



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2023**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Gov. James G. Martin Building
4381 Trinity Road @ Gate 9
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests - Online
Chris Hughes	Rachel Smith	Edward Long
Billy Kilpatrick	Ken Parks	Daphne Cartner
James Lamb	Tom Hill	Paula Day
John Langdon	Lisa Fine	Demico Guy
Brian Parker	Sydney Mucha	Duane Vanhook
George Teague	Matt Safford	Frankie Singleton
Commission Counsel	Rick McSwain	Fredrick Cox
Phillip Reynolds	Eric Pare	Billy Ivey
Guests	Ben Knox	Joe Morris
David Williams	Kori Higgs	Jonathan Hinkle
Julie Henshaw	Vivien Zhong	Khiya Armstrong
John Beck	Rob Baldwin	Starr Silvis
Joshua Vetter	Lorien Deaton	Heather Reichert
Bryan Evans	Guests - Online	Rob Will
Michael Shepherd	Anne Coan	Chris Sloop
Scott Melvin	Amanda Sand	Shaqur Moses
Kristina Fischer	Cole Smith	Stephen Banner
Helen Wiklund	Neil Brackett	Craig Walker
Cayle Aldridge	Andrea Webb	Bobby Joe Fisher

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. Commissioners Hughes, Teague, Lamb, and Parker will recuse themselves from Item 17B. Chairman Langdon asked everyone to introduce themselves and stated the meeting guidelines.

- 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. Chairman Langdon stated the content of the minutes is fine except for some grammatical errors according to Commissioner Potter.
- 2A.** May 16, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes
2B. May 17, 2023, Business Session Meeting Minutes
- 3. Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Williams shared the next six Commission meeting dates and the challenges that the staff face to prepare for the July Commission meeting. Director Williams proposed all future July meetings to permanently move to the fourth Wednesday in July due to the fiscal year end on June 30 and the start of the new fiscal year on July 1. The Commission members agreed to permanently move all future July meetings beginning in 2024. Director Williams stated under Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103 (f) *“Agreements that encumber funds under the current fiscal year shall be submitted to the Division by 5:00 p.m. on June 30,”* the staff will have the opportunity to provide a better product to the Commission with the additional week. The September meeting has been moved to Monday, September 18, with the work session to be tentatively held at 10 a.m. and the business meeting on the same day at 7 p.m. The Division will cover the expenses to travel on Sunday and return on Tuesday. Counsel Reynolds stated the Secretary of State’s calendar needs to be updated. The CET (Conservation Employee Training) is being held at the same time at the same hotel. The cutoff date to book a hotel room and register for the CET is September 1. The November meeting will be held in Watauga County and tour a Christmas tree farm, vegetable production, and nursery operations. Director Williams proposed going paperless with links to the agenda and the Division is prepared to provide a device, i.e., iPad, tablet, or use your own laptop during the meeting.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Executive Director’s Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Bryan Evans to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Evans stated the report will be presented tomorrow.
- 6. NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Mr. Tim Beard will be in attendance to present at the meeting tomorrow. Director Williams stated Mr. Beard will be in attendance to present the report tomorrow. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
- 7. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Eric Pare, Mr. John Beck and Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Dean M. Kight, Fishing Creek SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of T. Patrick W. Qualls for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Qualls
- Max Ralston James, Jr., Iredell SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Andrew Allison for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Allison

- Daniel Austin, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of William Rice for 2022-2026
- Steve Modlin, Polk SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Richard Smith for 2022-2026

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 11 contracts; totaling \$59,487

Chairman Langdon stated Supervisor Knox traveled here from Rowan County to present tonight so that he could tend to his farm tomorrow. Chairman Langdon recommended revising the agenda and moving Item 17 up so Supervisor Knox could present Item 17B.

17. Consideration of Contract Extensions: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Henshaw to present.

17A. Contracts Pended for Design: Ms. Henshaw stated these contracts are pended for design, so the projects cannot move forward into construction without an approval. The Commission waived the requirement for a district supervisor to appear in person that is requesting an extension for a pended design contract. The Division received 87 contracts requesting extensions from 42 districts. All these contracts meet the Commission's criteria, and the staff recommends approving Item 17A.

17B. FY2021 Contracts (*District Supervisors available for questions through Teams meeting*): Ms. Henshaw stated the Division received 55 contract extensions from 32 districts including five Commission member district contracts. The Commission's requirement is that districts must submit an extension request for each contract and a district supervisor must attend the July meeting virtually so the Commission may ask questions about the contracts.

Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ben Knox, from Rowan SWCD, to present. Mr. Knox stated he wanted to make a comment about a long-standing contract (2019) that falls under Item 17A. The project includes an engineering BMP. The district submitted two CCAP projects and due to the unresolved issues, the district will never submit another CCAP project. The Rowan District submitted two CCAP applications in 2019 and the district recommended one contract application, but according to the priority ranking scoring, another application was chosen (that received a higher score based on the ranking parameters). The district is working to get two landowners to agree to a design. Mr. Knox stated if the county highly recommends a contract application, to select that application versus what is selected by the State selected. Mr. Hill stated the City of Spencer has been through multiple redesigns, and it is a much-needed project and scored higher than the other Rowan application that did not get selected. The project needs to be completed because when it rains, it floods, and causes significant erosion. There have been changes in elected officials in the City of Spencer, i.e., the mayor and City Council, which has led to delays in design and other project discussions. There is a priority ranking system in place, based on the Administrative Code that governs the program, that Raleigh has no control over, which is why the Spencer project was chosen over the other Rowan application. Some safeguards have been implemented including a Division Review process to ensure future applications meet our program requirements, however the Spencer project does meet program requirements. The Division engineering staff has been engaged with the Town throughout the process.

Mr. Knox stated there are two extensions for Item 17B. Mr. Chris Sloop from Rowan SWCD stated these two contracts were pended but are approved now. When Contract #80-2021-004 and Contract #80-2021-005 were being reviewed in CS2, Mr. Sloop was reviewing the 2020 contracts not the 2021 contracts. These contracts need to be extended. Mr. Sloop stated he will work with the producers to get the projects completed.

Mr. Neil Brackett from McDowell SWCD asked if he could request a cost share extension. Ms. Henshaw stated Mr. Brackett will present Contract #59-2021-001 and Contract #59-2021-003. Mr. Brackett stated these contracts are from 2021. The people are working diligently to complete these contracts, but there have been weather problems and financial hardship. The projects are more than two-thirds of the way done. The technicians are overseeing the projects, and the projects should be completed by November.

17C. Contracts that have already received one extension (District Supervisors available for questions in person): Ms. Henshaw stated there are five contracts to review, and work has been done on all five projects.

Contract Number	District Name	Program	Contracted BMP(s)
22-2018-803	Clay	AgWRAP	Ag Pond Repair
26-2020-010	Cumberland	ACSP	Prescribed Grazing Fencing
60-2020-004	Mecklenburg	AgWRAP	Water Supply Well & Pump
69-2020-008	Pamlico	ACSP	Land Smoothing
80-2019-010	Rowan	ACSP	Well, Pump, House, Fence, Pipeline, Tanks, Heavy Use Areas

Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ben Knox from Rowan SWCD to present Contract #80-2019-010. Mr. Knox stated the request for payment for the well was submitted, the well, pump, and fence are done, and the producer is working to install the pipeline and pour the concrete. The reason for the extension is COVID and the landowner (grandfather) passed away. Mr. Sloop stated the district continues to work with the original applicant. Mr. Sloop believes the project will be completed before August and process the final payment at the August board meeting.

Ms. Henshaw stated there are four more contracts that will be presented in person tomorrow.

- Contract Extensions for FY 2019 – FY 2023
 - FY 2019: 113 contracts
 - FY 2020: 59 contracts
 - FY 2021: 161 contracts
 - FY 2022: 119 contracts
 - FY 2023: 87 contracts

- Process Improvements Continue
 - Online cancellation form for district use
 - Online six-month extension form and CS2 reporting function for one-third date for district use with Division follow up

Chairman Langdon called a break at 7:30 p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

7C. Technical Specialist Designation: Mr. Shepherd stated there is one technical specialist designation for Ms. Brandi Talton for Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category. Ms. Talton has taken advantage of the training initiatives offered by the Division.

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

8A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are five applicants from four districts that were reviewed by the Division and the Job Approval Authority (JAA) Committee. The JAA Committee recommends approving all five applications.

8B. Technical Competency Requirement Revision – Ag Road Repair Stabilization: Mr. Vetter stated the Agricultural Road Repair/Stabilization practice has been revised. The revisions include adding Controlling Factors and Job Classes in this competency. There is an increase in grades and culvert pipe size there is an increased complexity required for planning and designing. Additionally, the KSAs have been revised to reflect these competencies. The JAA Committee recommends approving these revisions.

9. StRAP Progress Report: 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:

- Updates as of June 30
 - Division has paid out \$11.4M in reimbursements for stream debris removal, PL-566 structure repairs, and administrative expenses
 - Payments to 63 grantees in 50 counties
 - Completed 1.8M linear feet of stream debris removal and 12 completed PL-566 watershed structure repairs
 - Eleven contracts closed out by grantees
- Reallocation Updates
 - \$1.3M was awarded to 18 grantees for stream debris removal and notified on May 18, 2023
 - Six grantees completed the work on their projects and are closed out and receiving funds as new contracts
 - Twelve grantees continue to have ongoing work on their initial contract
 - Grantees will have access to funds until December 31, 2024, when the contracts are set to expire
 - 276,178 linear feet of stream debris removal added to projects
- 50% Encumbrance Deadline
 - Seventy-eight grantees met the initial deadline of February 28 of having 50% of the funds under contract and 31 grantees did not meet the deadline; the Commission extended the deadline to July
 - Of the 31 grantees who failed to meet the initial deadline, 24 met the 50% encumbrance goal
 - One grantee canceled their contract with no funds expended
 - Six grantees have not met the goal of 50% of funds under contract

- Approximately \$27.6M unencumbered funds under contract
- Of the six grantees not under contract, the town of Tabor City will return their unencumbered funds and the remaining five grantees will keep their funds
- Cited reasons for not reaching 50% under contract
 - Limited staff time
 - Permitting requirements
 - Engineering design
 - Initial work completed under budget
 - Land access issues
- All five grantees are making progress and recommends allowing grantees to retain unencumbered funds until the contract deadline of 2024

Chairman Langdon stated Commissioner Potter asked him to pass along the following information regarding StRAP. When dealing with emergency storm damage, due to trees down and power outages, Duke Power is out getting the lines back up, so the power is back on. At the same time, we need to be nimble and get the creeks cleaned out.

Commissioner Kilpatrick recused himself for the extension request from Duplin SWCD.

Mr. Safford stated Duplin SWCD is finalizing the engineering design so permits can be submitted, and McDowell SWCD has completed their design and submitted a permit application to the North Carolina Dam Safety Office.

Mr. Neil Brackett from McDowell SWCD stated the engineering design was not feasible to work with and had to send the design back and start over. The final design came back. The design was sent to the North Carolina Dam Safety Office and waiting to hear back from them. We are ready to get the job started.

Mr. Kendall Paramore from Southeastern Drainage stated the preliminary design is done, NC Dam Safety must approve the design, so we are waiting for a permit. Once the permit is received, the bid process will start. The project is next to the new bypass on Highway 70 in Goldsboro. The dam needed to be replaced 12 years ago.

Mr. Duane Vanhook from Haywood SWCD stated this is in the recovery efforts from Tropical Storm Fred. This project is combining various grant projects for both streambank stabilization and stream debris removal into one large project and hired McGill & Associates to help with the design, bid packages, and contract management. The total project is \$10M and \$2M is for 20% of the engineering costs. With the large scope of work, there is over 17 miles of stream debris removal and streambank stabilization. In these watersheds, there are permitting issues to deal with which include a trout moratorium, trout buffer, and endangered Appalachian Elktoe Mussel that is a federally endangered species and a bat. We are only allowed to work on these projects from October, for 60 days, due to the endangered bat and that time frame falls into the trout moratorium so we cannot work in the trout buffer areas. We need to obtain waivers and permits. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to allow work to be completed in these areas as long as a dive team is hired to physically remove each and every mussel from the work zone. The area is about four miles long. Haywood County and McGill & Associates believe it is important to have the permits in place before any bids come in. Mr. Bill Yarborough stated

during the floods in 2004, the county had to do the same thing, and the dive team found 14 mussels which cost \$64,000.

Mr. Billy Ivey from Duplin SWCD stated that 47% of the funds have been spent, which were received through both StRAP and USDA/NRCS Watershed Rehabilitation Programs and currently in Stage 1. The Cabin Lake Dam PL-566 is under contract and an engineer is doing an assessment. The Emergency Action Watershed Program gave us \$30,000 for the assessment and we hired an engineering firm. Director Williams stated that by leveraging these federal funds, it will extend our money and accomplish more on these structures. The USDA has encouraged people to go after these funds.

Mr. Joe Morris from the Town of Spencer stated the sections requiring debris removal from Grants Creek, which is a tributary to the Yadkin River that runs along the boundary in the Town of Spencer, has been removed and is complete. The contractor's bid was significantly lower than the grant award so there are residual funds available. In the town, however, there is intermittent flooding taking place where people live that needs to be completed. Two sections were completed, the contractor was paid, the project was inspected, and an invoice was submitted to the Town. With these unencumbered funds, there are a couple of sections upstream and downstream that can be worked on to remove the additional debris from the waterways.

10. Agriculture Cost Share Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan: Mr. Beck presented the following:

- New Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative (IISI) allocation parameters
- Added clarifying details for ACSP and CREP allocations
- Added clarifying language to the CREP Program
- Included the changes for Pasture Renovation, i.e., definition and maintenance period which was reduced from ten years to five years
- Land Smoothing BMP name was changed to Land Precision Forming and Smoothing
- One technical change for Heavy Use Area Protection, the BMP is listed in two different areas has been added to Waste Management Measures
- Added one line to the Stream Restoration BMPs to require third party engineer designs for FY 2024

10B. Average Cost List: Mr. Beck stated the Average Cost List was revised last year so the list will be updated in 2025. The following updates pertain to updating the name changes due to policy updates:

- Precision Land Forming
 - Remove "LAND SMOOTHING – light" and change "LAND SMOOTHING – heavy" to "PRECISION LAND FORMING"
- Tree Planting
 - Remove "TREE-plant, hardwood" and "TREE-plant, longleaf pine"
 - Change "TREE-plant, loblolly and shortleaf pine" to "TREE-planting"

- New Components
 - Added small water tank and flap gates for water control structure

10C. District Financial Assistance Allocation: Mr. Beck stated 100 counties submitted a request through the strategic plan process for Agriculture Cost Share (CS) funds that total \$15,926,053 and 46 counties requested \$3,379,820 for Impaired and Impacted Stream Initiative (II) funds.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
FY 2024 Appropriation	\$4,016,998
Available funds from cancelations, releases, and unencumbered Regular Cost Share, Impaired & Impacted, and CREP funds	\$1,137,138
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$5,154,136
5% Contingency	\$ 200,850
Total Allocated FY 2024	\$4,953,286

- Total allocated FY 2023 = \$4,953,286
 - Regular ACSP (CS) Total = \$4,358,286
 - Impaired/Impacted (II) Total = \$500,000
 - CREP (CE) Total = \$95,000
- Cost Share (CS) allocations were made to all districts requesting funds
- Impaired and Impacted (II) funds were allocated to all counties requesting II funds with a current impaired/impacted survey
- Funds were allocated using the allocation parameters described in Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103
- Districts received \$20,000 as a minimum allocation (unless requested less than their strategic plan)

11. Technical Assistance Allocation: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated there are no proposed changes and 99 out of 100 counties will receive an allocation.

12. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Deaton stated the following:

12A. Consideration of Regional AgWRAP Applications: Ms. Deaton stated a total of 29 applications were received and eight applications are recommended for approval by the AgWRAP Review Committee. There are three projects in the West, two projects in the Central region, and three in the East, which totals approximately \$287,000 depending upon engineering requirements.

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan: Ms. Deaton stated districts will be required to submit a letter of support beginning in FY 2024. The highlighted changes to the DIP are in red. There are a few suggested clarifications to the program applications.

- AgWRAP components cannot be combined with ACSP or CCAP in the same contract
- Cooperators cannot submit multiple AgWRAP applications within the same year
- Applications can be submitted in subsequent years, but only if all existing AgWRAP contracts are 100% complete

12C. Average Cost List: There are no proposed changes to the list.

12D. District Financial Assistance Allocation: Ms. Deaton stated the funds were requested through the strategic plan process. AgWRAP funding totals \$1,299,945 and 92 districts requested an allocation. There is a minimum allocation of \$10,000 unless the district requested less than the minimum in their strategic plan.

13. Community Conservation Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Hill shared a picture from a project with multiple landowners involved and four different funding sources. The issues that Supervisor Knox referenced regarding the CCAP program are based on this project.

13A. Detailed Implementation Plan: Mr. Hill stated the recommended changes are for FY 2024. On page 3 under BMP Implementation for repair funds, we are recommending \$25,000 for repairs and anything over \$5,000 must come before the Commission. The last line in the second paragraph on page 3, we are changing the cost share allocation per project limit to a cap of \$35,000 per project, and a cap of \$70,000 per project per district. Also, all stream restoration designs should be completed by third party engineers.

13B. Average Cost List: There are no proposed changes to the list.

Mr. Hill shared some pictures that were taken by Chatham SWCD and Pitt SWCD of recent projects that were completed and signage. Additional pictures of completed projects from six counties were shown of stream restoration projects. A few timelapse videos show the installation of marsh sill and stormwater installations along with a video in Burke County that captured a rain event and how the project works.

Chairman Langdon suggested the videos and pictures to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

14. Cost Share Programs Spot Check Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ken Parks to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Parks stated the 2023 results will be presented tomorrow. There was a slight improvement in the In Compliance category and an increase in the Maintenance category. The report captures 5% of all active cost share program contracts annually.

15. Supervisor 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 Commissioner Potter attended the training class last week. The Association offered a fifth training class, and ten supervisors attended the class. There are still six supervisors that have not met the training requirement, and one supervisor was registered to attend the training but canceled due to a medical issue.

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	1988
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
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998

The recommendation is to send these six individuals to the Inquiry Committee as well as the three supervisors that did not meet the six-hour training requirement during the previous term that were presented at the November 2022 Commission meeting for a total of nine supervisors. After the November 2022 Commission meeting, letters were mailed to each supervisor requesting an explanation and to respond in 30 days. A similar letter will be mailed to these six supervisors asking why they were unable to attend the training and request a response in 30 days. Letters will be prepared and mailed out to these six supervisors by the end of August. The Inquiry Committee can meet before the September Commission meeting and includes Commissioners Teague, Langdon, and Hughes. Chairman Langdon stated now that Commissioner Potter is certified, Commissioner Hughes can be removed, since he was sitting in for Commissioner Potter.

- 16. Disaster Pond Contract Cap:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Williams stated there are still two ponds that need to be repaired from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. Both ponds are next to a road; one pond is in Sampson County and the other pond is in Duplin County. The pond in Sampson County may not be repaired. The pond in Duplin County is known as the Williams pond. The original applicant, Dorine Williams, passed away and her son, Mark, wants to rebuild the pond. The timeline of this project shows FSA funding was about to expire so the funding had to be restored, DOT stopped the repair because they did not like the design. For every change request, the cost goes up. The design is complicated. The quote to repair the pond is \$492,000. We had to change the height and the location of the dam to accommodate DOT's requests. The Commission established a cap of \$150,000 for disaster pond repair projects. The Division recommends raising the cost share cap from \$150,000 to \$300,000 to complete Hurricane Matthew projects. The applicant has borrowed money and is paying the interest, but the repair has not started. There is additional dredging to do on top of the projected cost of \$592,000 at a cost share rate of 75%/25%. The pond is smaller and is used for irrigation to grow different crops, i.e., tobacco, row crops. This is a State-maintained dirt road, and the pond was there before the road and DOT maintains the road.

IV. Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked for public comments.

Mr. Williams stated he is excited for the opportunity to serve as director and to serve the partnership and is looking forward to working with the commissioners, districts, and partners.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.



David B. Williams, 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 September 18, 2023.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
July 19, 2023**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Gov. James G. Martin Building
4381 Trinity Road @ Gate 9
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests - Online	Guests - Online
John Langdon	Rachel Smith	Caleb Lippard	Martin McLawhorn
Chris Hughes	Rob Baldwin	Chris Respass	Lynn Lambert
Billy Kilpatrick	Charlie Bass	Daniel Brinn	Patrick Mitchell
James Lamb	Thomas Sledge	Daniel McClellan	Morgan Hayes
George Teague	Leanna Staton	Daphne Cartner	Nancy McCormick
Brian Parker	Tammy Mull	Dare SWCD	Nathaniel Woolard
Commission Counsel	Jennifer Roach	Davidson SWCD	Nicole Warren
Phillip Reynolds	Barbara Bleiweis	Greg Davis	Priscilla Pierce
Guests	Brad Moore	Lisa Fine	Heather Reichert
David Williams	Darren Layton	Abel Ferry	Chelsea Ricks
John Beck	Wayne Collier	Fredrick Cox	Chris Sloop
Julie Henshaw	Mitch Miller	Gail Hughes	Shaquar Moses
Joshua Vetter	Colin Hall	Gary Higgins	Starr Silvis
Bryan Evans	Leslie N. Vanden Herik	Melanie Harris	Cole Smith
Michael Shepherd	Guests - Online	Henderson SWCD	Teresa Furr
Scott Melvin	Gerda Rhodes	Kori Higgs	Thomas Dean
Kristina Fischer	Ann Williams	James Bradsher Wilkins	Travis Smith
Cayle Aldridge	Amanda Sand	Jamey Walker	Jason Turner
Helen Wiklund	Angie Quinn	Jane Humphrey	Steven Ward
Ken Parks	Anne Coan	Jessica Perrin	James Warner
Tom Hill	Avery SWCD	Kaitly Johnson	Dr. Bill Davis
Tim Beard	Vickie Baker	Joshua Thomas	Barry Greer
Matt Safford	Billy Ivey	Kayla Martineau	Kayla McCoy
Rick McSwain	Brandi Talton	Lincoln SWCD	Michaelyn Woodie
Lorien Deaton	Sabra Cahoon	Chris Love	Vivien Zhong
Eric Pare	Shelby Cook	Matthew Lowe	Anthony Dowdle

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 9:04 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. Commissioners

Hughes, Lamb, Teague, and Parker will recuse themselves from Item 17B and Commissioner Kilpatrick will recuse himself from Item 9. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

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

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

2A. May 16, 2023, Work Session Meeting Minutes

2B. May 17, 2023, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. Division Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Williams stated the following:

- My Priorities
 - Continuing to build the capabilities of the SWCDs to efficiently address the locally led priorities through natural resources concerns, which includes conservation planning, Job Approval Authority (JAA) both through the Commission and NRCS, program resources, and leadership training which also involves local work groups
 - Attracting and retaining quality Division employees
 - Ensuring a strong partnership performance at all levels that requires effective training, coordination, and cooperation at the Division and district level
- Personnel Update
- 2023 House Budget
 - StRAP ('23) - \$20M (non-recurring)
 - ACSP ('23) - \$4M BMP (non-recurring) and \$600K TA (non-recurring)
- 2023 Senate Budget
 - StRAP ('23) - \$20M (non-recurring)
 - ACSP ('23) - \$3M BMP (non-recurring)
 - CCAP ('23) - \$500K (non-recurring) and ('24) \$500K (non-recurring)
 - One hundred thirty-eight farms with multiple lagoons have been approved for the Swine and Dairy Assistance Program
- Future Meeting Dates
 - September 18, 2023, Embassy Suites – Greensboro Airport with both meetings on the same day
 - November 14-15, 2023, Watauga County (Boone)
 - January 7, 2024, in RTP held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting
 - Location to be determined: March 19-20, 2024, May 14-15, 2024, and
 - July 23-24, 2024 (*note the date change to the 4th Wednesday of the month for all future July meetings*)
- Going Paperless
 - Seeking feedback from the Commission to go electronic and what kind of device will each member require (laptop, tablet, use their own)

4. 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:

- Last Basic Training this year took place on July 11th at the Agronomic Lab
- 2024 Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 7-9, 2024, at the Sheraton Imperial in RTP
- 2023 NC Envirothon
 - Enloe High School will be representing Wake County and competing at the NCF Envirothon in Canada next week
- 2023 Resource Conservation Workshop was held at NC State on June 25-30 with 40 participants
- Education/Outreach Position
 - Association appointed an Ad-hoc Committee and is working with the NC Foundation to get an education coordinator position in place

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 following:

- 2023 Legislative Items
 - Budget has not been approved
 - Senate Bill 27 out of Union County (SWCD Partisanship) was sent to the House Rules Committee and added to the calendar but the bill was removed
- Sixteen supervisors attended Basic Training and working to hold a training at the Annual Meeting in January
- NACD TA Grants
 - Received another round of funding to support the grants
 - Evaluated the current positions that are housed within the Division and some districts (Duplin, Surry and Mecklenburg) to make the most of the opportunity to support Technical Assistance through these positions

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

- National Level
 - NRCS Washington staff will attend the National NACD Meeting
 - 2023 National Leadership Meeting in Colorado
 - Southeast NACD Meeting in Savannah, Georgia
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Program Updates
 - EQIP Classic: Working to close out the EQIP Program; requested an additional \$9M which will be distributed evenly across the state with a current obligation rate of 75%-80%
 - EQIP IRA: Allocated \$3M with an obligation rate of 35%
 - CSP Classic: \$20M has been allocated in financial assistance
- Vacancies
 - Fifteen soil conservationist positions open; six offers accepted
 - Many support positions across the country are open and advertised as bundles
 - Goal is to have 200 NRCS personnel in North Carolina

- Entry-level salaries are not competitive
- Sentinel Landscapes
 - North Carolina is part of the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership alongside with the Department of Defense (DoD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program which is across 11 million acres in eastern North Carolina
 - USDA will invest \$500M in wildlife conservation that will impact the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and \$250M from EQIP of which 10% must be allocated towards wildlife

Chairman Langdon called a break at 9:54 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:12 a.m.

- 7. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for a motion concerning the consent agenda. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the consent agenda, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

7A. Supervisor Appointments:

- Dean M. Kight, Fishing Creek SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of T. Patrick W. Qualls for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Qualls
- Max Ralston James, Jr., Iredell SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Andrew Allison for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Allison
- Daniel Austin, Mecklenburg SWCD, filling the expired appointed term of William Rice for 2022-2026
- Steve Modlin, Polk SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Richard Smith for 2022-2026

7B. Supervisor Contracts: 11 contracts; totaling \$59,487

7C. Technical Specialist Designation: Ms. Brandi Talton, Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM)

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

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

8A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are five applicants. The packets and materials were presented to the Job Approval Authority (JAA) Committee and the committee recommends the approval of these applications.

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

8B. Technical Competency Requirement Revision – Ag Road Repair Stabilization: Mr. Vetter stated the recommended revisions are highlighted that include adding two new controlling factors for maximum grade and culvert pipe size and adding additional information to job

classes to plan and design these practices and KSA's. The Job Approval Authority (JAA) Committee approves these recommendations.

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

Commissioner Kilpatrick recused himself from Item 9.

- 9. StRAP Progress Report:** 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 six grantees did not meet the deadline of July 18, 2023, to have 50% of their funds under contract. The Town of Tabor City will return their unencumbered funds and the remaining five grantees request that they keep their unencumbered funds to complete their projects and expand their scope of work for these projects. Some grantees have encountered delays due to engineering and permitting requirements of their projects and are making progress. The Division recommends these five grantees to keep access to their unencumbered funding for the length of their projects.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve allowing the grantees keep their unencumbered funding, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Chairman Langdon reiterated Commissioner Potter's remarks to get these projects done.

- 10. Agriculture Cost Share Program:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Detailed Implementation Plan: Mr. Beck stated the same format remains in effect; however, the following updates are as follows:

- Updates
 - New Impaired and Impacted Stream Initiative (IISI) allocation parameters
 - Additional details on ACSP allocations require a new voluntary return which is being rolled into the spring application and CREP allocations are being distributed to districts for qualifying projects on an as-needed basis
 - Pasture Renovation – edited the definition and reduced the maintenance period from five years to three years
 - Land Smoothing name change with policy updates to Precision Land Forming and Smoothing and definition
 - Heavy Use Area Protection has been added to Waste Management Practices
 - Stream restoration BMPs require 3rd party engineer designs for FY 2024

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the changes to the FY 2024 ACSP DIP, and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Average Cost List: Mr. Beck stated the next revision is scheduled for 2025.

- Revisions to the ACSP Average Cost List

- Remove “LAND SMOOTHING – light” and change “LAND SMOOTHING – heavy” to Precision Land Forming
- Remove “TREE-plant, hardwood” and “TREE-plant, longleaf pine”
- Change “TREE-plant, loblolly and shortleaf pine” to “TREE-planting”
- New Components – water tank for stream protection measures and flap gates for water control structures
- Highlighted the costs for the components that include the Average Cost List changes

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the revisions to the ACSP Average Cost List, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

10C. District Financial Assistance Allocation: Mr. Beck stated the standard process is followed as in the Administrative Rules. All counties submitted their requests through the strategic planning process and requested \$15.9M in regular agriculture Cost Share (CS) funds. Forty-six counties requested \$3.3M for Impaired and Impacted (II) Funds.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
FY 2024 Appropriation	\$ 4,016,998
Available funds from cancelations, releases, and unencumbered Regular Cost Share, Impaired & Impacted, and CREP funds	\$ 1,137,138
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	\$ 5,154,136
5% Contingency Reserve	\$ 200,850
Total Allocated FY2024	\$ 4,953,286

- Total Allocated FY 2023 = \$4,953,286
 - Regular ACSP (CS) Total = \$4,358,286
 - Impaired/Impacted Streams Initiative (II) Total = \$500,000
 - CREP (CE) Total = \$95,000
- CS allocations were made to all districts requesting funds
- II funds were allocated to all counties requesting funds with a current II survey
- Followed the allocation parameters in Administrative Rule 02 NCAC 59D .0103
- \$20,000 minimum allocation (unless the district requested less)

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the ACSP district financial assistance allocation, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

11. Technical Assistance Allocation: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated the allocation remains the same for the last three-years. There is no change in the amount of funding since last year. Ninety-nine out of 100 districts requested an allocation.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the technical assistance allocation, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

12. Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Consideration of Regional AgWRAP Applications: Ms. Deaton stated there are 29 applications were received for funding and the recommendation is to fund eight applications.

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

12B. Detailed Implementation Plan: Ms. Deaton emphasized that AgWRAP components cannot be combined with ACSP or CCAP components in the same contract. Cooperators cannot submit multiple applications within the same year. Applications can be submitted in subsequent years, but only if all existing AgWRAP contracts are 100% complete.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the AgWRAP DIP, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

12C. Average Cost List: Ms. Deaton stated there are no recommended changes. The list is due to be revised in FY 2025

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Kilpatrick moved to approve the AgWRAP Average Cost List, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

12D. District Financial Assistance Allocation: Ms. Deaton stated the allocations will be split at a rate of 75%/25%. Ninety-two districts will receive an allocation of \$10,000 per district (unless a district requested less than the minimum). Eight districts did not request an allocation.

Total Requested	\$ 4,970,612
AgWRAP Funding	\$ 1,299,945
District Allocations (75%)	\$ 976,938
Regional Applications (25%)	\$ 323,007

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Lamb moved to approve the AgWRAP district financial assistance allocation and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

13. Community Conservation Assistance Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

13A. Detailed Implementation Plan: Mr. Hill presented the proposed changes from the CCAP Advisory Committee on page 3 in figure 3.

- Repair Funds = \$15,000 (last year \$25,000)
- With Recurring Funds Only - Project cap = \$35,000, District cap = \$70,000
- With increased funds – Project cap = \$50,000, District cap = \$100,000
- FY 2024 Stream restoration designs must be completed by third party engineers
- Should additional money be received from the General Assembly, the Division may ask for revisions in funding

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the CCAP DIP, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

13B. Average Cost List: Mr. Hill stated there are no changes. There were significant changes to the FY 2022 Average Cost List where the actual cost rate is 75%. The list had no changes from FY 2023 to FY 2024.

- 2024 Strategic Plan CCAP Requests
- \$4.8 Million Requested
- \$3.9 Million BMP Implementation
- \$679,500 for TA Assistance
- \$286,500 for Education and Outreach

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the CCAP Average Cost List, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

14. Cost Share Programs Spot Check Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Ken Parks to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Mr. Parks stated the Commission requires district supervisors spot check 5% of all active cost share program contracts annually.

- Ninety-five districts submitted an annual spot check report except for New Hanover SWCD, since they did not have any active contracts. There were 205 district supervisors that participated in the spot checks.

ACSP Spot Check Results

Status	Contracts	
	Number	Percent
In Compliance*	658	98.5%
Out of Compliance	10	1.5%
TOTAL	668	100%

* 32 In Compliance contracts need maintenance (4.8% of total)

AgWRAP Spot Check Results

Status	Contracts	
	Number	Percent
In Compliance*	250	98.4%
Out of Compliance	4	1.6%
TOTAL	254	100%

* 11 In Compliance contracts need maintenance (4.3% of total)

CCAP Spot Check Results

Status	Contracts	
	Number	Percent
In Compliance*	73	100%
Out of Compliance	0	0%
TOTAL	73	100%

* 1 In Compliance contracts need maintenance (1.4% of total)

All Programs Spot Check Results

Status	Contracts	
	2023	2022
In Compliance*	981 / 98.6%	980 / 98.5%
Out of Compliance	14 / 1.0%	14 / 1.0%
TOTAL	995	994
* Needing Maintenance	44 / 4.4%	41 / 4.1%

- Common BMPs Recently Found Out of Compliance
 - Cropland Conversion to Grass/Trees
 - Long Term No-Till
 - Drystacks
 - Land/field is sold for land development to build houses
- Districts will work with cooperators to repair, re-implement, or re-pay a pro-rated amount of funds for the practice following the Commission's Non-Compliance with *Maintenance Requirements for Cost Share Contracts Policy*

All 2022 Compliance BMPs Follow-Up Summary

14 Out of Compliance BMPs				
Program	Total Out of Compliance	BMPs Re-Implemented	Funds Recovered	In Progress
ACSP	9	1	1	7
AgWRAP	4	2	1	1
CCAP	1	0	0	1

- 15. Supervisor Training Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Fischer stated the Association offered a fifth Basic Training session on July 11 with ten supervisors in attendance. At the Commission's November meeting, conditional appointments were made to local soil & water conservation district boards, contingent upon attendance at Basic Training. Newly elected and re-elected supervisors are required to attend Basic Training. There are six district supervisors that did not meet the Basic Training requirement as of July 12, 2023, and one supervisor was unable to attend due to a medical condition.

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
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998

The Division recommends sending these six individuals to the Inquiry Committee along with the three individuals that were named in November 2022 that did not meet the requirement to achieve 6.0 Supervisor Training Credits (STCs) in 2018-2022 terms. There are two additional supervisors that have not attended Basic Training that were appointed in March and May of 2023, but they have their “first year of service” to participate, and they will have the opportunity to participate in January or February 2024.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the report and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Ms. Fischer stated letters will be drafted later this week to notify the six supervisors that their name will be sent to the Inquiry Committee. The details will be provided to the Inquiry Committee to review. Motion carried.

- 16. Disaster Pond Contract Cap:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Williams stated this is to approve disaster-related contracts for pond projects due to Hurricane Matthew. Of the seven ponds reconstructed, there are two ponds that are incomplete. These ponds are both adjacent to state roads which are in Duplin and Sampson counties. In 2019, the Commission established a cap of \$150,000 for pond repairs. The Division is asking for an increase of the cost share cap for disaster pond repair projects to \$300,000 for Hurricane Matthew ponds and to complete the pond repairs before Federal funding runs out.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve to increase the cost share cap for disaster pond repair projects to \$300,000 for any Hurricane Matthew damaged ponds subject to available funds, and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

- 17. Consideration of Contract Extensions:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

17A. Contracts Pended for Design: Ms. Henshaw stated these contracts that are pended for design were set to expire on June 30, 2023. The Division received 87 contracts requesting an extension on behalf of 44 districts. There are 17 contracts from 10 districts for a total of 15 projects that all meet the extension criteria. The requirement was waived for the district supervisor to attend in person for all contracts pended for design that request an extension. The staff recommends extending all these contracts.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the extension requests for all 17 contracts, and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hughes, Commissioner Lamb, Commissioner Parker, and Commissioner Teague will recuse themselves from Item 17B based upon the county contract that will be presented.

17B. FY2021 Contracts: Ms. Henshaw stated 55 contract extensions were received from 32 districts. The first request will be to review all Commission member district contracts separately and the second request will be to review non-Commission member district contracts as a group. District supervisors are available online to answer questions.

- Contracts that have not been previously extended for FY 2021 contracts that are Commission member district contracts were presented as a group by district: 14 contracts; five districts
 - Commissioner Teague recused himself for Guilford County Contracts #41-2021-001, #41-2021-002, #41-2021-010, #41-2021-801, and #41-2021-803

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the extension requests for Guilford County, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the extension requests from Guilford County and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

- Pamlico County Contract #69-2021-005

Commissioner Parker moved to approve the extension request for Pamlico County, and Commissioner Hughes seconded. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Lamb recused himself from Sampson County Contracts #82-2021-010, #82-2021-013, #82-2021-805, #82-2021-806, and #82-2021-807

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the extension requests for Sampson County, and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Hughes recused himself from Watauga County Contracts #95-2021-003 and #95-2021-004

Commissioner Teague moved to approve the extension requests for Watauga County, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

- Commissioner Parker recused himself from Wilkes County Contract #97-2021-807

Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the extension request for Wilkes County, and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

Ms. Henshaw stated there are 40 non-Commission district contracts from 27 districts requesting an extension. The district supervisors are available for questions regarding these contracts. None were declared.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Hughes moved to approve the remaining 40 contracts, and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

17C. Contracts that have Already Received One Extension: Ms. Henshaw stated these contracts have received one or more extension and a supervisor must be present to answer any questions about these contracts. Ms. Henshaw stated the Commission granted Rowan County supervisor the opportunity to appear before the Commission at the work session last night to request an extension for contract #80-2019-010.

Ms. Tammy Mull, from Clay SWCD, requested an extension for Contract #22-2018-803. Ms. Mull stated the contract transferred ownership and had they known, the district would have canceled the contract and started all over. There were several design changes, technical staff changes, communication issues, and the pandemic. The owner found an issue with the riser and plans to have the project done by the end of August. Ms. Rachel Smith, with the Division, met with the contractor last week and stated the landowner is waiting for supplies and cannot start until the matting is on site because without the matting there is risk for erosion. This is an AgWRAP pond that never held water and the leaks were not offset by the inflow, so the soil was saturated. Once the leak was fixed, it was a dry channel, so the design had to be re-done and in doing so created a grass swale for a 10-year storm.

Mr. Wayne Collier, from Cumberland SWCD, requested an extension for Contract #26-2020-010 for Mr. Linden McGee who has goats. Mr. Collier stated the original design was done in 2020. The contract was approved, and Mr. McGee is doing the work himself. An extension was approved in July 2022. All items were purchased and in the process of installing the tanks between paddocks 5 and 6 and will complete the fencing. There are some high-traffic issues, but all the materials are available and ready to install. Mr. McGee's wife was sick last year, and he was her caretaker, which is the reason for the delay.

Ms. Barbara Bleiweis, from Mecklenburg SWCD, requested an extension for Contract #60-2020-004. Ms. Bleiweis stated this is a Hemp and Cut Flower Farm as well as a Century and Veteran Farm that supports the farmland preservation plan. The well driller is ready to begin but there is so much construction and development in Mecklenburg County, this has delayed the availability of contractors.

Chairman Langdon asked for a representative from Pamlico SWCD to present. Pamlico SWCD did not appear in person. This extension request is for Contract #69-2020-008. District Technician, Mr. Will Hart, appeared online from Pamlico SWCD. Mr. Hart stated all but one supervisor had a conflict, i.e., out of town, doctor's appointment, a personal conflict, and unsure why one supervisor could not attend. Mr. Hart stated the practice has been installed, and the crop is in the field. The district is waiting for one signature on the Request for Payment (RFP), which has been certified. The person who needs to sign the RFP was not available to sign it by the deadline of Tuesday.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the four extension requests, and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

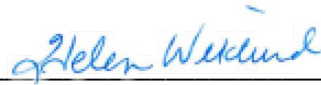
- 539 is the total number of outstanding contracts requiring an extension from FY 2019 - FY 2023
- Continue to work on process improvements which includes a 6-month extension form

IV. Public Comments: Chairman Langdon asked for public comments. Chairman Langdon congratulated Director Williams. Chairman Langdon stated we cannot expect everyone to be here and make the best of the time when we are together, and our time is used wisely. We are a strong organization and thanked Mr. Beard for his partnership and Director Williams to make these programs come together to benefit our natural resources, and landowners.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m. Chairman Langdon asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Parker moved to adjourn, and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.



David B. Williams, 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 September 18, 2023.