**NORTH CAROLINA**

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

**BUSINESS SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

**January 5th, 2025**

 Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

Division of Soil & Water Conservation

Sheraton Imperial Hotel RTP

Empire Tooms A & B

4700 Emperor Boulevard

Durham, NC 27703

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| **Commission Members**  | **Guests** | **Guests**  |
| John Langdon, Chair | Shelby Kaplan | David Harris |
| Billy Kilpatrick | Jennifer Roach | Gail Hughes |
| James Lamb | Lisa Fine | Wayne Collier |
| Brian Parker | Michael Shepherd | Mitch Peele |
| George Teague | Helen Wiklund | Bill Yarborough |
| Barbara Bleiweis | Chris Love | Derek Potter |
| Patrick Baker | Ken Parks | James Ferguson |
| **Commission Counsel** | Eric Pare | Marian Swinker |
| Phillip Reynolds | Allie Dinwiddie | Josh Padilla |
| **Guests** | Brandy Myers | Wooiklee Paye |
| David Williams | Ben Knox | Rob C Baldwin |
| Julie Henshaw | Keith Larick | Jamey Walker |
| Matt Safford | Luke Britt | Mike Barbee |
| Kristina Fischer | Steve Harris | W Chester Lowden |
| Rick McSwain | Lynn Lambart | Jacob Peele |
| Josh Vetter | Mitchell Womack | Rodney Wright |
| Bryan Evans | Beth Pugh Farrell | Max R James Sr. |
| Tom Hill | Larry Corry | Charles Powell |
| Tinesha Mcneil | Nancy Carter | Lee McConnell |
| Elise McLaughlin | Jeff Joyner | Roger Hurst |
| Lorien Deaton | John Clark | Mike Willis |
| Tim Huffman | Craig Myers | James Burns |
| Dewitt Hardee | Jonathan Wallin | Jane Humphy |
| Tim Huffman | Rebecca Hanna | Angie Quinn |
| Craig Frazier | Andrew Brannon | Nicole Warren |
| Joseph Wensel | Betsy Gerwig | Melanie Harris  |
| Cameron Knudsen | Addie Ruff |  |
| Henry Faison | Lisa Glance | **Guests Online** |
| Billy W Ivey | Denny Norris | Lindsay Edwards |
| Rick Karriker | Randy Freeman | 252-717-8292 (unverified) |
| Ross Young | Candice Adams |  |
| Ken Morris | Bruce Miller |  |

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 3:04 P.M..

**II. PRELIMINARY:** Chairman Langdon charged the Commission members 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 asked all of the Commission members and attendees to introduce themselves and reminded everyone to sign the registration sheet and silence their cell phones.

**III. BUSINESS:**

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick moved to approve the agenda and Commissioner Barbara Bleiweis seconded. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Barbara Bleiweis moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner James Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. Mr Williams. Director Williams’ presentation (Attachment 3) is included as an official part of the minutes..
2. **Association Report:**
3. Chairman Langdon recognized President Billy Kilpatrick to present. A copy of the report (Attachement 4A) is included as an official part of the minutes.
4. Chairman Langdon recognized Executive Director Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 4B)is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chairman Langdon recognized all past commission members and Helen Wilkund, past clerk for the Commission.

1. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard. A copy of the report (Attachment 5) is an official part of the minutes.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the consent agenda. Commissioner George Teague moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Brian Parker seconded. Motion carried.
	1. **Supervisor Appointments:**
		* Roger Hurst, Gaston SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Lee McConnell for 2022 through 2026 with an attached resignation letter from Lee McConnell

* + - James Michael Byrd, Harnett SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of John Hairr for 2022-2026
	1. **Supervisor Contracts:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **County** | **Contract** | **Supervisor Name** | **BMP** | **Contract Amount** | **Comments** |
| Chatham | 19-2025-015 | John Glosson | Livestock Exclusion Fencing |  |  $1,549 |
| Pasquotank | 70-2025-006 | Thomas Roach | Residue and Tillage Management (60%) | $563 | Applicant is a Supervisor in Perquimans  |
| Pasquotank | 70-2025-008 | Stephen Harris | Water Control Structure | $12,500 | Applicant: Arrowhead Farms Inc. |

Total $14,612

* 1. **Job Approval Authority Applicants for Consideration:**

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| --- |
| **JAA APPLICANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE JANUARY 2025 NC SWCC MEETING** |
| **APPLICANT NAME** | **EMPLOYER** | **TYPE OF JAA REQUESTED** | **JAA RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL** |
| Brody Brown | Craven SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Cover Crop |
| Tyler Hodge | Columbus SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Cover Crop 2. Residue and Tillage Managemen |
| Alex Hooks | Wayne SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Precision Agrichemical Application |
| Cameron Knudsen | Sampson SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Cover Crop |
| Jonathon Russell | Moore SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Cropland Conversion - Grass 2. Pasture Renovation |
| Nicole Warren | Onslow SWCD | Submission of completed designs, certifications and skills | 1. Cropland Conversion - Grass |

1. **Technical Specialist Training Update:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 7A) is included as an official part of the minutes.
	1. **Audit Results**

Mr. Shepherd reported that all technical specialist training documentation reviewed in the audit was found to be in order and met criteria for approval.

* 1. **Report and Action on Training Fulfilment:**

Mr. Shepherd referred to Attachment 7B that showed that 27 designated technical specialists did not fulfill their continuing education requirements by December 31, 2024. He recommended that the designations be rescinded for these 27 individuals. Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the Report and Action on Training Fulfilment. Commissioner George Teague moved to approve the revisions, and Commissioner Barbara Bleiweis seconded. Motion carried.

1. **Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 8A-C)is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Beck reported that the Technical Review Committee (TRC), in its ongoing effort to review all of the existing waste management practices in the Ag Cost Share Program, has recommended minor updates to three practices.
	1. Concentrated Nutrient Source Management System
	2. Insect Control Practice
	3. Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the TRC’s recommended revisions. Commissioner James Lamb moved to approve the allocation, and Commissioner Patrick Baker seconded. Motion carried.

1. **Community Conservation Assistance Program Policy Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. Mr. Tom Hill presented a powerpoint with Items 9A – G CAAP Standards and Policy Updates. Mr. Hill shared the CCAP Advisory Committee recommendations. A copy of the report (Attachment 9A-G) is included as an official part of the minutes.
2. **Backyard Rain Garden:**
3. **Backyard Wetland:**
4. **Cistern:**
5. **Critical Area Planting**
6. **Riparian Buffer**
7. **Stormwater Wetland**
8. **Structural Stormwater Conveyance**

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the Division’s Recommendations. Commissioner George Teague moved to approve all recommendation, and Commissioner Brian Parker seconded. Motion carried.

1. **2020 -2024 Supervisor Training Credits:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 10) is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer reported that twelve supervisors had failed to achieve the required 6 continuing education credits in their term that expired in December. Six of the twelve did not seek reappointment or were not re-elected. The Division recommends sending the remaining six individuals to the Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration. It should be noted that Supervisors Yutzy (McDowell) and Dalton (Surry) were only appointed with less than a year of the 2020-2024 term remaining. The Division will contact these individuals and ask for a written explanation for their lack of training credits; if there has been a hardship (illness, financial, familial obligations or circumstances beyond the control of the Supervisor) this will be of interest to the Inquiry Committee in its deliberations. A copy of Attachment 10 is included as an official part of the minutes.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the Action Related to Supervisor Training Credits Requirements. Commissioner Barbara Bleiweis moved to approve the rmotion, and Commissioner Billy Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

1. **Supervisor Failure to Attend – Cumberland and Pitt:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 11) is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer shared that the Cumberland SWCD had submitted a report that Ms. Monique McMillan had missed six consecutive regularly scheduled board meetings.

The Pitt District reported that David Collier had missed four consecutive meetings. the recommendation.

* 1. **Cumberland SWCD** The Division recommends sending Supervisor McMillan to the Inquiry Committee established under 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration
	2. **Pitt SWCD**  Mr. Collier did not seek re-election and his term expired in December 2024. No further action is recommended

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Chairman Langdon asked for any public comments.

Chairman Langdon presented award for service to George Teague and thanked him for his service.

Mitch Peele from Farm Bureau brought to the Commission’s attention that an Agricultural Water Policy document had been prepared in 2011 by agricultural stakeholders. Among the recommendations implemented from the report was the establishment of the AgWRAP program to help improve ag water use efficiency and to increase availability of water resources for agricultural producers. This document need updating to reflect current conditions in NC.

Ben Knox – Rowan Co expressed his disappointment that the CCAP project funded in Rowan District was not the highest priority project in the eyes of the District Board. He expressed a desire that the wishes of the Board by given greater priority in the ranking process. David Williams explained that it came down to ranks – based on criteria on forms. Mr. Williams thanked him for his comments and informed him that it will be taken into consideration.

Bill Yarborough expressed thanks that the letter from Haywood SWCD regarding the benefits of stream debris removal had been read at the last meeting.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:** : With no further business, Chairman Langdon called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner George Teague moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Barbara Bleiweis seconded. With no opposition, Chairman Langdon declared the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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David B. Williams, Director Tinesha McNeil, Recording Secretary

Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

***These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on March 12, 2025.***