

North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission
Policy for Mileage, Subsistence and Per Diem Reimbursements From State-
Appropriated District Supervisor Travel Funds
Updated July 24, 2024

I. Guiding Principles

District supervisor travel, as made available through the Division of Soil and Water Conservation (division), supports supervisor mileage, subsistence and per diem for the following functions: monthly local Soil & Water Conservation District (district) board meetings; spot check field reviews required by the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP), Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) and Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP); Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) meetings; Basic or Advanced Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors; NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation District (NCASWCD) spring and fall area meetings; the annual NCASWCD state meeting; and other meetings directly related to duties and responsibilities of their position as approved by the Division Director or the commission. The following guiding principles, as a general guide and not as an absolute, will be used to manage the allocation of funds to each of the different functions:

II. Local District Board Meetings and Spot Check Field Reviews

Regular monthly meetings of the local district board and spot checks related to the ACSP, AgWRAP and CCAP are a high priority. This budget priority is directly tied to statutory responsibilities of supervisors and is directly related to the mission and goals of the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the division.

III. Commission

- A. Meetings and functions of the commission are critical due to statutory responsibilities and the direct relationship with the mission and goals of NCDA&CS and the division.
- B. The budget line item to support commission travel should be maintained at a level necessary to support six (6) meetings per year.

IV. Basic or Advanced Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors

- A. As specified in Commission rule 02 NCAC 59A .0202, all Supervisors shall complete *Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors within their first year of service as an elected or appointed supervisor.*
- B. To maximize the use of available funds, supervisor attendance at the Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors should be prioritized as follows: (1) supervisors required

to attend to satisfy the Basic Training requirement outlined in 02 NCAC 59A .0202, including any new supervisor and/or first-time attendee, (2) supervisors who have not had the training within the past five years, and (3) all supervisors.

- C. To maximize the use of available funds, supervisor attendance at the Advanced Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors should be prioritized as follows: (1) supervisors who have not yet obtained required Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) in their current term, (2) supervisors who have not had the training within the past five years, and (3) all supervisors.
- D. Attendance at the Basic or Advanced Training for Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors should be approved as per the above priorities when necessary to stay within general budget planning guidelines outlined below.

V. NCASWCD Annual State Meeting

- A. The annual state meeting is critical to a comprehensive, statewide conservation program and should be conducted on an annual, recurring basis. Attendance is encouraged for all supervisors.

VI. Spring and Fall Area Meetings

- A. Spring and fall area meetings are important to acknowledge as training activities, and are critical to the effectiveness of local districts and the operation of the NCASWCD. Attendance is encouraged for all supervisors.

VII. General Budget Planning Guidelines

Budget planning should be guided, not as an absolute, by the following as a percentage of available funds:

- District monthly meetings, spot checks and Local Work Groups - 59.2%
- Commission meetings - 1.7%
(based on funding needed to conduct 6 meetings)
- Basic and Advanced Training for Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors - 3.8%
- Spring and fall area meetings - 7.3%
- Annual state meeting - 28%

VIII. Reimbursement Guidelines

- A. All supervisors who desire to be reimbursed for their service as district supervisors are required to submit all applicable forms and documentation within 60 days of completing their oath of office. If this deadline is not met supervisors will not be eligible for reimbursement for meetings attended prior to receipt of completed paperwork. Reimbursements will begin once completed paperwork is received by the division.

- B.** All approvals and authorizations are contingent upon funding availability and are in accordance with the NC Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) statutory rates for reimbursement. Updates to funding availability and reimbursement rates will be posted to the district listserv and at: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/district-supervisors/travel-and-reimbursement-forms/travel-reimbursement-forms>.
- C.** State employees (or individuals who receive all or part of their income from state appropriations) who also serve as district supervisors are not eligible to receive per diem and are subject to different subsistence and mileage reimbursements per OSBM guidelines. For specific guidance go to: <https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/district-supervisors/travel-and-reimbursement-forms/travel-reimbursement-forms>.
- D.** Other eligibility requirements:
- Only original receipts will be accepted with travel vouchers
 - Travel vouchers must be submitted by the last day of the month following the month in which the travel occurred.
- E.** Specific policy regarding district supervisor mileage, subsistence and per diem is as follows:
- 1. Annual State Meeting**
 - a.** In accordance with GS 139-7, approval of the commission is hereby given to all qualified supervisors to attend the annual state meeting of the NCASWCD.
 - b.** All qualified supervisors who attend the annual state meeting are authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances in accordance with the OSBM statutory rates for reimbursement. Excess lodging reimbursement above the standard state rate for attendance by district supervisors at the annual state meeting must be approved in advance by the Department. Except in the case of emergency situations approved by the Division Director, lodging reimbursement will only be paid for actual overnight stays.
 - c.** The requirement for a quorum of supervisors from an individual district is hereby waived in the case of attendance at an annual state meeting.
 - 2. Local District Board Meetings, Spot Check Field Reviews and Local Work Groups**
 - a.** In accordance with state statutory rates, each supervisor is authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances for a maximum of 12 local district board meetings during the state's fiscal year, where a quorum is present.
 - b.** District supervisors are authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem for the required five percent (5%) spot check field review of the ACSP, AgWRAP and CCAP contracts and related practices in their county. The requirement for a quorum of supervisors from an individual district is hereby waived in the case of attendance at spot check field reviews.

- c. In accordance with state statutory rates, each supervisor is authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances for one meeting of the Local Work Group during the state's fiscal year. The requirement for a quorum of supervisors from an individual district is hereby waived in the case of attendance at a Local Work Group meeting.
- d. Officially adopted minutes of district meetings, duly signed by the board secretary or board chair, are required by the commission to support the payment of travel funds and should be uploaded to the district SharePoint site as soon as they are available. Travel reimbursement may be processed upon receipt of the Supervisor Travel Reimbursement cover sheet for district meetings and must be submitted with travel vouchers. Officially adopted board minutes must be uploaded to the district SharePoint site as soon as possible.
- e. For district supervisors who are not state employees, subsistence will include the current rate for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If a meal is provided at no cost as part of the meeting, that meal is not eligible for reimbursement.

3. Area Meetings

- a. In accordance with GS-139-7, expressed approval of the state commission is hereby given to all qualified supervisors to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances in accordance with the OSBM statutory rates for reimbursement to attend two NCASWCD semi-annual area meetings within their respective areas.
- b. The requirement for a quorum of supervisors from an individual district is hereby waived in the case of attendance at area meetings.
- c. An area meeting attendance list must be submitted to the division before travel reimbursements can be made.
- d. Subsistence will be limited to the meeting's registration cost. The approved rate for registration cost reimbursement will be set by the Division Director, annually. No other meal allowance equivalent is eligible for reimbursement.

4. Other Meetings

- a. A Supervisor shall be authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances for any local district board meeting held outside the district in which he or she ordinarily serves, provided prior written approval is obtained from the commission or the Division Director.
- b. In addition to the annual state meeting, two area meetings, regularly scheduled monthly district meetings and spot checks, a supervisor shall be authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem allowances for travel directly related to other duties and responsibilities of their position as approved by the commission or the Division Director.

5. N.C. Agriculture Cost-Share Program (ACSP), Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP)

- a. Supervisors are authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem for meetings called by the division and approved by the commission in regard to the ACSP, AgWRAP and CCAP.
- b. Supervisors are authorized to receive mileage, subsistence and per diem for attendance at commission meetings where the supervisor is called upon to represent his/her respective district before the commission. Lodging may be reimbursed if departure time must be before 6:00 am, due to distance.

This policy shall be in effect on and after July 24, 2024, and shall remain in effect until rescinded, amended, or otherwise altered by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Any change in policy shall be effective at the discretion of the Commission. Notice shall not be required.

This policy was adopted by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission in regular session on July 24, 2024.



John Langdon, Chair
Soil and Water Conservation Commission