams in the streams. These are marked on the attached map. The staff began to contact each landowner at the sites for verbal consent and set the linear feet of channel proposed for repair on each site. On 7/28/22 parcel maps were sent to County Attorney for top project sites for her to draft the Right of Access for landowners who gave verbal approval. The first change in the Scope of Work (SOW) was 8/2/22 due to lack of landowner support in some areas.

BMAP contract signed 8/22/22. The Johnston SWCD staff and wildlife officer sent more than 150 letters to landowners with return addressed stamped envelopes requesting a signed USDA APHIS Form 12A for work initiation for wildlife damage management. Wildlife Specialist, Nick Ryan began training on September 26, 2022.

After following up on numerous with the County Attorney, staff received the drafts of Right of Access on 10/10/22. Staff then revisited landowners for their signatures on the Right of Access permissions to have access and/or to have access/debris for those parcels. Bid proposals were sent to County Attorney for approval 11/8/22. The final bid proposal draft was approved County Attorney on 11/29/22. Planned for site showing on 12/14/22 with rain date of 12/26/22.

A revised SOW was emailed to Heather Reichert at the Division 11/22/22 which increased the linear feet of channel proposed for repair in Black Creek at Federal Rd. A revised SOW was sent to Division on 12/5/22 which increased Little River at NC 96.

On 12/10/22 The five bid packets were sent to Johnston County Finance for posting on the County site. These were posted on 12/14/22. The site showing was set for 12/14/22 but had to be moved to 12/29/22. Bid proposals were due 01/10/23 but changed due to Annual NCASWCD meeting to 01/12/23.

On 1/12/23 The Johnston Soil and Water Conservation District board voted for staff to check references, once all are checked and in good standing, the lowest bid for each project will be accepted and the company with the winning bid contacted. Staff will communicate information relevant to the bids with the County Attorney in order to complete the bid award process. Once complete, the bid tabulations were completed by County Finance and vendors awarded contracts were notified.

On 1/30/23 estimated costs were changed on SOW to reflect the bid proposals costs received on 1/12/23 for each project site. Staff began working on land owner approval for the next project site. Swift Creek at Swift Creek Road is next project. It was discovered the NCDOT has a conservation easement and DOT Engineers will meet with District Director on the morning of 2/28/23 to discuss the project and answer any questions. Once written approval is received, this project will move forward.

As of 2/24/23 the wildlife officer has removed 141 beaver, 20 plus dams removed by hand and 4 with explosives.

Contracts signed by vendors on 2/17/23 and another on 2/21/23. The vendors were to send Certificates of Insurance and Certificate of Worker Compensation coverage, and Performance and Payment Bonds for each project. Once received on 2/24/2023, the contracts with Certificate of Insurance, Workers Compensation and Performance and Payment Bonds were taken to County Finance Purchasing Agent who approved on 2/27/23, then taken to County Attorney who approved 2/28/23. Then taken to Finance Director for preaudit approval on 2/28/23. Awaiting return from County Finance.

By signing the report below, I certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the report is true, complete and all expenditures reported are for appropriate purposes and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the subaward documents.

*Greg Walker*

Printed Name and Title

Date

*Greg Walker*

2/28/2023

Signature





Lincoln County Soil and  
Water Conservation  
District  
115 W. Main Street,  
Lincolnton, NC 28092

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center,  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614  
StRAP

Commission Members,

Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting an extension to our StRAP encumbrance deadline. Currently, we are working with our county to sign a contract with a bidder for the stream debris grant. However, we have found this process to be somewhat arduous given that we have never sent a bid through the county, resourced for bids with a purchasing agent, or tried to meet the General Statutes on open bid laws in North Carolina. Given this information and the fact that most of the bid and contract work was out of the District's hands has put us behind schedule on contracting half of the allotted money.

Despite the setbacks, the Lincoln SWCD staff and Lincoln County have worked diligently to get the project going. The Lincoln SWCD Board have greatly supported the program as well, even holding an emergency board meeting so that funds could be applied for. We understand that 50% of the total amount was supposed to be encumbered by this time, and we acknowledge that we have not yet been able to reach that point. We ask that the Commission grant us an extension so that we can continue with a project that is very close to reaching an inflection point. If an extension is not possible and funds must be removed or garnished, we ask that we be able to retain some of the funding so that we can clean out the three sites we have already identified and have open bids on. The three landowners are very excited about the program and have generously opened their farms to us, so if funding changes, our top priority is still those sites.

We expect to have an executed contract within the month from the contractor and county at the next County Commissioners meeting. Additionally, we will have bids opened again to encumber the remaining amount. Thank you for your consideration in moving forward with this grant. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to call or email me any time at (828) 448-1802 or [ecrawley@lincolncounty.org](mailto:ecrawley@lincolncounty.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Crawley".

**Evan Crawley**-Director  
Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District





February 28, 2023

John Langdon  
NCSWCC Chair

Dear Mr. Langdon,

We are writing this letter in order to strongly express our desire that the Commission not reallocate any of Macon County's remaining StRAP funding. Macon County was originally awarded \$282,559 in StRAP funding on July 26, 2022. Since that time, Macon SWCD staff has been working diligently to encumber these funds. Macon SWCD chose to do its first round of projects (Macon StRAP Phase 1) on County owned property with public access benefits. Staff worked to identify sites and secure necessary permits and access agreements and a request for bids for Phase 1 was sent out in late October. A project site showing was held November 3, 2022. Three contractors attended and all three submitted bids. Macon SWCD had anticipated a low bid in the range of \$70,000 to \$90,000. Actual bids received ranged from a high bid of \$135,960 to a low bid of \$24,950. The low bid of \$24,950 was accepted and the contract for Phase 1 was awarded to Parrish Contracting, LLC. As a result of storm events occurring after the original request for bids was issued, contract change orders were necessary and the final contract amount was \$37,869. Phase 1 encompassed over 1.4 miles of stream reach and was officially completed on January 9, 2023 and inspected by Division staff on January 11, 2023. The \$37,869 spent plus \$9,734.98 contracted for fence replacement brings the total StRAP funding encumbered to date by Macon County to \$47,603.98.

We realize that this amount falls short of the 50% encumbrance requirement set for February 28, 2023 but we feel that Macon SWCD has been diligent in attempting to encumber as much funding as possible by this deadline. In other words, the shortfall is not due in any way to lack of effort. The main reason for the shortfall is that the low bid for Phase 1 came in well below contract estimates. This is beyond our control and in fact, might be considered a good problem to have as it will potentially allow us to clear more stream reach of debris than we had originally anticipated. In addition to Phase 1 being completed, Macon SWCD staff is currently working on the bid packet for Phase 2 and this part of the project is slated to be put out for bid in late March. Additionally, at least two sites have been identified as potential Phase 3 projects and staff is scheduled to meet with landowners March 9, 2023 to begin laying the groundwork for that part of the project.

We are providing the above detail – perhaps more detail than the Commission has requested – in order to demonstrate that Macon County is serious in its commitment to implement this valuable program and to assure the Commission that it will do everything in its power to have the total of its StRAP funding expended within the terms and deadlines established in its contract with NCDA&CS.

Thank you for your time in considering our sincere request that the Commission leave Macon County's StRAP funding unaltered in order that we may continue this important work. If you

need further information feel free to contact Doug Johnson, Macon SWCD District Director, at (828) 349-2044 or by email at [djohnson@maconnnc.org](mailto:djohnson@maconnnc.org).

Sincerely,



Melinda James

Board Chair

Macon SWCD

## Memo

**To:** Matthew Stafford and Heather Reichert, Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program

**From:** Jonathan Hinkle, PE, Southeast Director of Environmental Engineering and Environmental Services

**Subject:** Muddy Creek – Lowder Dam Improvements and Trash Rack Evaluation

**Date:** February 27th, 2023

**Project:** FLA-2200815.00 – Muddy Creek Lowder Dam Improvements

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Ms. Reichert and Mr. Stafford,

The design team has completed an evaluation and alternatives analysis for the Lowder Dam Improvements Project. At this point, the opinion of probable cost far outweighs the funding level provided by the Division. The alternative analysis included a debris barrier, modifications to the outlet structure, and rehabilitation. During conversations with the permitting agencies, it became apparent that a complete dam analysis would be required if significant improvements were made to the structural components. At this time, we are working through options and looking to other grant opportunities in addition to the StRAP program in order to complete this project. We request full access to the funds and that the Division remains committed to the full funding level of this project. Should other funds become available, McDowell County would like to be considered. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. We thank you for the opportunity to partner with you on this project and look forward to working with you as we proceed.

Thank you,



Jonathan Hinkle, PE

Southeast Director of Environmental Engineering and Environmental Services

[jhinkle@gpinet.com](mailto:jhinkle@gpinet.com)

910.663.4123 (O)

910.596.1003 (C)



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**NASH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

1006 Eastern Avenue • Room 107 Ag. Center Drive • Nashville, NC 27856 • (252) 459-4116 Ext. 3

NC Soil & Water Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

Dear Commission Members,

The Nash Soil & Water Conservation District respectfully requests that the Commission not reallocate any of our Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) award.

The county has recently awarded the bid to Hall American Pros, LLC. A contract has been developed and forwarded to the county finance office for review and approval. We are waiting for the authorization to obtain the signatures of all parties on the contract, this is anticipated to be complete within the next week. Once all parties have signed the contract, we anticipate the contractor to begin within the next ten working days.

The District is in the process of developing maps and supporting information to use for the next section of the allocated funds. Within the next few months, we hope to obtain a contractor for this.

The Nash Soil & Water Conservation District will be able to complete the planned StRAP projects by December 31, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Joe Fisher", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bobby Joe Fisher  
Chairman

---

**Bobby Joe Fisher**  
Chairman

**Robert Glover**  
Vice Chairman

**Parker Phillips**  
Board Treasurer

**Shawn Lucas**  
Board Member

**Brent Manning**  
Board Member



**ENGINEERING**  
**STORMWATER SERVICES**

230 Government Center Drive, Suite 160, Wilmington, NC 28403  
P: (910) 798-7139 | F: (910) 798-7051 | NHCgov.com

**Jim Iannucci, PE, CFM**, County Engineer

March 3, 2023

N.C. Division of Soil & Water  
Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

**Via Email: [matt.safford@ncagr.gov](mailto:matt.safford@ncagr.gov)**

RE: StRAP Funding 50% Goal

Members of the Conservation Commission,

Thank you for selecting New Hanover County to receive funding to perform debris removal in our streams and creeks. We understand that one of the requirements listed in the agreement for this funding was to have fifty percent (50%) of the funds encumbered by February 28, 2023. New Hanover County was not able to achieve this for the reasons stated below in this letter. However, we have made substantial progress, and we have a timeline and plan to complete our project which we will also address in this letter. We ask that none of our awarded funding is reallocated, and that we continue to have access to the full award amount.

To date, New Hanover County has obtained access by means of easement or right-of-entry to approximately 75% of the properties for the project, and we have notified the remaining property owners to request access. New Hanover County does have an established ordinance related to these matters that requires private property owners to address drainage related matters if they elect to deny access to New Hanover County to perform drainage maintenance. If a property owner does deny access, we will promptly request that they perform the necessary work at the private property owner's expense. As a result, access is not expected to hinder the project moving forward. Additionally, New Hanover County has completed all bid packages associated with the work, received bids for all pieces of the work (2/22/2023), opened and reviewed the bids (2/23/2023), and is actively engaging in the contracting process to enter into contract with the awarded contractors.

We have not experienced any delays or challenges in implementing the project. We have been working through our internal processes and procedures related to implementing grant funding and our procurement process. We do apologize that we were not able to meet the February

deadline. However, this process was accounted for in the project timeline that was provided as part of our grant funding application, and we have been able to maintain the dates anticipated with that timeline. We do not anticipate any delays moving forward. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we anticipate that contracts will be executed with the awarded contractors by the end of March 2023.

Our timeline and plan for moving forward to complete this project is as follows. We plan to have contracts executed and notice to proceed issued to contractors in late March 2023. Contractors will have 120 days to complete the work. As a result, we anticipate that all work associated with the project will be completed by July 2023. New Hanover County will then request final inspections, prepare final reports and final reimbursement requests, and then request closure of the project.

We would like to point out that New Hanover County's funding agreement includes funding for \$263,594.00. The bids received to complete the scope of work for this project come to a total of \$128,850.00. This leaves \$134,744 remaining that is beyond the scope of work listed in the agreement. At this time, we are requesting that all funds remain allocated with New Hanover County to account for any change orders that may arise during completion of the project. However, the current project consists of a revised scope of work when compared to New Hanover County's original grant application. If considered favorable to the Commission, once the current project is complete, we would like to request permission to revisit the original scope of work that was requested in our grant application and pursue additional eligible scope of work items so long as the work can be completed prior the end of the effective contract period.

Thank you for consideration of our request, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy Lowe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Timothy Lowe, PE  
Chief Project Engineer – Stormwater Services  
New Hanover County

Cc: Dru Harrison – NHC Soil & Water Conservation Director  
Jim Iannucci – County Engineer  
File



NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

March 1, 2023

Dear NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Orange Soil and Water Conservation District (Orange SWCD) Board in regards to the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program. Orange SWCD was unable to meet the 50% award encumbrance deadline on 2/28/23 due to multiple challenges. We are requesting that none of the \$60,097 award is reallocated and that we continue to have access to the full award amount.

Orange SWCD has made great strides towards encumbering StRAP funds. Work to date has included:

- Submitting an updated StRAP Scope of Work to the Division.
- Multiple discussions with Division staff for program requirements.
- Obtaining Orange County BOCC approval for a budget amendment for StRAP funds
- Learning and following county processes to execute the StRAP contract with NCDA&CS prior to the deadline.
- Meetings with Orange County Planning to discuss permitting requirements.
- Navigating a new program in Orange County, the Beaver Management Assistance Program, conducting a site evaluation at two sites for beaver management services, approving a cost-share agreement of \$625, and coordinating beaver trapping and partial dam removal services by February 2023.
- Compiling a list of potential debris removal contractors.
- Preparing a landowner permission agreement form to conduct StRAP (and StRAP-related beaver management work) on private property, obtaining approval for use from the County Attorney's Office, and executing three landowner agreements.
- Finalizing a purchase order for debris removal services at one StRAP site for \$3,492.31 with implementation planned for late March-April 2023.
- Preparing a bid information packet and contacting five contractors and coordinating a walk-through with three contractors at two sites on 2/21/23. Two estimates have been received as of 2/28/23, with a third estimate anticipated.

The following challenges have caused delays in encumbering additional StRAP funds by the deadline:

- Orange SWCD has not participated in debris removal projects prior to StRAP, and there are multiple county processes that require time to navigate.
- The landowner permission agreement form took longer than anticipated to draft and finalize. The agreement is required prior to contracting and providing services.





- One site required beaver management work first in order to obtain a debris removal quote due to high water levels, especially with continued rain in the winter.
- Another site did not initially require beaver management work, but there were beavers on-site this winter and the water levels increased, resulting in the same delay outlined above.
- Both the purchase order for debris removal services and the BMAP services that have been encumbered were lower in cost than anticipated.
- Two senior technical staff retired from Orange SWCD in January 2023. There is one technical staff member available for all of the District's active projects until new staff start work on 3/13/23 and 3/27/23, respectively.

The Orange SWCD Board plans to review estimates for two StRAP sites at their Board meeting on 3/8/23. Orange SWCD has obtained an example StRAP contract from another applicant to assist in expediting the contracting process. Orange SWCD anticipates contractor selection and contract execution by the end of April 2023, which would then meet the 50% encumbrance requirement. With an approved contract, Orange SWCD plans to work with the contractor to schedule implementation, with the provision that dry weather is critical.

Orange SWCD will be able to complete the planned StRAP projects with the approval of an extension for the 50% encumbrance deadline. Thank you for your consideration, especially on behalf of the landowners that our District is working with for our StRAP projects.

Sincerely,

Clay Parker  
Chairman  
Orange Soil and Water Conservation District Board

March 1, 2023

Dear Soil and Water Commission,

Rutherford County has been hard at work working on the StRAP project. While we have not met the 50% mark for the project, we have been working diligently to meet the complete December 31, 2024, Deadline. We have signed contracts with Suttles Trucking and Grading for both Cleghorn Creek and Cathy's Creek. Work on Cleghorn is almost complete with 21,000 LF that has already been inspected and 4,000 LF that is still left to inspect. Twelve blockages were removed as well as 20 loads of debris hauled away from Cleghorn Creek. Work on Cathy's Creek has not started but is anticipated to start as soon as they complete Cleghorn. We worked to send out right of entry contracts to all landowners that lived along Cleghorn creek and waited until most of them had been returned to start work. We already have the right of entry completed for Cathy's creek.

We opened a request of proposal from January 9<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup> for watershed structures. We are in the process of waiting on engineering quotes from the selected engineering firm. At this time, we do not have a contract but believe that we will be able to move forward quickly. We plan to have contract signed for watershed dams as soon as we hear back from them and then allow them to start work. We still have Robinson Creek and Cove Creek that need to have contracts signed and are planning to have remaining contracts signed with Suttles Trucking and Grading in late Fall of 2023. This winter has been very rainy and has been a hindrance to how much times was spent on cleaning the



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Bryan King, *Chairman* Alan Toney, *Vice Chairman* Michael Benfield David Hunt Greg Lovelace  
Steve Garrison, *County Manager* Hazel S. Haynes, *Clerk to the Board* Richard Williams, *County Attorney*

streams. Work on the remaining two creeks will begin in the next coming winter. We will be able to complete all projects and encumber all state designated funds by the Deadline of December 31, 2024.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W B H' followed by a stylized flourish.

Brandon Higgins

*Administrator, Rutherford County Soil and Water*

**SOUTHEASTERN**  
**DRAINAGE OFFICE**

PO Box 699  
Grifton, NC 28530

To: NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission

RE: 22-080-2134

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to serve as a request to have the funds for the above-mentioned contract number to remain with the contract and not be reallocated. At this point, we have not reached the 50% goal of the project, but there are many factors that affect the current status.

This project is to replace the outlet structure for the Wayne Drainage District structure #3. Structure #3 is a large dam serving the citizens of Bear Creek. The dam is extremely old and the pipes are failing. The dam will have to be re-built once the structure is replaced to meet the current standards provided by Dam Safety.

This project is a complete turn key project. At this point, we are working exclusively on the engineering portion of the project. We have completed the initial surveys and are working to put drawings together. Once that is completed, we will have to go through the permitting process prior to working on bidding the project for construction.

Currently there are no delays on the project, and we are on track to complete as advertised.

Thanks,



Kendall Paramore  
District Manager



February 28, 2023

Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
7728 Raleigh Road  
Benson, NC 27504

Re: Request for Continuation of Funding Access  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP)  
Contract# 22-080-4074

Dear Commission:

On behalf of the Town of Canton (Town) I am writing to request that StRAP funding associated with Contract #22-080-4074 not be reallocated and that the Town continues to have access to the full award amount. The Town and McGill Associates, who is administering the funds, have both been working diligently towards getting 50% of funds encumbered, however there have been several unforeseen delays that have prevented this from being completed by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Nevertheless, substantial progress on the project has been made and we anticipate the project will be completed prior to the contract deadline of December 31, 2024.

The following list provides dates of completed activities, ongoing project work, and general timeline of work moving forward:

1. StRAP notice of award - 7/6/22
2. RFQ for Administration of StRAP Funding advertised – 8/26/23
3. Proposals for RFQ received – 9/12/23
4. Contract with McGill Associates, PA began - 10/20/22
5. Field review and mapping of current debris areas – 10/30/22
6. StRAP scope of work revision and submittal to StRAP Manager- 11/10/22
7. Environmental Permit Agency coordination – 10/20/22 to 11/28/22
8. Develop design plan and specs - 11/10/22 to 1/10/23
9. Right of Entry coordination - 1/11/23 to 4/1/23 (ongoing)
10. NCDOT Encroachment Permit - 12/15/22 to 4/1/23 (ongoing)
11. Bid Document Preparation - 1/11/23 to 2/20/23
12. Direct Solicitation for Bids on Debris Removal Work – 2/22/23
13. Bids Due - 3/8/23 (projected)
14. Contracting and Bid Award - 3/8/23 to 4/1/23 (projected)
15. Debris Removal Activities - 4/2/23 to 7/1/23 (projected)
16. Grant Close out - 7/2/23 to 7/17/23 (projected)

The following provides a summary of activities that have caused delays in the project schedule:

1. The procurement process for design and funding administration services took approximately 3 months and involved advertisement of an RFQ and approval by the Town. The coordination of this activity was delayed due to ongoing flood recovery efforts and the Town's relatively small staff. Canton staff were responsible for managing a wide variety of Town activities and projects during the RFQ process and were not able to complete the RFQ as quickly as anticipated.

2. Contract document preparation was delayed by changes to the original site conditions which required a revised scope of work. There were 6 areas identified in the StRAP funding contract which required debris removal. During the design development phase McGill Associates noted that much of the debris had shifted to new locations due to several storm events that occurred since the original grant application. McGill field-located 15 separate debris locations within the general area of the original project as well as routes to access these locations. Site plans were created to reflect these changes. The revised scope of work was submitted to the StRAP Manager for approval.

3. There have been delays related to approval for right of entry agreements on private land and NCDOT right-of-way to access the debris locations. Only two of the seven private landowners responded to initial right of entry requests mailed by McGill. The Town is now contacting unresponsive landowners by phone and/or in person site visits to obtain the remaining agreements. An encroachment agreement was also submitted to the NCDOT on 1/10/23 and a request for more information was received on 2/8/23. The Town is currently coordinating directly with NCDOT on the response.

Based on the projected dates above, we feel confident that the remaining project work will be completed by the contract deadline of December 31, 2024. On behalf of the Town of Canton we respectfully request that the Commission allow for the Town to have continued access to the full award amount of StRAP funds. If further information is needed regarding the project or this request, please let us know.

Thank you,

*Nick Scheuer*

---

Nick Scheuer – Town Manager

Cc: Matt Safford – NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Nick Scheuer – Town Manager, Town of Canton  
Jonathan Herman – McGill Associates, P.A.

58 Park Street . Canton, NC  
28716T 828.648.2363 F  
828.646.3419  
www.cantonnc.com



**LOUISBURG**  
Charming Since 1779

March 3, 2023

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
C/O Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Via email: [Matt.Safford@ncagr.gov](mailto:Matt.Safford@ncagr.gov)

Dear Commission Members,

On behalf of the Town of Louisburg, I would like to formally request that the funding afforded to the Town of Louisburg through the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) not be reallocated and that the Town continue to have access to our full award amount. After accepting the grant award on July 26, 2022, Louisburg solicited qualifications from an engineering firm to assist with preparing engineering documents, plans, specifications, permits, and assist with construction administration on September 15, 2022 with proposals due on October 20, 2022. Due to a lack of responses, the Town had to advertise for qualifications a second time on November 17, 2022. The process was further delayed while the Town searched for a new Town Administrator. I took office as Town Administrator on November 9, 2022. TRC Engineers were selected on November 21, 2022. TRC provided a Proposal for Engineering Services on 1/4/2023. The Town returned the accepted and signed proposal on 1/20/2023.

To date, work performed includes preparation of construction drawings, details, and specifications, as well as permit determinations from the Army Corp of Engineers, and the NC Department of Water Resources. TRC anticipates advertising the project for bids in April 2023 and receiving bids in May 2023. Over 50% of the grant funds are anticipated to be encumbered in June 2023, with implementation to begin in July 2023. The project is still expected to close out by December 31, 2023.

The schedule below represents overview of the timeline, the Town's plan to continue the StRAP project's progress, and demonstrate the Town's commitment to the program's success.

Activity	Time Period from Contract	Actual/Anticipated Completion Date
Contract with Department of Agriculture	July-September 2022	7/26/2022
Contract With Engineer	July-September 2022	1/20/2023
Prepare Plans & Specs	October-December 2022	4/1/2023
Bid Debris Removal Contract	January-March 2023	5/1/2023
Award Debris Removal Contract (>50%)	January-March 2023	6/1/2023
Implement Project	April-June 2023	7/1/2023
Closeout Project	July-September 2023	12/31/2023

The Town of Louisburg is very thankful to the Commission for the allocation of much needed funds and will continue to push towards the milestones outlined above. As the Town has already demonstrated progress towards project implementation, despite the delays in meeting the initial timeline, the Town politely requests that all funding remain in place and not be reallocated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919.497.1015 or [smedlin@townoflouisburg.org](mailto:smedlin@townoflouisburg.org).

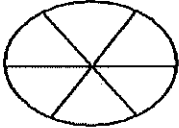
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Medlin". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Sean Medlin  
Town Administrator



People Working



For People

**TOWN OF NAVASSA**  
334 MAIN STREET  
NAVASSA, NC 28451  
Phone: (910) 371-2432  
Fax: (910) 216-0722  
www.townofnavassa.org

**ATTACHMENT 11**  
Town Council

Eulis A. Willis, Mayor  
Jerry Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem  
William Ballard  
Ida Dixon  
Thurman Everett  
Ernest Mooring, Jr

Michelyn Alston, Town Clerk

February 28, 2023

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
1001 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1001

RE: Contract Number: 22-080-4142

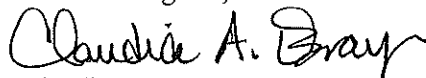
Dear Board of Commissioners:

Please accept this request not to reallocate the funding of \$22,800 for the above referenced contract and continue to have full access to the award amount. Unfortunately, since the award of this contract the town has experienced a tremendous turnover with the staff. We are now working with two administrative staff and currently seeking to fill the positions. The RFQ for the project was advertised with a deadline of February 24<sup>th</sup>. A recommendation will be made to Council on March 6 to add the selection of the contractor to their agenda. The town meeting is Thursday, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Once the contractor is selected, the contract will be signed and we will begin moving forward with the project. I do not see any circumstances that will unable the contractor to meet the project deadline of December 31, 2024. Our project is very small compared to others. However, due to the constant flooding in this area, the debris cleanup will be the first step in flood mitigation efforts.

Your consideration in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Warmest Regards,



Claudia A. Bray,  
Town of Navassa  
(910) 508-5216



DONALD B. RAINS  
MAYOR

MICHAEL KING  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

March 3, 2023

NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
C/O Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Via email: [Matt.Safford@ncagr.gov](mailto:Matt.Safford@ncagr.gov)

Dear Commission Members,

On behalf of the Town of Princeton, I would like to formally request that the funding afforded to the Town of Princeton through the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) not be reallocated and that the Town continue to have access to our full award amount. Princeton received notification of StRAP funding on May 23, 2022 with a request to revise the project scope to only vegetative debris removal within the award amount of \$257,006 by July 6, 2022. This was the last week of employment for the Town of Princeton's previous Town Administrator. After providing a revised scope and project timeline, Princeton received an official Notification of Funding Offer dated July 5, 2022. The new Town Administrator accepted the funding on behalf of the Town on September 2, 2022. The extended period for acceptance was due to Mr. King getting the bearings of his new position.

Mr. King did have the foresight to request Statements of Qualifications for engineering services prior to acceptance of the funding, from which TRC was selected on September 2, 2022. TRC provided a proposal for services that was accepted by a vote of the Princeton Board of Commissioners on September 12, 2022. The proposal was signed and returned to TRC on September 14, 2022. TRC staff began working on the project immediately in September 2022. In January 2023, TRC's wetland subconsultant performed a site visit to delineate jurisdictional streams and wetlands in the project vicinity. A preliminary jurisdictional package has been prepared and is ready for submittal pending final drawings. Drawings and specifications for the proposed project are at approximately 80% completion, with 100% completion anticipated by April 1, 2023. TRC anticipates advertising the project in April 2023 and receiving bids in May 2023. TRC expects over 50% of the grant funds to be encumbered in June 2023, with implementation to begin in July 2023. Project closeout is anticipated by the end of October 2023.

The schedule below represents overview of the timeline, the Town's plan to continue the StRAP project's progress, and demonstrate the Town's commitment to the program's success.

**"PEACEFUL, PLEASANT, PROGRESSIVE, AND PROUD"**

Town of Princeton is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer  
[www.myprincetonnc.com](http://www.myprincetonnc.com)

503 Dr. Donnie H. Jones, Jr. Blvd West, Princeton, NC 27569

Office: (919) 936-8171 Fax: (919) 936-2842

Office Hours: M-F 8AM - 5PM



DONALD B. RAINS  
MAYOR

MICHAEL KING  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Activity	Time Period from Contract	Actual/Anticipated Completion Date
Contract with Department of Agriculture	July-September 2022	9/2/2022
Contract With Engineer	July-September 2022	9/14/2022
Prepare Plans & Specs	October-December 2022	4/1/2023
Bid Debris Removal Contract	January-March 2023	4/1/2023
Award Debris Removal Contract (>50%)	January-March 2023	6/1/2023
Implement Project	April-June 2023	7/1/2023
Closeout Project	July-September 2023	10/30/2023

The Town of Princeton is very thankful to the Commission for the allocation of much needed funds and will continue to push towards the milestones outlined above. As the Town has already demonstrated progress towards project implementation, despite the delays in meeting the initial timeline, the Town politely requests that all funding remain in place and not be reallocated. Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 919.936.8171 or [m.king@myprincetonnc.com](mailto:m.king@myprincetonnc.com).

Sincerely,

Michael S. King  
Town Administrator

**“PEACEFUL, PLEASANT, PROGRESSIVE, AND PROUD”**

Town of Princeton is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

[www.myprincetonnc.com](http://www.myprincetonnc.com)

503 Dr. Donnie H. Jones, Jr. Blvd West, Princeton, NC 27569

Office: (919) 936-8171 Fax: (919) 936-2842

Office Hours: M-F 8AM – 5PM

# TOWN OF ROWLAND



March 3, 2023

Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
216 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Progress Report  
NCAGR StRAP Program Streamflow Rehabilitation (22-080-4014)  
Town of Rowland, Robeson County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Safford:

The Town of Rowland recently submitted their 50% progress report for the Streamflow Rehabilitation project funded through the NC Department of Agriculture StRAP program. As detailed in the progress report, the Town did not meet the deadline of encumbering 50% of the allocated funding prior to the deadline of February 28, 2023.

The Town followed the initial schedule and completed design and bidding of this project by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline in order to reach this 50% goal. However, due to several reasons, the bids came in well under the estimated construction cost budget for this project, leaving the allocated amount of funding under the 50% threshold. The Town has submitted a request of scope change to add additional areas of streamflow rehabilitation in order to use the remaining funds allocated for this project. These additional areas are also critical to the Town's drainage and were not included in the original application due to budgetary reasons. However, with the bids coming in well under the projected costs, the Town now has the funds in this project budget to complete these if they are able to keep the full awarded amount.

As of today, the Town has approved the award of this contract to the low bidder, Miller's Tree & Debris Removal for their bid of \$20,650.00. The Town and engineer have reviewed the estimates and checked in with references to ensure that the contractor can be trusted to complete the scope of work. The contracts have been sent to the contractor and a preconstruction conference has been scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023. We expect to have fully executed contracts at this meeting on 3/9, and a notice to proceed date will be coordinated between the Town and contractor. We expect work to begin

this month and to be completed by late April / early May. If the Town is allowed by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission to continue to access the full award amount and complete the additional scope requested, the Town would like to negotiate to award this additional work to the current contractor based on their per linear foot price for the original project scope. If necessary, however, the Town will hold another bid day to award the additional scope of work to the low bidder.

**The Town of Rowland would like to request that none of the original award is reallocated and that the Town continue to have access to the full award amount to complete additional very much needed streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town as shown in the request for scope change submitted on February 24, 2023. If this request is granted, Rowland plans to complete these projects and is confident in the ability to use their full StRAP grants for streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town.**

If you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Townsend", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Townsend, Town Clerk



February 27, 2023

North Carolina Soil & Water Commission

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Town of Spencer, North Carolina to request that funds for streamflow restoration grant **not be reallocated** and the Town of Spencer continue to have access to the full award amount of \$280,251.00. The successful low bidder, Hall Property Pros, LLC submitted a bid (\$60,539.40) that is significantly lower than the grant award.

To date, the project is under contract and \$60,539.40 is encumbered for the removal of debris from Grants Creek, which is adjacent to the town limits of Spencer. Beginning in December 2022, there has been significant rainfall in the NC Piedmont and the floodplain area is extraordinarily wet, rendering the site conditions difficult for access by equipment.

Over 20 adjacent property owners along Grants Creek have been notified of the project and the Town's intent is to minimize mechanical damage to the flood plain area, including farm fields and utility rights of way during the woody debris removal process. For this reason, we have asked the contractor to wait until the wet conditions alleviate. Our goal is to initiate woody debris removal in mid to late April, with an estimated timeline of 30 to 45 days to clear the Grants Creek waterway as originally described in project agreement. In the interim, we would appreciate the ability to evaluate smaller tributaries along Grants Creek for additional debris removal. Our intention is to have woody debris removed and final inspections of the originally designated stream segments completed by June 30, 2023.

The Town of Spencer fully intends to complete the StRAP program in a timely manner and recognizes that there is opportunity for addition stream flow corrections in smaller tributaries of Grants Creek. The idea is to consult with our contractor and Soil and Water Conservation staff examine possibilities of expanding the project scope to include additional debris removal within the agreed upon timeline of December 31, 2023. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Joe Morris  
Special Projects Planner  
704-0640-7867



Engineering  
Landscape Architecture  
Surveying

March 3, 2023

Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
216 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Progress Report  
NCAGR StRAP Program Streamflow Rehabilitation (22-080-4034)  
Town of Tabor City, Columbus County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Safford:

The Town of Tabor City recently submitted their 50% progress report for the Streamflow Rehabilitation project funded through the NC Department of Agriculture StRAP program. As detailed in the progress report, the Town did not meet the deadline of encumbering 50% of the allocated funding prior to the deadline of February 28, 2023.

The Town followed the initial schedule and completed design and bidding of this project by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline in order to reach this 50% goal. However, due to several reasons, the bids came in well under the estimated construction cost budget for this project, leaving the allocated amount of funding under the 50% threshold. The Town has submitted a request of scope change to add additional areas of streamflow rehabilitation in order to use the remaining funds allocated for this project. These additional areas are also critical to the Town's drainage, and were not included in the original application due to budgetary reasons. However, with the bids coming in well under the projected costs, the Town now has the funds in this project budget to complete these if they are able to keep the full awarded amount.

As of today, the Town has approved the award of this contract to the low bidder, Turnrow Equipment LLC for their bid of \$24,840.00. The Town and engineer have reviewed the estimates and checked in with references to ensure that the contractor can be trusted to complete the scope of work. The contracts have been sent to the contractor and a preconstruction conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023. We expect to have fully executed contracts at this meeting on 3/7, and a notice to proceed date will be coordinated between the Town and contractor. We expect work to begin this month and to be completed by late April / early May. If the Town is allowed by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission to continue to access the full award amount and complete the additional scope requested, the Town would like to negotiate to award this additional work to the current contractor based on their per linear foot price for the original project scope. If necessary, however, the Town will hold another bid day to award the additional scope of work to the low bidder.

**The Town of Tabor City would like to request that none of the original award is reallocated and that the Town continue to have access to the full award amount to complete additional very much needed streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town as shown in the request for scope change submitted on February 24, 2023. If this request is granted, Tabor City plans to complete these projects and is confident in the ability to use their full StRAP grants for streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town.**

If you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate in contacting this office.

Sincerely,  
LKC ENGINEERING, PLLC

*Stephen Francis*

Stephen Francis, P.E.



March 3, 2023

Matt Safford  
Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program  
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
216 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603

Re: Progress Report  
NCAGR StRAP Program Streamflow Rehabilitation (22-080-4034)  
Town of Tabor City, Columbus County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Safford:

The Town of Tabor City recently submitted their 50% progress report for the Streamflow Rehabilitation project funded through the NC Department of Agriculture StRAP program. As detailed in the progress report, the Town did not meet the deadline of encumbering 50% of the allocated funding prior to the deadline of February 28, 2023.

The Town followed the initial schedule and completed design and bidding of this project by the February 28<sup>th</sup> deadline in order to reach this 50% goal. However, due to several reasons, the bids came in well under the estimated construction cost budget for this project, leaving the allocated amount of funding under the 50% threshold. The Town has submitted a request of scope change to add additional areas of streamflow rehabilitation in order to use the remaining funds allocated for this project. These additional areas are also critical to the Town's drainage, and were not included in the original application due to budgetary reasons. However, with the bids coming in well under the projected costs, the Town now has the funds in this project budget to complete these if they are able to keep the full awarded amount.

As of today, the Town has approved the award of this contract to the low bidder, Turnrow Equipment LLC for their bid of \$24,840.00. The Town and engineer have reviewed the estimates and checked in with references to ensure that the contractor can be trusted to complete the scope of work. The contracts have been sent to the contractor and a preconstruction conference has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 7, 2023. We expect to have fully executed contracts at this meeting on 3/7, and a notice to proceed date will be coordinated between the Town and contractor. We expect work to begin this month and to be completed by late April / early May. If the Town is allowed by the Soil & Water Conservation Commission to continue to access the full award amount and complete the additional scope requested, the Town would like to negotiate to award this additional work to the current contractor based on their per linear foot price for the original project scope. If necessary, however, the Town will hold another bid day to award the additional scope of work to the low bidder.

**The Town of Tabor City would like to request that none of the original award is reallocated and that the Town continue to have access to the full award amount to complete additional very much needed streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town as shown in the request for scope change submitted on February 24, 2023. If this request is granted, Tabor City plans to complete these projects and is**

confident in the ability to use their full StRAP grants for streamflow rehabilitation throughout the Town.

If you should have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate in reaching out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Leonard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Al Leonard, Town Manager



ATTACHMENT 11  
3230 Presson Road  
Suite B  
Monroe, NC 28112  
704.324.9228

---

NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission:

Union County Soil and Water Conservation District has not yet met the 50% goal of funds encumbered. We request that we retain all funds allocated to the District (\$318,780) so that we can continue forward with finishing these crucial projects.

Project Update:

- Meadow Branch (\$6.25 linear Ft)
  - Contract on the Agenda for the BOCC March 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Beaver trapping will start March 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Beaver Dam Creek (\$8,400)
  - In procurement as a purchase order.
- South Fork of Crooked Creek
  - Held up due to floodplain administrator wanting a no-rise
  - Working on solutions

Union County Soil and Water Conservation District plans on completing all projects and using the allocated funds by the end of the contract period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Aldridge".

Alan Aldridge  
District Director  
Union County Soil & Water Conservation District  
[alan.aldridge@unioncountync.gov](mailto:alan.aldridge@unioncountync.gov)  
Office: 704-233-1621 Ext: 9225  
Cell: 704-438-2535

*Union County Soil and Water Conservation District's mission is to provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to the citizens of Union County to aid in the proper management of our natural resources.*



**Watauga County Soil & Water Conservation District**

**971 West King Street  
Boone, NC 28607  
(828) 719 - 3409**

03/01/2023

North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

Dear NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission Members,

We are writing to you today to request that none of our Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) award is reallocated and that we continue to have access to our full award amount. We have faced several challenges and delays in implementing our project. However, we believe that we have met those challenges the best that we can, and we have a solid plan for moving forward.

We have worked hard to use our StRAP award efficiently to restore and protect the streams of Watauga County. Our Conservation Technician has spent numerous hours preparing bid packets and bidding out projects, obtaining landowner access, making plans with landowners and contractors, and ensuring that the planned work meets local and state requirements. We have conducted many site visits, taken measurements and photos, and prepared maps to support project plans. The contract for our first stream section is already signed, and the contractor plans to begin work within the next two weeks.

However, we have also experienced several challenges and delays while implementing our StRAP project. The Watauga Soil & Water Conservation District has experienced recent staff changes, delays in the bidding process, unexpectedly low bids, and difficulties in communicating with landowners. The bidding process has caused significant impediments especially, as our staff worked with county officials to follow county policy for obtaining contractors, hosting pre-bid contractor site visits, and securing the required permissions from local entities. Bids on our most substantial stream section came in much lower than originally estimated, which provided a great opportunity for using our award effectively but resulted in additional time and effort to pursue added stream sections. In addition, one section of stream debris removal was unexpectedly completed by NCDOT without notice to our office – this caused further delays as our staff worked to apply that funding to other sections. We also regularly experienced challenges communicating with multiple landowners across three stream sections. These landowners live in an area of our county that has no cell phone reception or Internet access, adding to the already difficult job of communicating with multiple landowners who have their own busy schedules.

Despite all these difficulties, we will complete our StRAP project as detailed in our Scope of Work. Our second and third stream sections were bid out in February, and we will be asking the Watauga County Board of Commissioners to award the bids at their next meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup>. From there, we plan to have the contracts signed on those two sections while supervising work on the first section. By mid-April to early May, we plan to have the inspection completed on our first section and an RFP submitted. We plan to have work completed, inspections conducted, and RFPs submitted for the second and third sections before the end of this calendar year.

We hope that you will consider these factors as you make your decision. We are committed to using our StRAP award to do the best work possible in our county. Thank you for your consideration of this request; we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michaelyn B. Woodie".

Michaelyn B. Woodie  
Conservation Technician  
Watauga SWCD

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Combs".

Todd Combs  
Watauga SWCD Board of Supervisors



Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District  
2051 Agricultural Way, Suite 207  
Yadkinville, NC 27055  
336-849-7584

02/27/2023

Soil and Water Conservation Commission  
1614 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1614

To whom it may concern;

The Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District (Yadkin SWCD) was awarded \$2,000,000.00 in StRAP funding and was given approval to start work on October 21, 2022. Our goal is to completely remove and replace the drain gates, trash racks, and all other metal components associated on ten of our PL-566 watershed structures, as well as remove a limited amount of sediment located around the drain gates.

Prior to receiving approval to begin, we contracted with Schnabel Engineering (contract dated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the amount of \$541,500.00) to begin the design and permitting processes. Yadkin SWCD and Schnabel Engineering began testing the sediment located within the pool of the PL-566 structures as required to determine if the sediment could be removed. The sediment was determined safe to remove and Schnabel finalized the design of the replacements/rehabilitation project.

We have submitted permit applications to the NC Dam Safety office as well as the US Army Corps of Engineers and are awaiting approval. Although the permits have yet to be approved, we advertised the project to potential bidders on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We conducted a pre-bid meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023, with bids being due by 1:00 pm on March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Once we receive approved permits from the agencies involved (hopefully by the end of March), we will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder and will begin the construction phase of the project. If we receive the permits back by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023, we could have a construction contract approved by April 30. It is anticipated that this project will only take twenty weeks. If we receive the permits in a timely manner and construction goes as planned, we anticipate being finished with this project by mid-November, 2023.

We hereby request that we continue to have full access to the award amount and that none of our award is reallocated.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Walker".

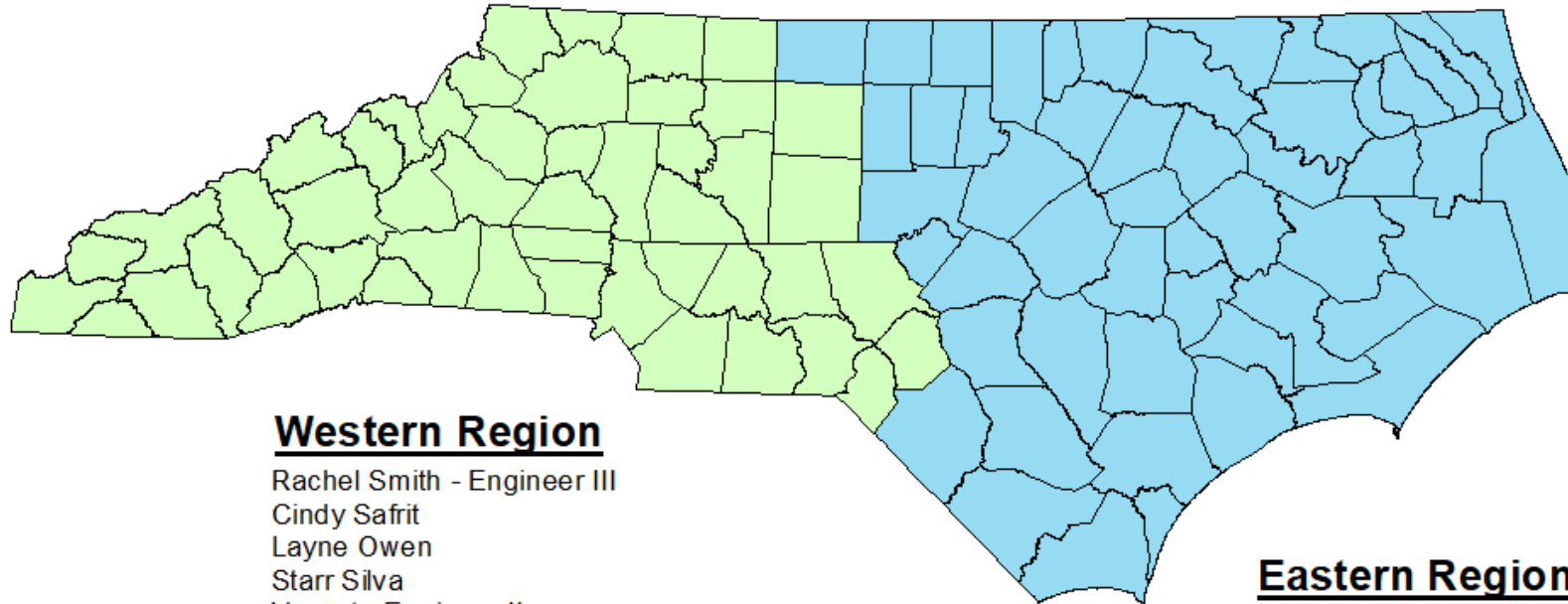
Jason Walker, Director  
Yadkin Soil and Water Conservation District

# Engineering Services Workload Report

- Engineering Services Section Overview
- TA Requests & Prioritization Matrix
- Teamwork Overview
- Reporting Process
- Workload Data



# DSWC - ENGINEERING SERVICES SECTION REGIONAL ENGINEER MAP



## **Western Region**

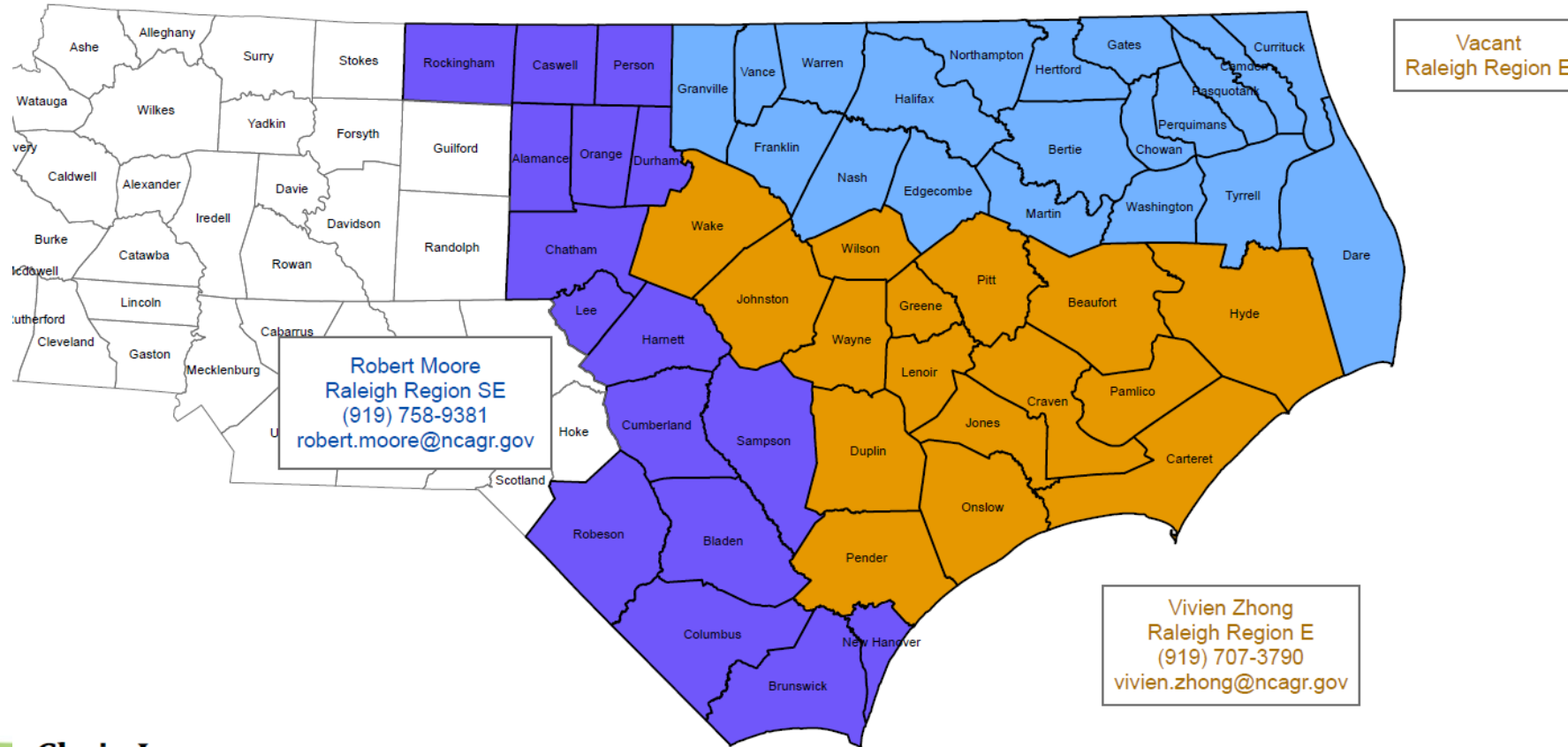
Rachel Smith - Engineer III  
Cindy Safrit  
Layne Owen  
Starr Silva  
Vacant - Engineer II

## **Eastern Region**

Chris Love - Engineer III  
Robert Moore  
Vivien Zhong  
Abel Ferry  
Vacant - Engineer II



# DSWC - ENGINEERING SERVICES SECTION REGIONAL ENGINEER MAP EAST

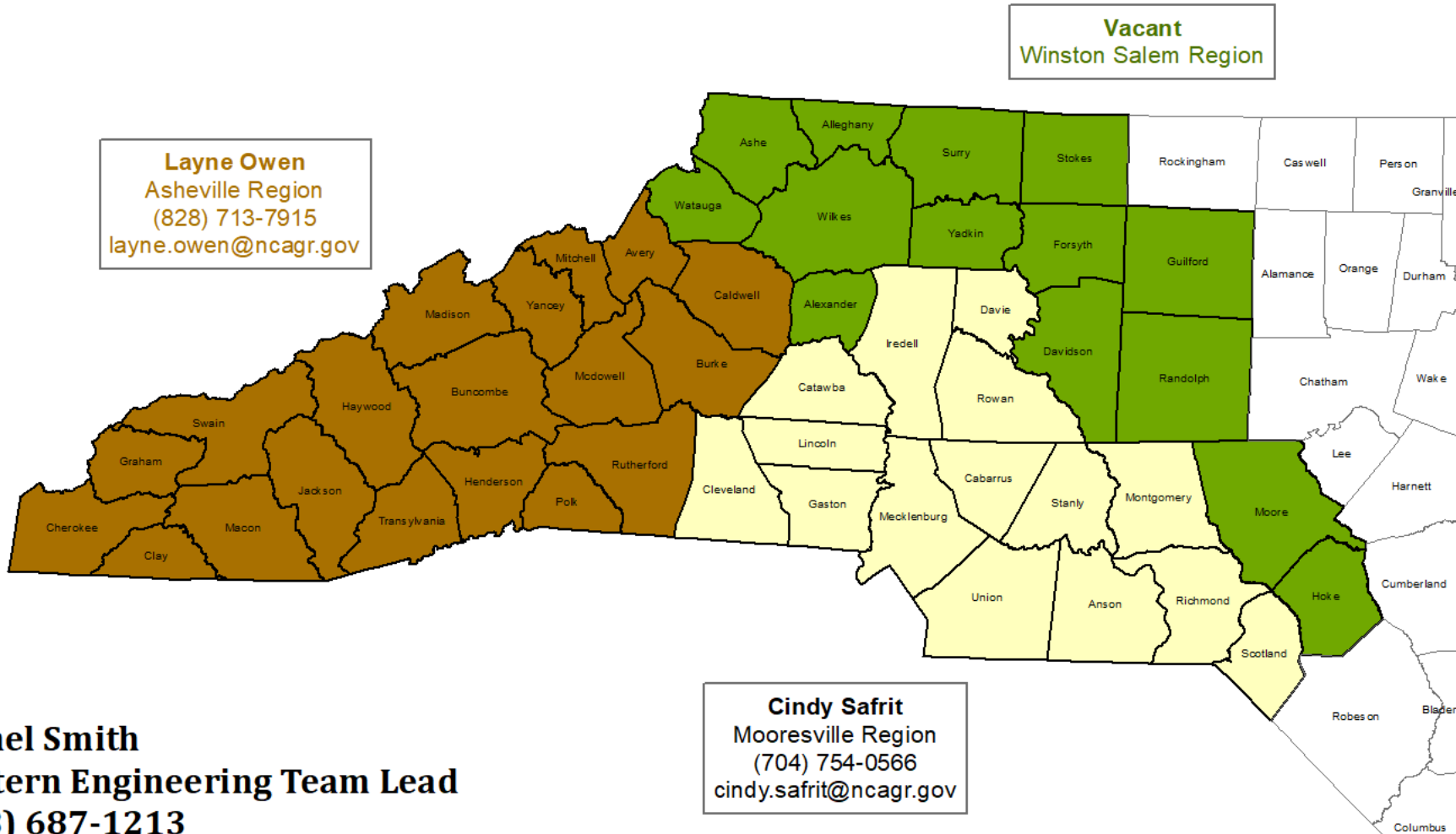


**Chris Love**  
Eastern Engineering Team Lead  
(919) 707-3794  
chris.love@ncagr.gov





# DSWC - ENGINEERING SERVICES SECTION REGIONAL ENGINEER MAP WEST

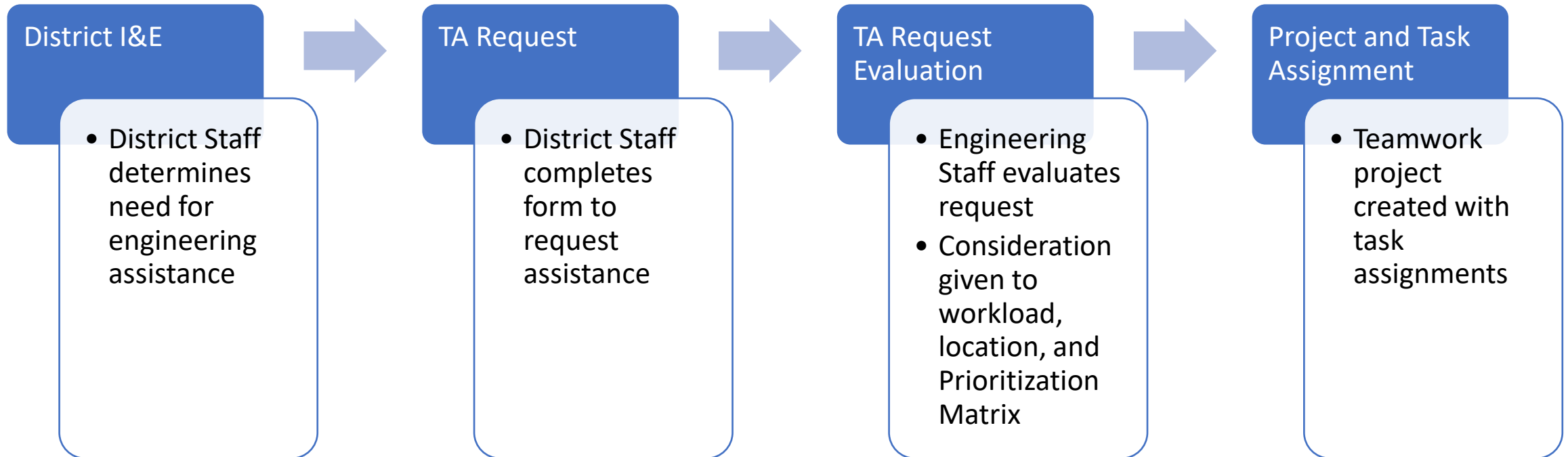


**Rachel Smith**  
Western Engineering Team Lead  
(828) 687-1213  
rachel.smith@ncagr.gov

# Requests for Technical Assistance

- Mechanism for districts to enlist division technical staff to assist with projects outside of district technical capacity:
  - No District JAA for requested BMP
  - BMP policy requires PE
- Requests made through formsite

# TA Request Process




# Prioritization Matrix

Provides a ranked method to determine workload priority

Key Responsibility	Priority - Level 1 Task Description	Priority - Level 2 Task Description	Priority - Level 3 Task Description	Priority - Level 4 Task Description
<b>Conservation Project Design, Layout and Installation</b>	SWCC Programs (AGWRAP, NCACSP, CCAP)	Federal Programs (EQIP, Resource Institute Project)	Mitigation projects (EEP, mitigation banks etc.)	Projects that do not have a water quality benefit
	Support projects associated with DSWC Grants	Drainage/Land smoothing Issues	Support projects where DSWC is not a partner	Projects that do not have an agriculture water quantity benefit
	Support projects associated w/Grants where is DSWC partner	NCDA Special Projects	Waste Management Plans/Wettable Acres (Eng. send to DSWC Env Specialist/District Staff first)	
	Animal Waste Management - Irrigation Design	Foundation Grant Projects (Lagoon Closures, Ponds)	Sludge Surveys/Lagoon Closure Plans (Eng. send to DSWC Env Specialists/District Staff first)	
	Animal Waste Storage Structure	Conservation projects not under contract		
<b>General Technical Assistance</b>	Preliminary Site Investigations	SWCC/DSWC Cost Share Program Review	Consultation on the maintenance of sediment control devices in non-ag setting	
	Review Private Designs per SWCC policy	Support to NCASWCD Committees		
	Consultation for Animal Waste Management Plans, Wettable Acres, Sludge Survey, Lagoon Closure and general permit guidance	NRCS Wetland/HEL Determinations (Soils)		
	Support to SWCC Committee (TRC, AGWRAP, CCAP)	Consultation to DENR on compliance issues		
	Assistance with potential regulation violations			
<b>Emergency Response/Preparedness</b>	Animal Waste Storage Structure - Integrity Compromised/Overflow	Logjam affecting non-ag land - non-life threatening	Water point certifications for fire departments	
	Logjam affecting agriculture land	PL-566 Projects Assessment		
	*Depending upon severity, these projects have the tendency to be main focus until emergency passes. Streambank Stabilization	Stream Debris Removal (thus far DSWC Env. Specialist completing)		
	Landslide/Slope Stabilization			
	Provide assistance to NRCS- EWP			
<b>Building District Capacity</b>	Conservation Employees Workshop	One-on-one district training		
	Division Sponsored/Partner Training	Outside partnership training (Rosgen etc.)		
	Review SWCC Job Approval Applications			
	Develop/Administer SWCC JAA Tests			
	One-on-one Training with District while working jointly on projects			
<b>Education</b>	State Envirothon	Regional Envirothons	District Field Day Events	Individual Classroom Workshops
	State Land Judging Contest	Regional Land Judging Contest		

# Teamwork Project Management Software

- Teamwork is a web browser based project management software that allows multiple users across various organizations to collaborate on specific projects within the system.
  - Tech Services began developing teamwork in 2017 primarily for engineering project management
- 

# Teamwork

- June and July 2022 – Engineering Services staff created a Teamwork SOP
  - Established a system within the software that allowed us to create the Engineering Commission Report
  - System allowed us to clean up the clutter and create focus
  - Established incremental engineer teamwork updates within the reporting period
  - Improved project organization through naming convention and project tags
  - Improved communication between sections within the division

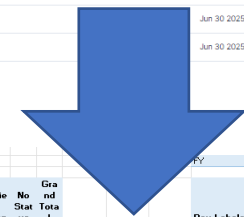
# Reporting Process

- Reporting plan
  - Baseline Data
    - On 7/1/22, data was exported for all active projects in teamwork from 7/1/21 to 6/30/22
    - On 1/1/23 data was exported for all active projects in teamwork from 7/1/22 to 12/31/22
  - Moving forward, 6 month reporting intervals
    - 6 month report for 7/1 – 12/31
    - 6 month report for 1/1 – 6/30

teamwork. List Templates

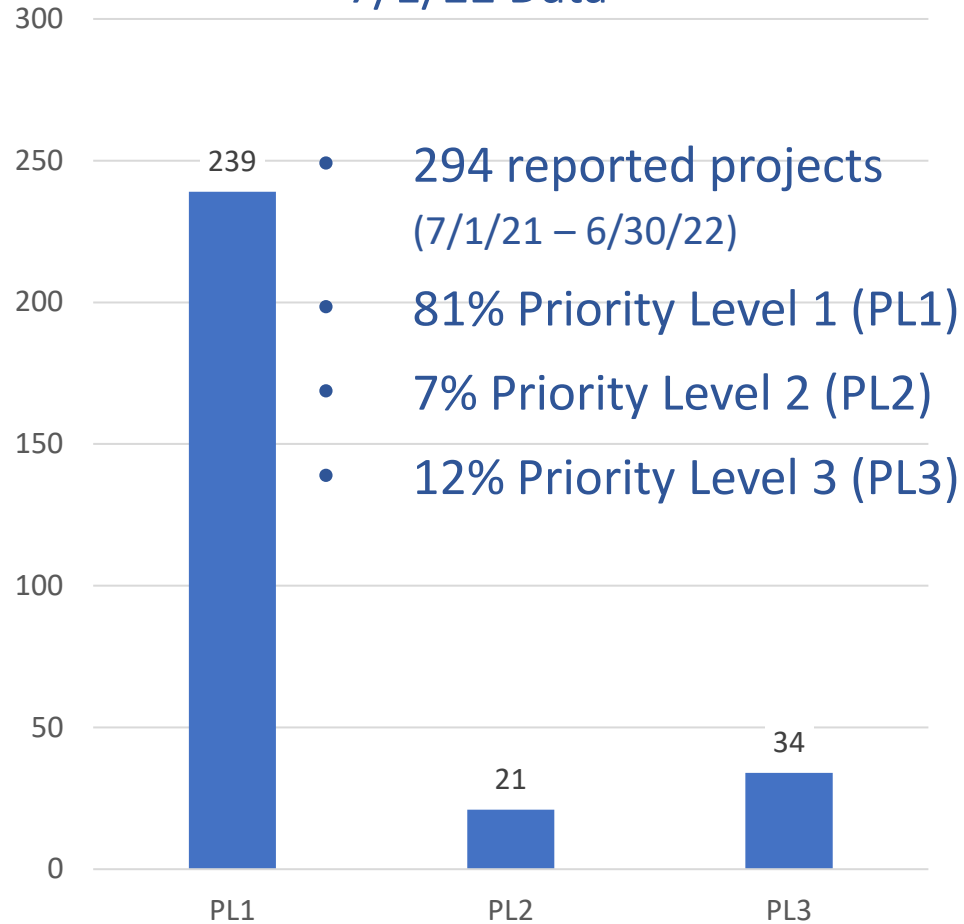
Active Projects (238)

Project Name	Start Date	End Date	Tags	Latest Activity
00 Yancey 00-2020-100 harley_fox DRP-HF	Apr 17 2019	Jun 30 2022	01_FY20, 02_Approved, 03_Construction_Complete, 04_Paid_Repair, WEST	Rachel S. - ad
00 Yancey 00-2021-004 brett_deyton ACSP	Aug 26 2020	Jun 30 2023	01_FY21, 02_Completed, 03_Construction_Complete, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, WEST	Layne O. - ad
00 Yancey 00-2022-001 jason_ranfro ACSP	Jun 9 2021	Jun 30 2024	01_FY22, 02_Approved, 03_Construction Started, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, Waiting on C	Layne O. - ad
00 Yancey 00-2022-002 marty_mccintosh ACSP	Jun 9 2021	Jun 30 2024	01_FY22, 02_Approved, 03_Construction Started, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, Waiting on C	Layne O. - edi
00 Yancey 00-2022-001 amanda_riley AgWRAP	Feb 14 2022	Jun 30 2025	01_FY22, 02_Approved, 02_no_status, Wait, WEST	Layne O. - ad
00 Yancey 00-2023-003 robert_gouge ACSP	Feb 14 2022	Jun 30 2025	01_FY23, 02_Pending, 03_Data Collection, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, WEST	Layne O. - ad
00 Yancey 2022-02-14 emily_young ACSP	Jun 30 2025	Jun 30 2025	01_noFY, 02_On Hold, 03_Data Collection, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, 04_Streambank Stat	Layne O. - ad
00 Yancey 2022-02-14 jake_bryant ACSP	Jun 30 2025	Jun 30 2025	01_noFY, 02_On Hold, 03_Data Collection, 04_Livestock Feeding Pad, WEST	Layne O. - ad

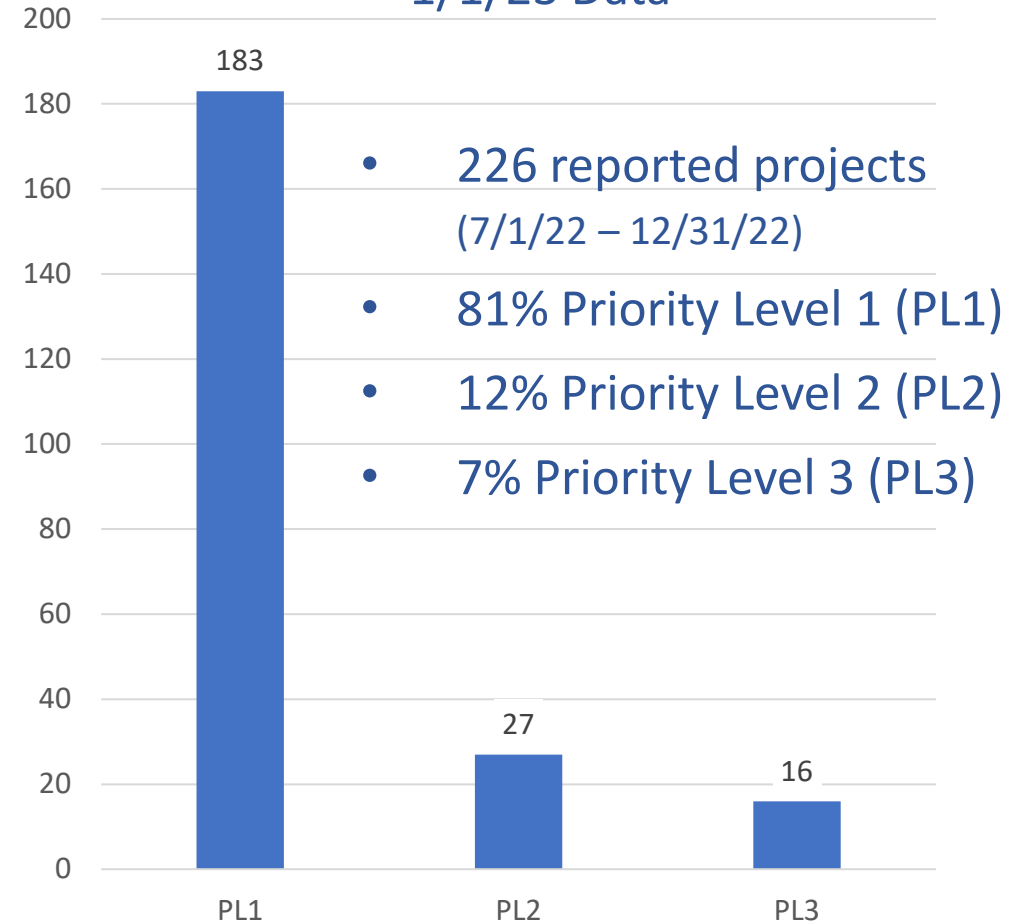


# Total Project Count

7/1/22 Data



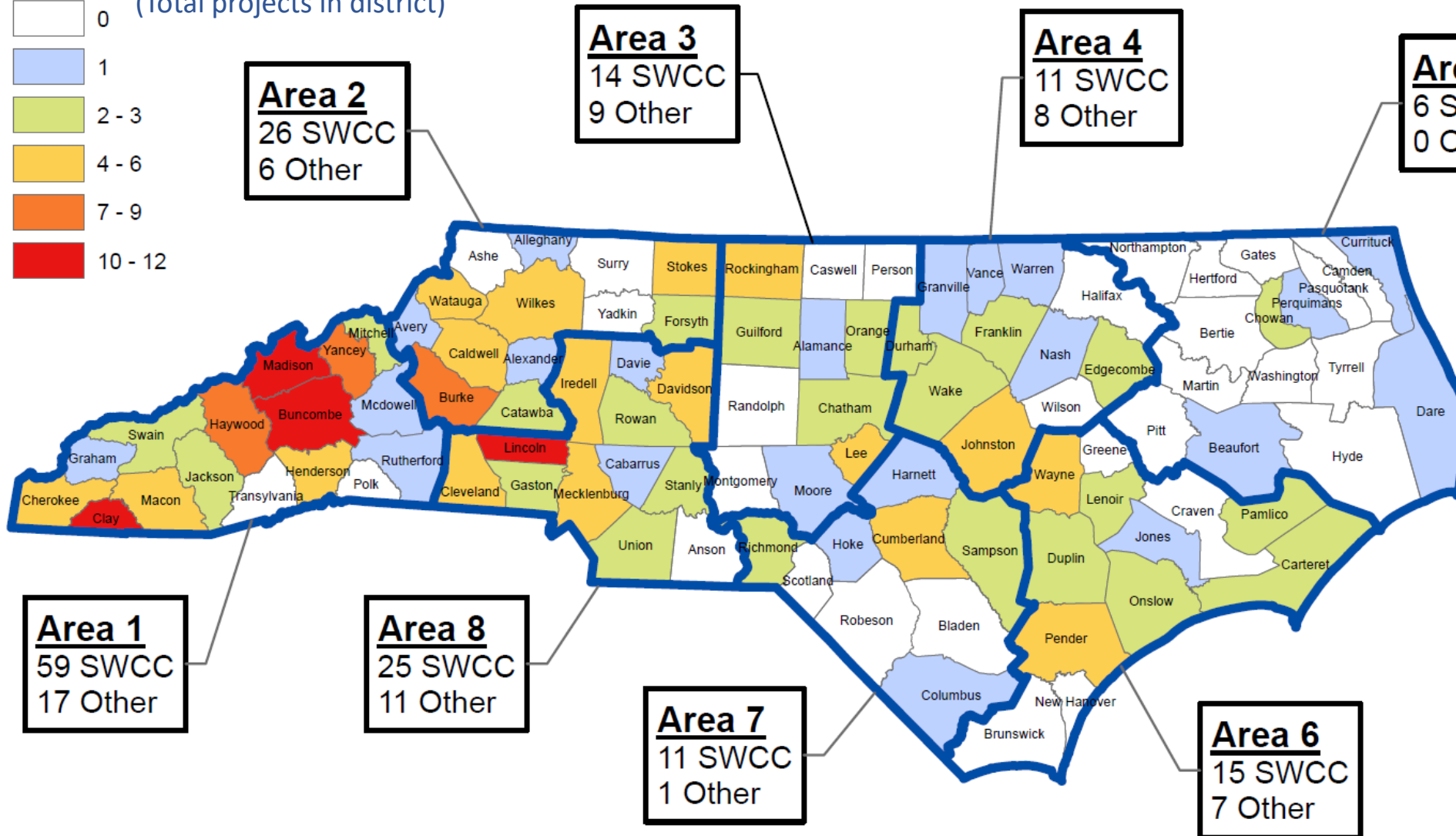
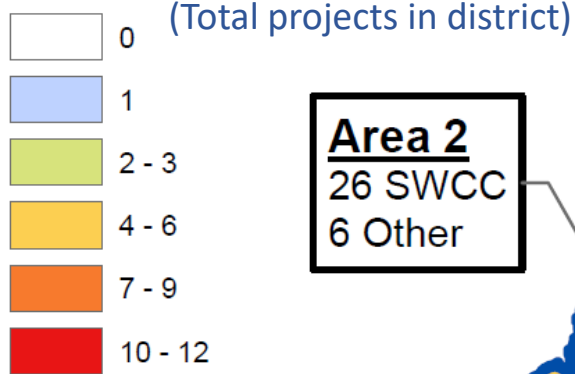
1/1/23 Data





# 1/1/23 Spatial Distribution of Projects

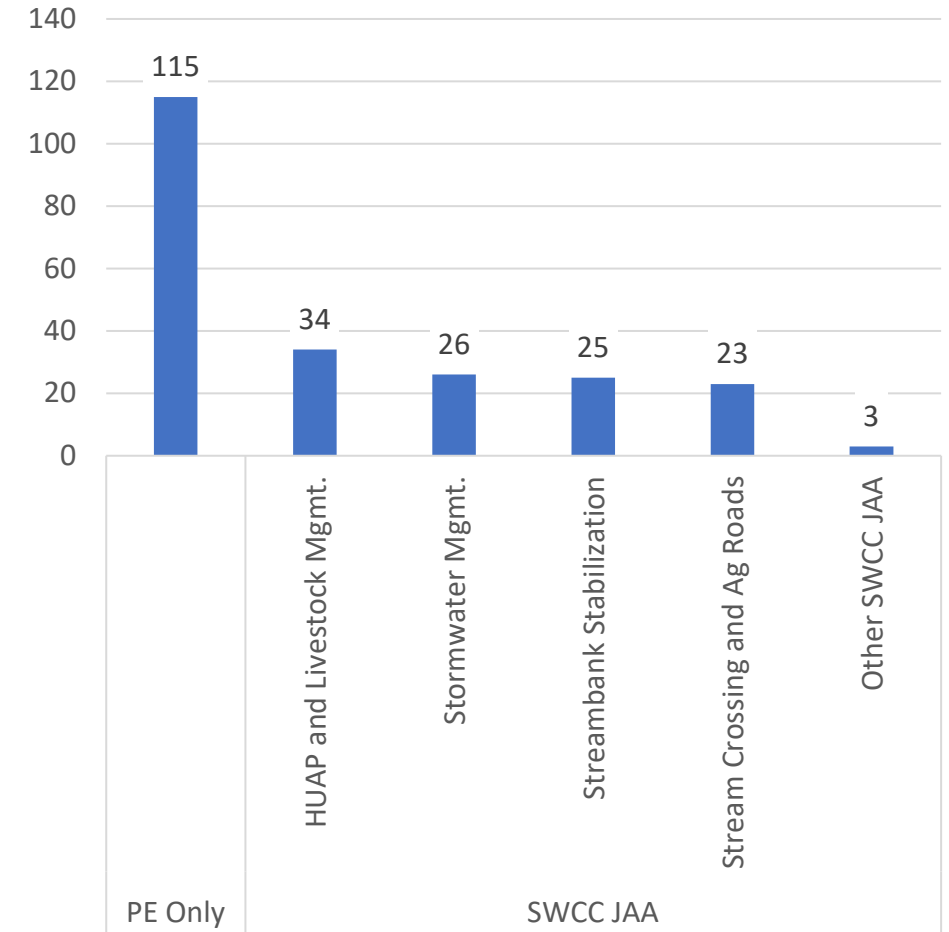
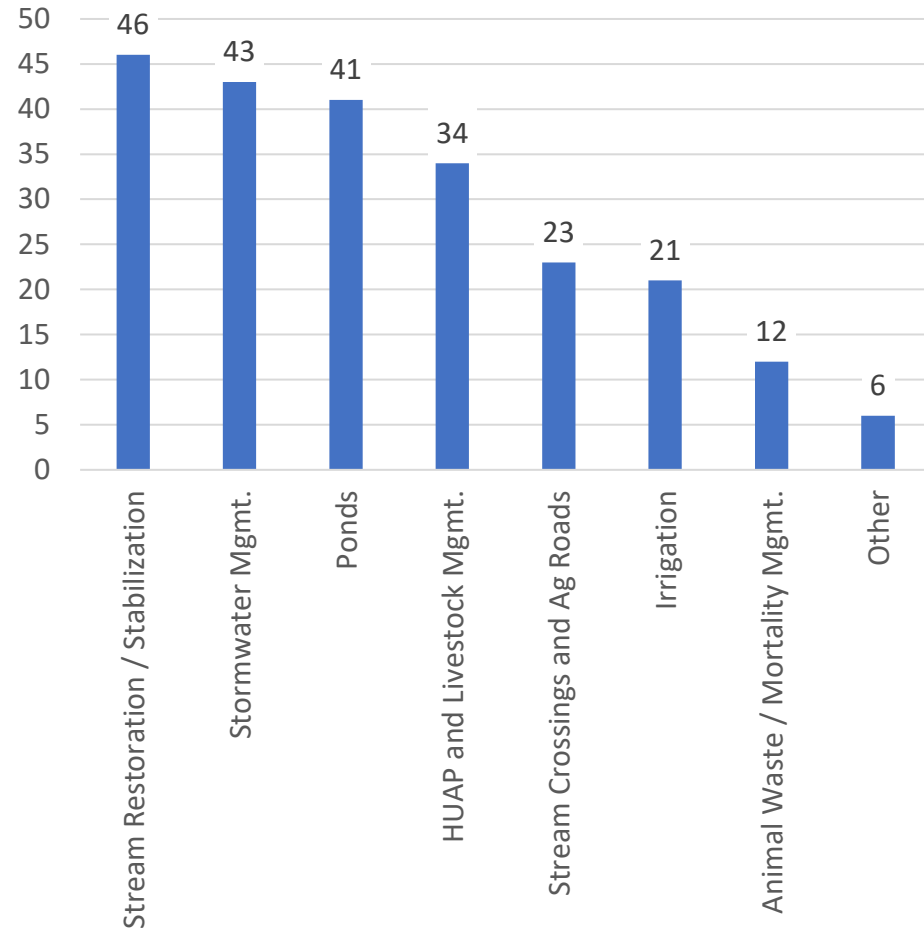
## District Project Count



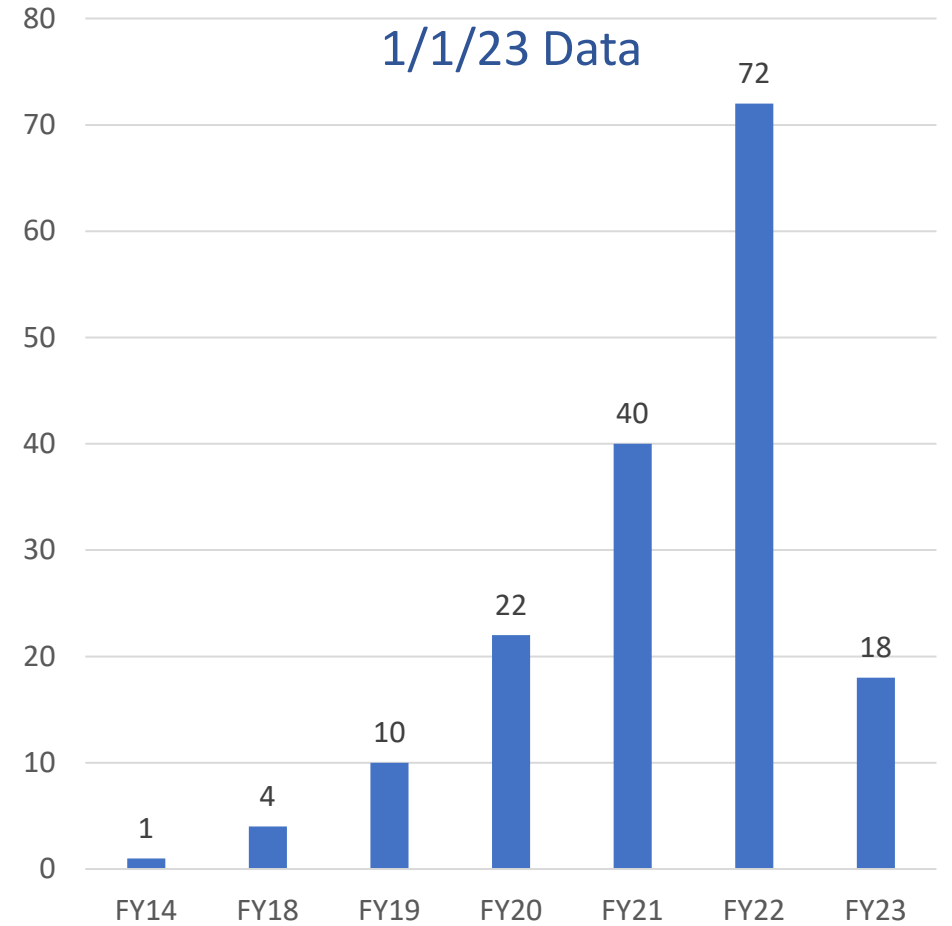
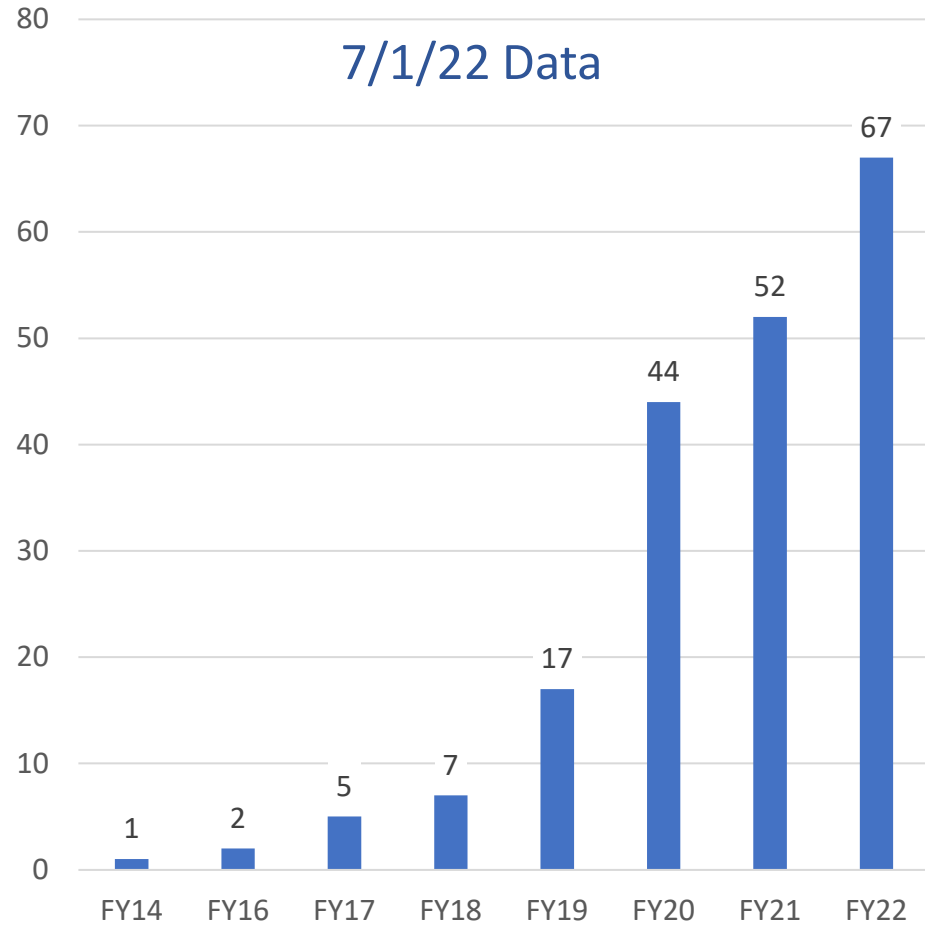
SWCC = Commission program funded projects

Other = PL2, PL3, PL4 Projects (partnership funded or TA Only)

# 1/1/23 Project Type Distribution

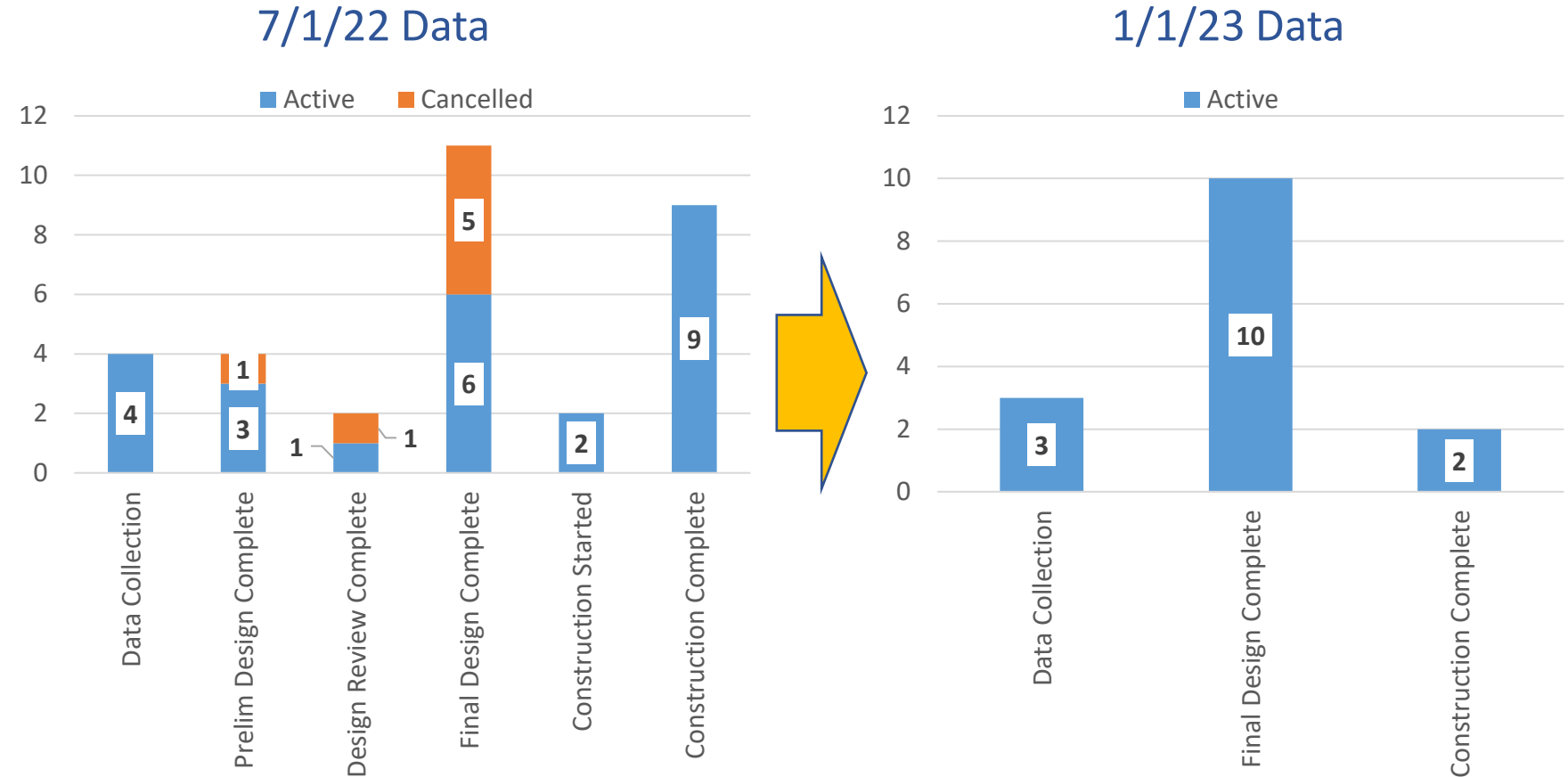


# SWCC Funded Project FY Distribution



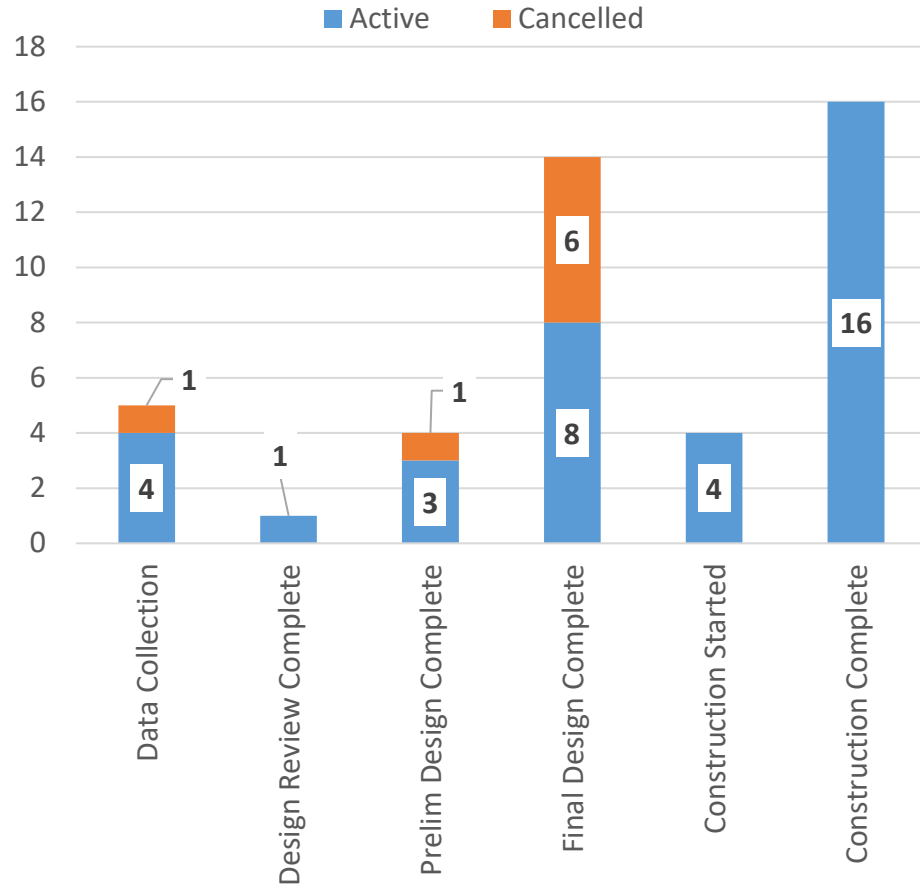
# FY14 – FY19 Project Status

- Progress measured by project status numbers shifting through each phase in subsequent reports
- Cancelled, Design Review Complete, and Construction Complete projects will not appear on subsequent reports
- Positive shift in project status from 7/1/22 to 1/1/23

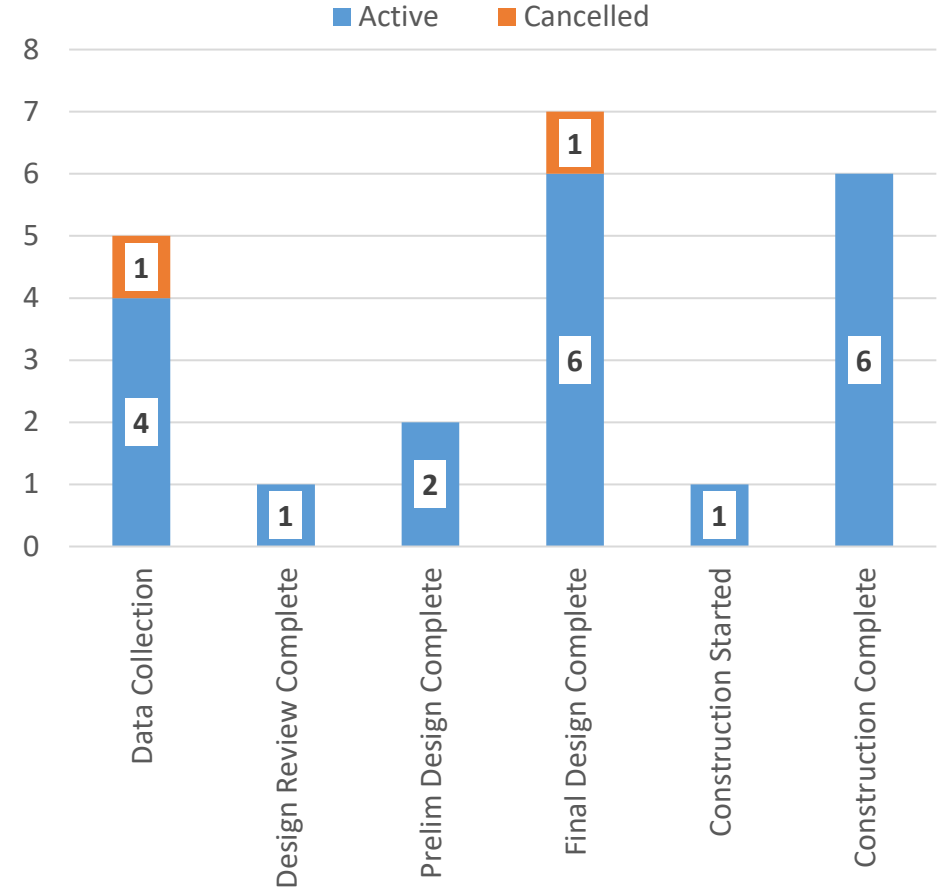


# FY20 Project Status

## 7/1/22 Data

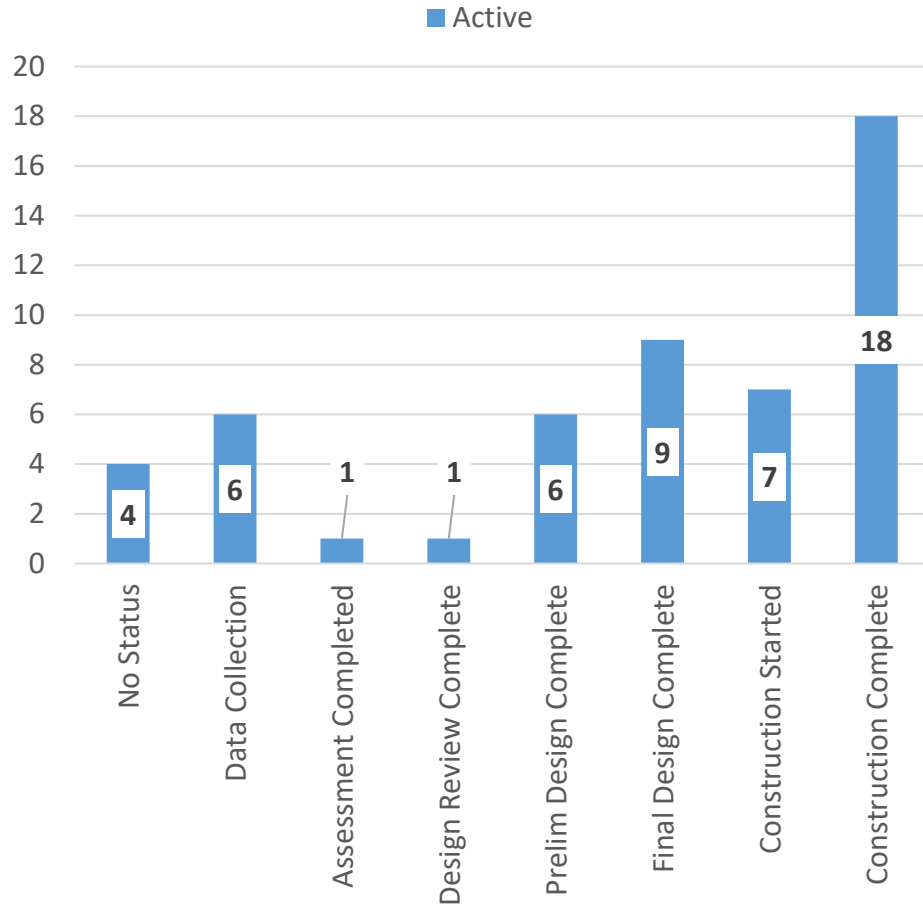


## 1/1/23 Data

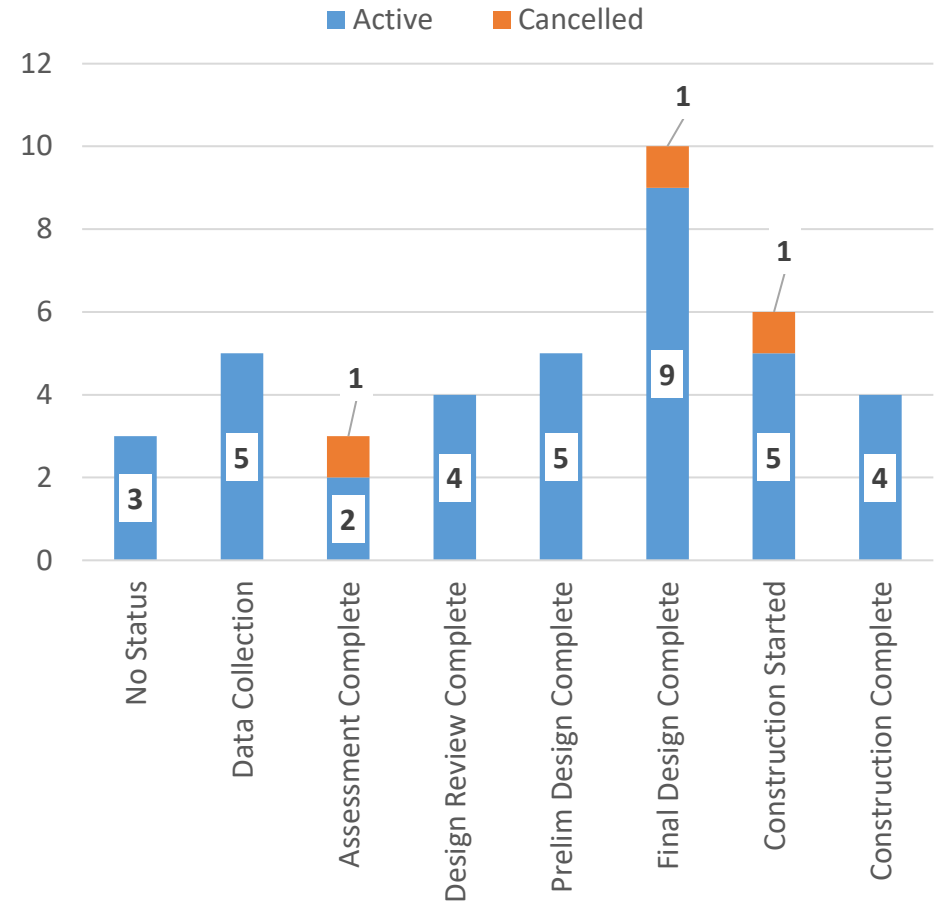


# FY21 Project Status

## 7/1/22 Data

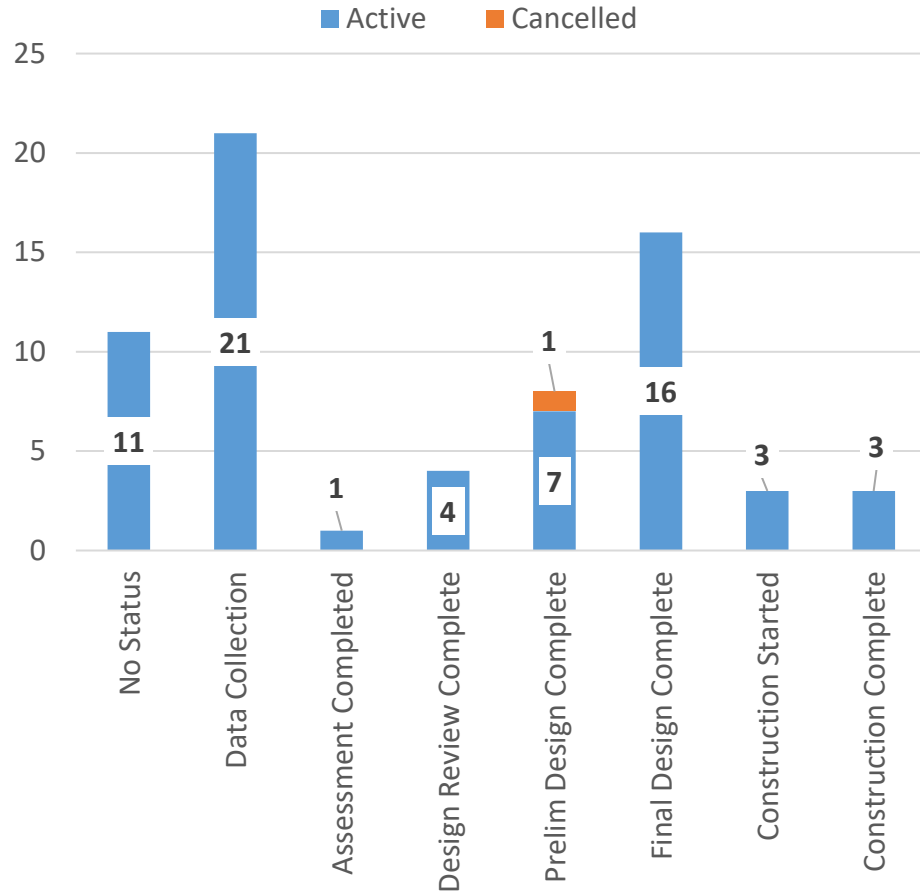


## 1/1/23 Data

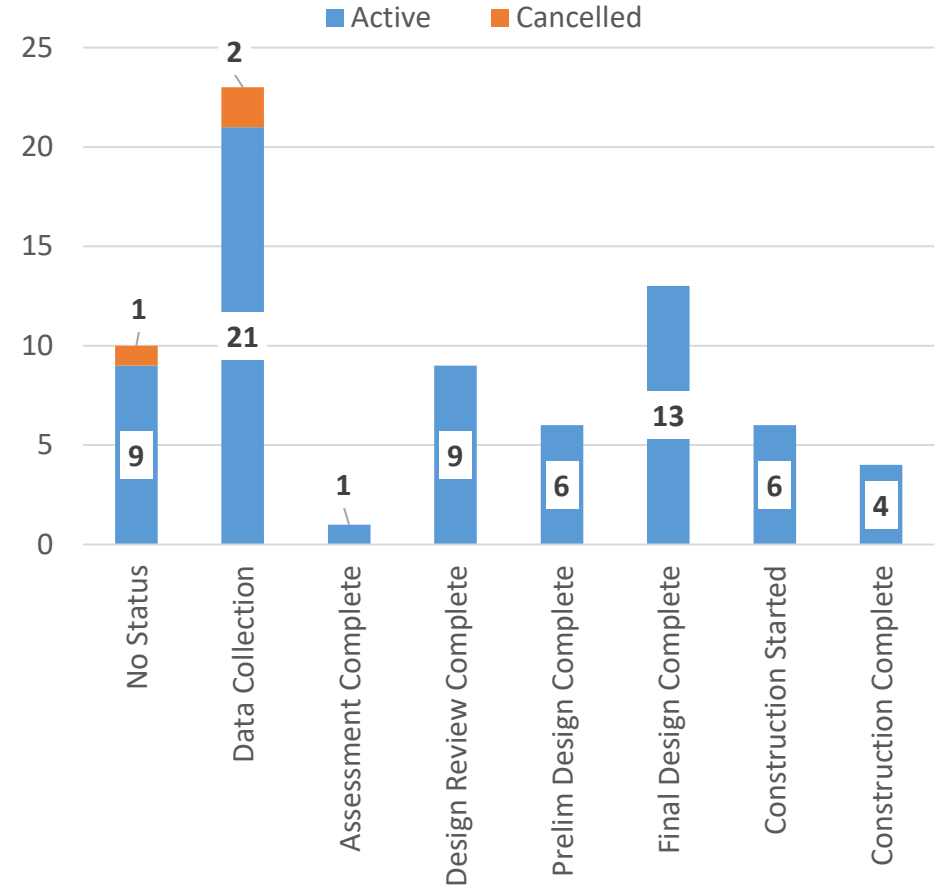


# FY22 Project Status

## 7/1/22 Data

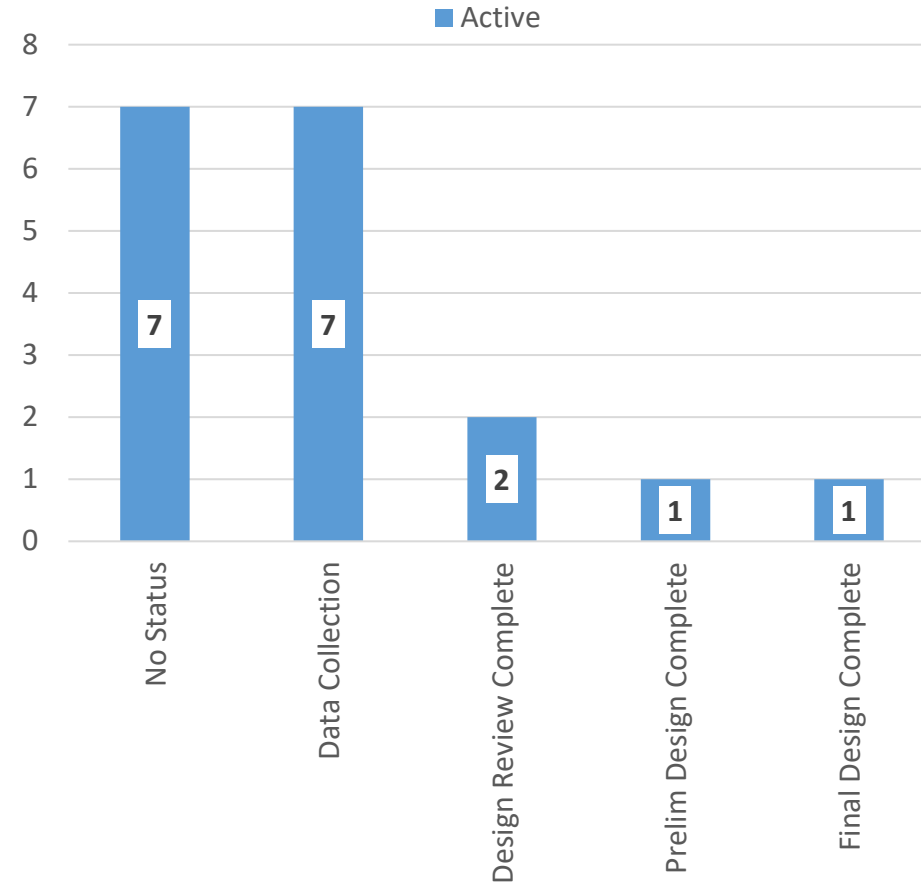


## 1/1/23 Data



# FY23 Project Status

1/1/23 Data







# Pasture Renovation BMP Policy Revision

# Pasture Workgroup

## Goals

- Review current pasture BMPs in need of updates
- Address policy that prohibits practice adoption
- Investigate and develop new pasture related BMPs
- Expand program ability to address water quality through pasture management



# Pasture Workgroup Update

Duane Vanhook - Haywood SWCD

Andrew Cox - New River SWCD

Mark Forbes – Avery SWCD

Mark Byrd – Mitchell SWCD

Jonathan Wallin – Henderson SWCD

Charlie Bass – Franklin SWCD

Emily Bateman – Wake SWCD

Brandon Higgins – Rutherford SWCD

Scott Thomas – Yancey SWCD

Brandi Talton – Wayne SWCD

Melanie Harris, Henry Faison – Sampson SWCD

Grover Hood – NRCS Grazing Specialist

John Beck – DSWC

Ken Parks – DSWC

Layne Owen - DSWC

Rachel Smith - DSWC

Lisa Fine - DSWC

Scott Melvin – DSWC

Cayle Aldridge - DSWC

Rick McSwain - DSWC



# Pasture Renovation

- Drafted revisions to the Pasture Renovation BMP policy
- Developing a Forage Management Planning Sheet
- [Website](#) Updates – JAA, Planning and Design Tools, Common Component



# Pasture Renovation

## Draft Pasture Renovation BMP Policy Changes

1. Maintenance period reduced to 5 years
2. Updated reference titles and links
3. Added requirement for a pre-plant soil test

\$ No change to average cost



Agriculture Cost Share Program

**Pasture Renovation**

Definition/Purpose

A Pasture Renovation Practice means to establish and maintain a conservation cover of **grass forage**, where the existing pasture vegetation is inadequate. Benefits may include reduced soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution from dissolved and sediment-attached substances.

Policies

1. This practice must not be used to convert idle farmland to pastures, and it does not apply to hayland that is not normally grazed.
2. The cooperators must manage fertility, stocking rates, and stop/start grazing heights (shown in the [North Carolina State University \(NCSU\) Forage Facts Grazing Guidance](#)); to minimize the potential for cost shared fields to be overgrazed and to ensure that a good stand is maintained.
3. Grazing animals shall be excluded from renovated pastures until forage reaches desired start grazing height as shown in the most recent version of the NCSU Forage Facts Grazing ~~Guidance~~ [document](#).
4. ~~The most recent version of the NCSU [Planting Guide for Forage Crops](#)~~ [Planting Guide for in North Carolina](#) should be followed for vegetation seeding rates and times. [Fertility management should must follow soil test recommendations. Soil test reports can be no more than ~~three~~ two years old.](#)
5. When determining the acreage for which payments can be made for this practice, only the acreage ~~actually~~ planted shall be considered. The area occupied by farm roads, best management practices, ditches, structures, etc. shall not be included in planted acreage.

**Commented [BJE1]:** Now linked on the BMP page [FORAGE Facts \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

**Commented [BJE2]:** Now linked on the BMP page [Planting Guide for Forage Crops in North Carolina | NC State Extension Publications \(ncsu.edu\)](#)

PASTURE RENOVATION	
Maintenance Period	<del>10</del> 5 years
BMP Units	ACRES
Required Effects	SOIL_SAVED PHOSPHORUS_SAVED ACRES_AFFECTED (planted acres) Animal Type Animal Units
JAA	SWCC – 512 Pasture Renovation OR NRCS - ECS - 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
NRCS Standard	NRCS - ECS - 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
CS2 Reference Materials	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads

([March 2023](#), August 2022, August 2019, July 2012)

## Pasture Renovation

### Definition/Purpose

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3. Grazing animals shall be excluded from renovated pastures until forage reaches desired start grazing height as shown in the most recent version of the NCSU Forage Facts Grazing Guide.
4. The most recent version of the NCSU Planting Guide for Forage Crops in North Carolina should be followed for vegetation seeding rates and times. Fertility management must follow soil test recommendations. Soil test reports can be no more than two years old.
5. When determining the acreage for which payments can be made for this practice, only the acreage planted shall be considered. The area occupied by farm roads, best management practices, ditches, structures, etc. shall not be included in planted acreage.

<b>PASTURE RENOVATION</b>	
<b>Maintenance Period</b>	5 years
<b>BMP Units</b>	ACRES
<b>Required Effects</b>	SOIL_SAVED PHOSPHORUS_SAVED ACRES_AFFECTED (planted acres) Animal Type Animal Units
<b>JAA</b>	SWCC – 512 Pasture Renovation OR NRCS - ECS - 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
<b>NRCS Standard</b>	NRCS - ECS - 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
<b>CS2 Reference Materials</b>	NC-ACSP-11 Signature Page Map with BMP location, fields, and roads

# Pasture Renovation

## Draft Forage Planning Guide

Rationale: in order to increase success of the practice, create a planning guide for managing the forage.

- Paired with the 512 IR sheet (planting)
- Forage management plan includes:
  - stocking rate
  - pasture condition score
  - grazing start/stop height







ACSP PASTURE RENOVATION  
FORAGE MANAGEMENT PLAN



Cooperator Information

First Name

Last Name

County

Tract-Field

Contract Number

Plan Date

Management Plan

Livestock Type

Head

Stocking Rate Per Acre

Pasture Condition Score

Species	Growth Period	Targeted Grazing Height INCHES		Expected Days of Rest Before Regrazing	Comments
		Start	Stop		

Signatures

Technical Representative Name

Signature

Forage Plan Reviewed with the Client/Producer on (insert date)

Producer Name (print)

Producer Signature

# Pasture Workgroup

## Pasture Renovation

➤ Presented to the TRC on February 16, 2023 >>> Approved

↪ ***Action requested: SWCC approval of recommended changes to the Pasture Renovation BMP policy and new Pasture Renovation Forage Management Plan to take effect with the FY2024 Detailed Implementation Plan***



# FY2023 ACSP Supplemental Allocations

# ACSP Supplemental Allocation

- Supplemental allocation of ACSP funds each Spring
- Sufficient ACSP funds > \$200,000
- To be eligible districts must
  - Submit a request by March 1
  - Have 75% of funds encumbered to contracts
- Allocated using the same parameters as the initial allocations.



<b>1. Percentage of total acres of agricultural land</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>2. Percentage of total number of animal units</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>3. Relative rank of the percentage of the county outside of municipal boundaries draining to waters identified as impaired or impacted</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>4. Relative rank of the percentage of the county draining to waters classified as Primary Nursery Areas, Outstanding Resource Waters, High Quality Waters, Trout Waters ,Shellfish Harvesting Areas (open), and Drinking Water Assessment Areas</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>5. Percentage of program funds allocated to a district that are expended for installed BMPs in the highest three of the most recent seven-year period</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>6. Relative rank of the number of acres of highly erodible land</b>	<b>10%</b>



# ACSP Supplemental Allocation

- Requests

- **46** districts totaling **\$1,531,430**
- Range - \$1,500 - \$165,000

- Allocations

- **46** districts totaling **\$944,606**
- Range - \$1,500 - \$44,429



## Supplemental Allocation of FY2023 ACSP Financial Assistance Funds

DISTRICT	REGULAR ACSP (CS)	
	REQUESTED	March 2023
ALAMANCE	\$ -	\$ -
ALEXANDER	\$ 55,000	\$ 37,152
ALLEGHANY	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
ANSON	\$ -	\$ -
ASHE	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
AVERY	\$ 12,467	\$ 12,467
BEAUFORT	\$ 75,880	\$ 28,313
BERTIE	\$ -	\$ -
BLADEN	\$ 68,805	\$ 31,600
BRUNSWICK	\$ -	\$ -
BUNCOMBE	\$ 50,000	\$ 33,672
BURKE	\$ -	\$ -
CABARRUS	\$ -	\$ -
CALDWELL	\$ -	\$ -
CAMDEN	\$ -	\$ -
CARTERET	\$ -	\$ -
CASWELL	\$ -	\$ -
CATAWBA	\$ 3,332	\$ 3,332
CHATHAM	\$ -	\$ -
CHEROKEE	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
CHOWAN	\$ 20,000	\$ 18,203
CLAY	\$ -	\$ -
CLEVELAND	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000
COLUMBUS	\$ -	\$ -
CRAVEN	\$ 5,801	\$ 5,801
CUMBERLAND	\$ 50,113	\$ 20,211
CURRITUCK	\$ 5,208	\$ 5,208
DARE	\$ -	\$ -
DAVIDSON	\$ -	\$ -
DAVIE	\$ -	\$ -
DUPLIN	\$ 36,000	\$ 36,000
DURHAM	\$ -	\$ -
EDGECOMBE	\$ -	\$ -
FORSYTH	\$ 2,160	\$ 2,160
FRANKLIN	\$ 24,292	\$ 24,292
GASTON	\$ -	\$ -
GATES	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
GRAHAM	\$ -	\$ -
GRANVILLE	\$ -	\$ -
GREENE	\$ -	\$ -
GUILFORD	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
HALIFAX	\$ -	\$ -
HARNETT	\$ -	\$ -

DISTRICT	REGULAR ACSP (CS)	
	REQUESTED	March 2023
HAYWOOD	\$ 60,000	\$ 30,717
HENDERSON	\$ 35,000	\$ 33,391
HERTFORD	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
HOKE	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
HYDE	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
IREDELL	\$ 35,000	\$ 34,366
JACKSON	\$ -	\$ -
JOHNSTON	\$ 75,000	\$ 40,451
JONES	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000
LEE	\$ -	\$ -
LENOIR	\$ -	\$ -
LINCOLN	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
MACON	\$ -	\$ -
MADISON	\$ -	\$ -
MARTIN	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
MCDOWELL	\$ -	\$ -
MECKLENBURG	\$ -	\$ -
MITCHELL	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
MONTGOMERY	\$ -	\$ -
MOORE	\$ 25,500	\$ 25,500
NASH	\$ -	\$ -
NEW HANOVER	\$ -	\$ -
NORTHAMPTON	\$ -	\$ -
ONSLOW	\$ -	\$ -
ORANGE	\$ -	\$ -
PAMLICO	\$ 100,000	\$ 24,602
PASQUOTANK	\$ -	\$ -
PENDER	\$ -	\$ -
PERQUIMANS	\$ 30,000	\$ 19,460
PERSON	\$ -	\$ -
PITT	\$ -	\$ -
POLK	\$ -	\$ -
RANDOLPH	\$ 165,000	\$ 37,298
RICHMOND	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
ROBESON	\$ -	\$ -
ROCKINGHAM	\$ 10,939	\$ 10,939
ROWAN	\$ -	\$ -
RUTHERFORD	\$ -	\$ -
SAMPSON	\$ 4,340	\$ 4,340
SCOTLAND	\$ -	\$ -
STANLY	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
STOKES	\$ -	\$ -
SURRY	\$ 75,000	\$ 44,429



REGULAR ACSP (CS)		
DISTRICT	REQUESTED	March 2023
SWAIN	\$ -	\$ -
TRANSYLVANIA	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
TYRRELL	\$ -	\$ -
UNION	\$ 50,000	\$ 40,539
VANCE	\$ -	\$ -
WAKE	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000
WARREN	\$ 6,371	\$ 6,371
WASHINGTON	\$ -	\$ -
WATAUGA	\$ -	\$ -
WAYNE	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500
WILKES	\$ 148,996	\$ 32,566
WILSON	\$ -	\$ -
YADKIN	\$ -	\$ -
YANCEY	\$ 10,726	\$ 10,726
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$ 1,531,430</b>	<b>\$ 944,606</b>

SOURCE	AMOUNT
Funding Available	\$ 944,606
Total Supplemental Allocation	\$ 944,606

**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

120 HOSPITAL AVENUE NW., LENOIR NC 28645

**Thursday, February 23, 2023****NCSWCD****Commission meeting**

Dear Soil &amp; Water Conservation Commissioners,

The Caldwell SWCD is writing to request a post approval of contract number 14-2023-801 for \$11,000.00. During the last quarter of 2022 the Caldwell SWCD office saw repeated staff turnover and a long position vacancy. This particular contract was started by the previous technical staff and continued by the educational staff before both positions went vacant. The Caldwell Board approved the contract on September 6, 2022 based on staff recommendations and entering the project in CS2. After completion of the contract and request for payment, the district was informed the contract was not approved by the division. Our current conservationist, Aaron Franks, has been trained on the division's contract approval process, has updated all of the contract information and submitted the contract to the division. Because this is of no fault of the cooperator and they have acted in good faith throughout the contracting process, the Caldwell SWCD request the Soil and Water Conservation Commission approve contract 14-2023-801 for Mike Hedge.

Sincerely,

*Michael Willis**Board of Supervisors Chair Caldwell County\_Soil and Water Conservation District*

**Post Approval for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Contract 31-2023-301**

<b>District</b>	<b>Cooperator</b>	<b>Contract</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>BMP</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
DUPLIN	Miss Grace Farms	31-2023-301	\$ 3,275	Cropland Conversion - Trees	15.9

Duplin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is requesting post approval for contract 31-2023-301 to provide cost share funds to Miss Grace Farms for a Cropland Conversion - Trees BMP as part of a Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contract. Site preparation activities and tree planting were completed, in accordance with plans and specifications, prior to the district creating a cost share contract for this project. The cooperator worked with Lenoir FSA to create the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and CREP contracts. The cooperator began work on the project after receiving approval of their CRP contract from FSA. Duplin staff was not made aware of the CREP contract by Lenoir FSA or CREP staff until site preparation and tree planting had already been completed. Duplin SWCD has since created cost share contract 31-2023-301 to pay for a portion of the implemented practices.

The need for a post approval for this contract is in no way the fault of the cooperator or the Duplin SWCD. The confusion with this contract resulted from a lack of communication and coordination from FSA and CREP staff with Duplin district staff.

**Division staff is recommending a post approval for contract 31-2023-301.**

**RESOLUTION ADVOCATING INCREASED FUNDING FOR  
VOLUNTARY COST-SHARE PROGRAMS THAT WILL HELP  
LANDOWNERS IMPROVE THEIR PROPERTY AND SIGNIFICANTLY  
REDUCE NUTRIENT LOADING IN NORTH CAROLINA'S COASTAL  
WATERS**

We the undersigned endorse and approve immediate implementation of the non-regulatory actions described below. We strongly advocate that this Resolution immediately be shared with key State and Federal agencies and decision-makers that have the authority to significantly increase funding for landowner cost-share programs already proven to greatly reduce harmful nutrient loading in the State's coastal waters.

**Resolved:**

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 5 of our Constitution, entitled "Conservation of Natural Resources," expressly provides: "It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions to acquire and preserve park, recreational, and scenic areas, to control and limit the pollution of our air and water, to control excessive noise, and in every other appropriate way to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this State its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open lands, and places of beauty."

WHEREAS, much of the coastal economy in North Carolina depends on clean water to thrive and grow;

WHEREAS, excessive amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus currently entering the State's coastal waters are well-documented as significantly contributing to one of North Carolina's most widespread, costly, and continuing water quality problems;

WHEREAS, while nitrogen and phosphorus are nutrients that are natural parts of our aquatic systems and important for the growing of crops, when too much nitrogen and phosphorous enter the State's waters they cause a wide range of pollution issues that have negative effects on our streams, rivers, lakes, bays, sounds, and other coastal waters, and are causing serious environmental and human health issues that adversely affect our fisheries, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, parks, recreational areas, open lands, places of beauty, and the ability of our citizens to safely use and enjoy these important public resources – all to the detriment of property owners, fishermen, recreational businesses, tourism, real estate, local communities and our entire State economy;

WHEREAS, these excessive nutrients cause algal blooms that result in large fish kills, significant loss of submerged aquatic vegetation, and otherwise endanger public health;

WHEREAS, the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan Amendment approved by the Environmental Management Commission, Marine Fisheries Commission and Coastal Resources Commission in 2021 calls for adoption of voluntary measures to help landowners reduce the amount of these nutrients entering the State's waters;

WHEREAS, there are a wide range of proven best management practices and cost share programs already available to landowners that are proven non-regulatory ways to significantly reduce the amount of excess nutrients that reach the State's waters;

WHEREAS, these proven non-regulatory programs currently are underfunded and in need of data-driven strategic efforts to focus them where the needs are greatest;

WHEREAS, these same best management practices frequently provide concurrent benefits that can help our citizens to increase the productivity of their lands, reduce flooding, and make land uses more resilient to extreme weather;

WHEREAS, the current funding levels for these landowner assistance programs have not kept pace with population growth or price increases in our economy;

WHEREAS, these programs are needed by landowners in both rural and urban areas, and especially in watersheds that are near the State's coastal waters and the rivers, streams, creeks and tributaries that flow into these coastal waters;

WHEREAS, the 2021 CHPP Amendment recommends forming a public-private partnership of stakeholders to advance voluntary water quality protection to safeguard coastal habitats such as SAV, wetlands, and oyster reefs through a variety of strategies; and

WHEREAS, a public-private stakeholder group was organized by North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, and that group requests that interested parties endorse this resolution to help expand voluntary cost-share programs to improve coastal water quality.

**NOW IT IS RESOLVED THAT:**

The undersigned fully support a significant increase in one-time, but more importantly in reoccurring funding for cost-share programs that will assist landowners in managing and reducing the amount of nutrient runoff into the State's waters. We call upon our State's decision-makers to expeditiously address and evaluate how to most effectively expand these already proven and effective cost-share programs with sufficient annual planning, staffing, and funding. We further call upon our State's decision-makers to use their best efforts to further increase the effectiveness of these proven programs by communicating and coordinating with appropriate Federal agency partners.

We the undersigned pledge to work together with each other and our state's decision-makers and leaders to expeditiously increase funding and staff support for these proven cost-share programs, thereby significantly reducing unhealthy nutrient loading in our State's waterways and thereby greatly enhancing our State's economic health.