**NORTH CAROLINA**

**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION**

**WORK 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 | Alan Walker |
| Billy Kilpatrick | Tinesha McNeil | Daphne Cartner |
| James Lamb | Lisa Fine | Ricky May |
| Brian Parker | Michael Shepherd | Billy W. Ivey |
| George Teague | Elise McLaughlin | Steve Harris |
| Barbara Bleiweis | John Beck  | Mitchell Mullen |
| Patrick Baker | Ken Parks |  |
| **Commission Counsel** | Lorien Deaton  |  |
| Phillip Reynolds | Cayle Aldridge |  |
| **Guests** | John Beck |  |
| David Williams | Rachel Smith |  |
| Julie Henshaw | Keith Larick |  |
| Matt Safford | Charles Sanders |  |
| Kristina Fischer | Regina Kilpatrick |  |
| Rick McSwain | Max James Jr |  |
| Brandy Myers | Michael Willis | **Guests Online** |
| Bryan Evans | Craig Myers | 919-306-5602 (Unverified) |
| Tom Hill | Gail Hughes |  |

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.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 comments on the agenda. None were offered.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes from the November Work Session and Business Session (Attachments 2A & 2B). Non were declared.

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. Mr. Williams stated the report will be presented at the business meeting this evening.
2. **Association Report:**
3. **President’s Report**: Chairman Langdon recognized President Billy Kilpatrick to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 4A) is included as an official part of the minutes. President Billy Kilpatrick stated the report will be presented at the business meeting this afternoon.
4. **Executive Director’s Report:** 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. Mr. Evans stated the report will be presented at the business meeting this afternoon.
5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tim Beard. Director Williams confirmed that Mr. Beard will share the NRCS report (Attachment 5) at the business meeting this afternoon. A copy of the report is an official part of the minutes.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer, Mr. John Beck, and Mr. Josh Vetter to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.
	1. **Supervisor Appointments (Attachment 6A):**

Ms. Kristina Fischer presented 2 supervisors who’ve been nominated to fill unexpired 2022-26 terms

* 1. **Supervisor Contracts (Attachment 6B):**

Mr. John Beck presented three district supervisor contracts for consideration.

* 1. **Job Approval Authority Applicants for Consideration (Attachment 6C):**

Mr. Micheal Sheperd stood in for Mr. Josh Vetter who will present the six individuals that are approved and recommended by the JAA committee.

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

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| 1. **Audit Results**

Mr. Shepherd referred to Attachment 7A and shared that the Division had completed its audit of the continuing education requirements for technical specialists. All technical specialists reviewed in the audit were found to have met all the criteria for course approval.  |
| 1. **Report and Action on Training Fulfilment**

Mr. Shepherd referred to Attachment 7B citing rules governing the Approval of Water Quality Technical Specialist 02 NCAC 59G.0104 regarding training. The SWCC adopted the following policies for implementation of the Technical Specialist training requirement. |
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1. **Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. Mr. Beck stated that the Technical Review Committee has met and has proposed policy revisions to three practices (Attachments 8A-8C). A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

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| 1. **Concentrated Nutrient Source Management System**
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| 1. **Insect Control Practice**
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| 1. **Solids Separation from Tank/Raceway-Based Aquaculture Production**
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1. **Community Conservation Assistance Program Policy Revisions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Tom Hill to present. Mr. Hill stated that the Community Conservation Assistance Program Advisory Committee has met and has proposed policy revisions to seven practices. Revisions included formatting, organizational, policy adjustment changes, special considerations added and minor word changes. A copy of the Committee’s recommendations (Attachments 9A- 9G) are included as an official part of minutes. The seven practices for which revisions are proposed include:

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| 1. **Backyard Rain Garden**
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| 1. **Backyard Wetland**
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| 1. **Cistern**
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| 1. **Critical Area Planting**
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| 1. **Riparian Buffer**
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| 1. **Stormwater Wetland**
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| 1. **Structural Stormwater Conveyance**
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1. **2020 -2024 Supervisor Training Credits:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Ms. Fischer stated NC General Statute 139-7.2 requires all supervisors to obtain six Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) per term of service. In addition, NCAC 59A .0301 (d)(2) requires the Division to provide the Commission a summary of STCs by February 1 of odd years. For the 2020-2024 terms, there were twelve supervisors that did not achieve the required 6.0 STCs; six of these individuals were re-elected or conditionally re-appointed for 2024-2028 terms. The Division recommends sending these 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) only served less than a year of the 2020-2024 term. 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.

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| 1. **2020-2024 Supervisor Training Credit Summary Report**
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| 1. **Action Related to Supervisor Training Credits Requirements**
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1. **Supervisor Failure to Attend – Cumberland and Pitt:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report (Attachment 11 A & B) is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer shared that 02 NCAC 59A .0301(c) requires District boards to notify the Commission in writing of any member that has failed to attend three consecutive meetings, except when prevented by illness. Notification from the District shall include an explanation for non-attendance and the actions that the District board has taken to address the Supervisor’s attendance.

Ms. Fischer informed the Commission that since the November Commission meeting, two districts, Cumberland and Pitt, have reported lack of attendance by Supervisors. She called attention to Attachment 11 for more information on the two supervisors’ attendance situation.

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

**V. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.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.***