



ATTENTION!

We will be taking the group photo at our upcoming Commission Meeting on May 22. Please come prepared to be photographed at 8:30 a.m.



**NORTH CAROLINA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA
BUSINESS SESSION AGENDA**

DRAFT

ACTION AGENDA

WORK SESSION

May 21, 2024
The Inn at River Landing
131 River Village Place
Wallace, NC 28466

6:00 p.m.

[Join the meeting now](#)

BUSINESS SESSION

May 22, 2024
The Inn at River Landing
131 River Village Place
Wallace, NC 28466

9:00 a.m.

[Join the meeting now](#)

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 and do not forget to sign the sign-in sheet at the back of the room

Chairman John Langdon

III. BUSINESS

1. Approval of Agenda (**MOTION**)

Chairman John Langdon

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (**MOTION**)

Chairman John Langdon

A. March 26, 2024, Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. March 27, 2024, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. Division Report

Director David Williams

4. Association Report

President Billy Kilpatrick

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Bryan Evans

6. NRCS Report

Mr. Julius George

7. Consent Agenda (**MOTION**)

A. Supervisor Contracts

Mr. John Beck

8. Report on StRAP Implementation by Duplin SWCD

Mr. Cole Smith & Mr. Zach
Hatcher

- 9. Consideration of StRAP Application Approvals (**MOTION**) Mr. Matt Safford

- 10. Request for Exception to Criteria for Extension of Previous Program Year Contracts Policy (**MOTION**) Ms. Julie Henshaw

- 11. Inquiry Committee Findings Ms. Kristina Fischer

- 12. Special Requests (**MOTION**) Mr. John Beck
 - A. Johnston Post Approval Johnston SWCD
 - B. Vance Post Approval Vance SWCD

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT

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Mr. Cole Smith & Mr. Zach Hatcher

- 9. Consideration of StRAP Application Approvals Mr. Matt Safford

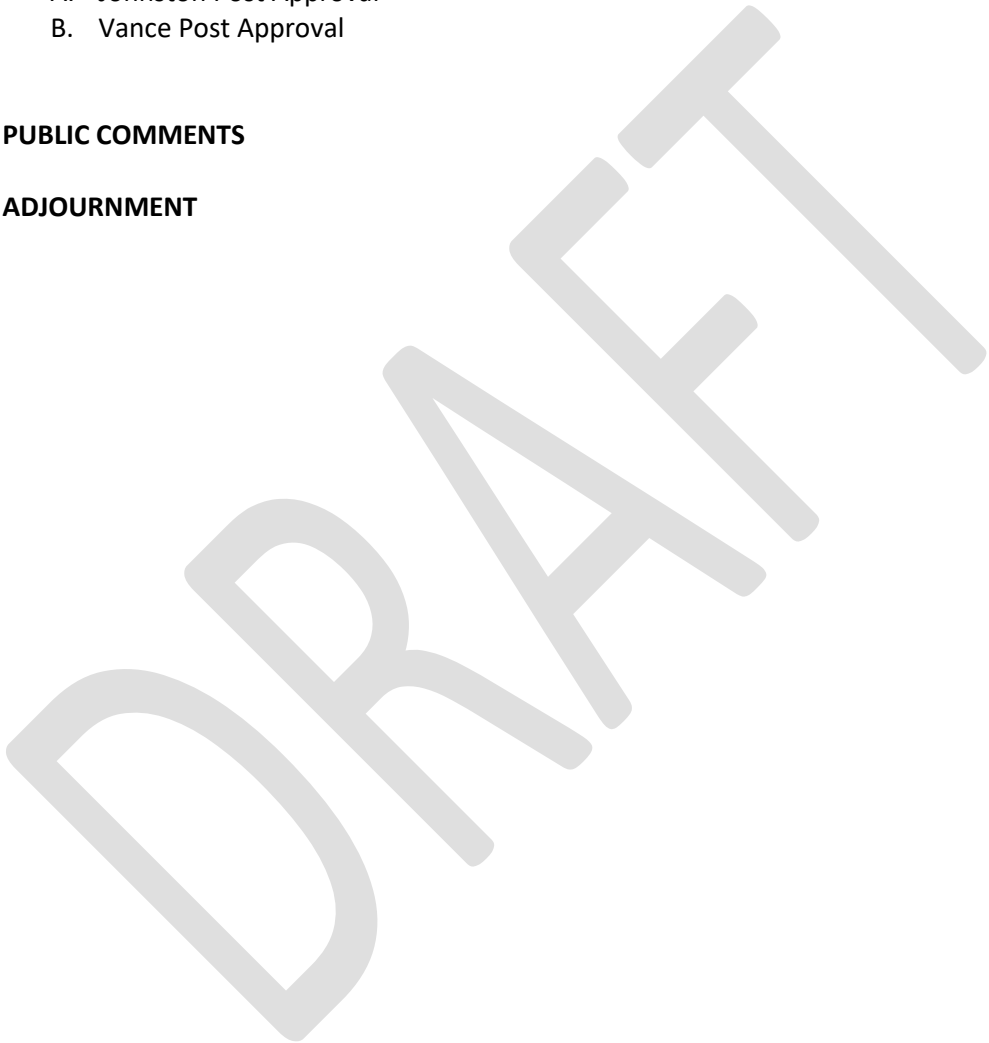
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Chairman John Langdon

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman John Langdon

A. March 26, 2024, Work Session Meeting Minutes

B. March 27, 2024, Business Session Meeting Minutes

3. Division Report

Director David Williams

4. Association Report

President Billy Kilpatrick

5. Executive Director’s Report

Mr. Bryan Evans

6. NRCS Report

Mr. Julius George

7. Consent Agenda

A. Supervisor Contracts

Mr. John Beck

8. Report on StRAP Implementation by Duplin SWCD will be presented at the Business Session

Mr. Cole Smith & Mr. Zach Hatcher

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 9. Consideration of StRAP Application Approvals | Mr. Matt Safford |
| 10. Request for Exception to Criteria for Extension of Previous Program Year Contracts Policy | Ms. Julie Henshaw |
| 11. Inquiry Committee Findings | Ms. Kristina Fischer |
| 12. Special Requests | Mr. John Beck |
| A. Johnston Post Approval | Johnston SWCD |
| B. Vance Post Approval | Vance SWCD |

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

V. ADJOURNMENT

DRAFT



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2024**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
NC State Fairgrounds
Jim Graham Building
Hillsborough Street – Gate 3
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests
Patrick Baker	Rick McSwain	Brandy Myers
Barbara Bleiweis – via TEAMS	Michael Shepherd	Guests – via TEAMS
Billy Kilpatrick	Josh Vetter	Anne Coan
James Lamb	Bryan Evans	Rob Baldwin
John Langdon	Tom Hill	Paula Day
Brian Parker	Scott Melvin	Gail Hughes
George Teague	Lorien Deaton	Martin McLawhorn
Commission Counsel	Helen Wiklund	Heather Reichert
Christine Ryan	Lisa Fine	Rachel Smith
Guests	Ken Parks	Moriah VanVoorhis
David Williams	Eric Pare	Aaron Franks
Julie Henshaw	Elise McLaughlin	Daphne Cartner
Matt Safford	Ralston James	Shelby Kaplan
Kristina Fischer	Allie Dinwiddie	Kayla McCoy
Cayle Aldridge	Jen Roach	

Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:14 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 10. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

- 1. Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. Chairman Langdon stated the new executive director of the North Carolina Cattleman’s Association, Ms. Milo Lewis, will present tomorrow morning after Mr. Bryan Evans’ Executive Director’s Report.
- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Counsel Ryan. Counsel Ryan stated the evaluations are in order and the letters for Mr. Baker and Ms. Bleiweis will be read into the minutes at tomorrow’s meeting.

3. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Chairman Langdon asked Commissioner Lamb to accept the position of Vice Chairman and all commissioners agreed to the nomination.
4. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes. None were declared.
 - 4A. January 7, 2024, Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - 4B. January 7, 2024, Business Session Meeting Minutes
5. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director Williams to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Director Williams stated the report will be presented at the business meeting.
6. **Association Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Kilpatrick to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Kilpatrick stated the report will be presented at the business meeting.
7. **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 at the business meeting.
8. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon asked if Ms. Diana Irizarry will be in attendance to present the report tomorrow. Director Williams stated Ms. Irizarry will be in attendance to present the report. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.
9. **Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer, Ms. Lisa Fine, and Mr. Michael Shepherd to present. Copies of the reports are included as an official part of the minutes.

9A. Supervisor Appointments:

- James W. Short II, Fishing Creek SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of J. Wayne Short for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Short
- Lee W. McConnell, Gaston SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Danon Lawson, for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Lawson
- Brent P. Coston, Henderson SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Jerred Nix for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Nix
- Chet Stephens, Jackson SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Boyce Deitz (deceased) for 2022-2026
- Robert Yutzy, McDowell SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Beverly Lonon Foster for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Ms. Foster
- Joseph Bennett, Stokes SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Dowell Lester for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Lester
- Rodney Dickerson, Vance SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Talmadge Burgess (deceased) for 2022-2026

9B. Supervisor Contracts: 8 contracts; totaling \$159,626

9C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Ms. Carly Graves, Agri-Waste Technology, Inc., Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Mr. John Wesley Hairr, Murphy Family Ventures, Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

10. Commission Member Contracts: Chairman Langdon recused himself and passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Lamb. Vice Chairman Lamb recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Contract 51-2024-015: Ms. Henshaw stated this contract is for a Rock-lined Outlet in the amount of \$7,965.

10B. Contract 51-2024-401: Ms. Henshaw stated this contract is for a Non-field Farm Road in the amount of \$8,713.

Vice Chairman Lamb returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

11. ACSP Supplemental Allocations: 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 following:

- Requests for voluntary returns and requests for supplemental Ag Cost Share (CS, SFR, II) allocations were accepted from February 1 to March 1
- To be eligible for a supplemental allocation, 75% of the district's CS, SFR, and II allocation must be encumbered to contracts by March 1
- Voluntarily returned funds do not factor in the district's financial assistance allocation for FY 2025
- Fifteen districts asked to return funds totaling \$130,327
- Twenty-one counties requested \$1,182,973 in regular Ag Cost Share funds (CS/SFR) and one county requested \$17,770 for the Impaired and Impacted streams initiative (II)

12. AgWRAP Items: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Regional Applications: Ms. Deaton stated a total of 21 applications were received and 11 applications are recommended for funding totaling \$690,000. Of the 11, there are three projects in the East, four projects in the Central region, and four projects in the West which totals \$346,000.

12B. AgWRAP New and Expanded Operations Policy Revision: Ms. Deaton stated the current policy was created in 2010, but the policy only addresses new and expanded operations pertaining to the Ag Cost Share Program (ACSP). A new section has been added to the policy that covers AgWRAP. On page one of the New and Expanded Operations Policy, the Statement of Intent has been clarified with a definition for Best Management Practices (BMP). Page two shows the changes to reflect the AgWRAP requirements from three years to one year and

changed water quality, which is used for ACSP to water quantity or water efficiency for AgWRAP. The Statement of Purpose has been updated with a caveat for water quantity.

12C. AgWRAP & ACSP Well Policy Revisions: Ms. Deaton stated the Stream Protection Well Policy and Water Supply Well Policy have been aligned to improve consistency between both policies and have been reviewed by both Technical Review Committees. The contracting requirements will remain the same for each program. In AgWRAP's Water Supply Well Policy under Definition/Purpose Policy number 11 the definition has been updated to include, *"Unusable wells" are those that have structural failures that require repairs to access water.* Policy number 12 has been changed to state repairs are for existing wells that are in working order. Policy number 21 has been added which states, *"Temporary or portable generators are not an allowable source of electricity for wells. In cases of emergency, cooperators may contact their district and request a temporary exception. Duration of exception will be determined by the district and supporting notes will be included in the contract file. Emergencies may be defined as power outages or solar panel repairs."* The ACSP table has been updated to reflect the same documentation for wells as AgWRAP's table.

13. 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.

13A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are four applications. All applications were reviewed by Division staff and the Job Approval Authority Committee.

14. 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:

- As of March 18, 2024
 - Division has paid \$22,957,092.68 in reimbursements to grantees for completed work
 - Thirty-six contracts completed and closed out
 - Next deadline is April 30
- One hundred and nineteen applications were submitted
- Five hundred and seventy-eight individual sites included in an application
- Amounts requested by region
 - Coastal Plain: \$157,560,000.00
 - Piedmont: \$40,726,862.68
 - Mountain: \$28,552,053.00
 - Totaling: \$226,838,915.68
- FY 2024 Applications – Total Requests
 - Vegetative Debris Removal, Sediment Removal, Streambank Stabilization, Stream Restoration, Other Stream Projects, and PL-566 Repair with Streambank Stabilization requesting the most for \$99,038,991.00
- FY 2024 Applications – Outliers Adjusted
 - Vegetative Debris Removal requested the most for \$51,336,589.00
- Highlighted the draft allotment amounts by percentages and proposed allotment per category

- Proposed allotment is a draft version and Division staff is assessing all 578 sites submitted in the applications and to allocate funds to all project types
- Proposed award caps are subject to change pending an ongoing application review

Category	Award Cap per grantee per category
Stream Debris Removal	\$250,000
Combined Total of Sediment Removal, Bank Stabilization, Stream Restoration, Other	\$500,000
PL566	\$1,000,000
Per Grantee Total	\$1,000,000

Director Williams stated that DEQ has \$96M set aside for flood resiliency projects and DEQ indicated that they want to give Soil & Water 10-15% of that \$96M to supplement StRAP projects. The targeted projects would be for six basins which include the Neuse, Tar-Pam, French Broad, Lumber, White Oak, and Cape Fear. The Commissioner has proposed a pilot project for storing water in farm ponds and retrofitting the ponds to be able to manage it for flood storage, which is different from what we typically do already. The Commissioner asked for \$20M and DEQ did not specify a dollar amount. The Division is looking at ten ponds in two watersheds in the Upper Coastal Plain and the Piedmont in two different landscapes. The Commissioner has recommended \$2M for AgWRAP to continue this type of activity.

Mr. Safford stated the Commission could review two different options with one including a per-county cap and a non-county cap as funds are awarded.

15. Supervisor Training Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

15A. Supervisor Attendance Report: Ms. Fischer stated by Rule the District boards must submit a supervisor attendance report annually which covers the time period of December 1 through November 30 of the previous year. The average number of meetings held was 9.48 and the average participation rate by district supervisors was ~85.33%. The average meetings held by Association Area.

NCASWCD Area 1	9.75 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 2	10.38 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 3	9.18 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 4	10.18 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 5	8.44 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 6	9.42 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 7	8.22 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 8	10.17 meetings / year

The fewest meetings held during this time period were four meetings in Bertie, Rutherford, and Sampson counties. The most meetings held during this time period was 16 meetings in Wilkes County.

Local soil and water conservation districts have reported five supervisors who have failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings between December 1, 2022, and November 30, 2023, include:

Carteret SWCD	Adam Lockey	Staffing difficulties	2 of 8 attended
Cleveland SWCD	Roger Eaker		Verbally resigned
<i>Henderson SWCD</i>	<i>Jerred Nix</i>	<i>Business commitments</i>	<i>Resigned</i>
Nash SWCD	Robert Glover	Business commitments	Resumed attendance
Warren SWCD	Mike Hight	Business commitments	Resumed attendance

The Division recommends sending Mr. Adam Lockey and Mr. Roger Eaker to the Inquiry Committee due to lack of attendance. The Inquiry Committee needs to be reassigned since Commissioner Potter is no longer on the Commission. Chairman Langdon asked Commissioner Lamb and Commissioner Teague to join the committee along with himself. Correspondence will be provided in advance prior to the meeting by both individuals. The Inquiry Committee has the authority to either extend the requirement or send it back to the Commission and the Commission would make the decision to remove the supervisor.

15B. Basic Training Report: Ms. Fischer stated by Rule the Division must submit documentation of participants in Basic Training by April 1 of each year. Twenty-six supervisors attended four Basic Training sessions offered in 2024. According to Division records only one district supervisor has not met the Basic Training requirement as of February 27, 2024:

District	First Name	Last name	Elected / Appointed	Current Term	Start Month	Start Year
Washington	Guy	Davenport	Elected	22-26	December	1998

The Division recommends sending Mr. Guy Davenport to the Inquiry Committee established under Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0302 for consideration. Mr. Pare stated Mr. Davenport has been ill due to COVID and may have some other reasons for not remaining on the board.

Ms. Fischer stated the Division is working to create an advanced Basic Training Program for seasoned district supervisors possibly starting in July. Some of the topics for discussion include personnel management, staff retention, fostering relationships with your county, MOA, JAA, leadership opportunities, and advanced cost share.

15C. Consideration of approval of Credits for External Training Events: Ms. Fischer stated six clock hours of training are required per term of service through local board meetings, classroom training, field days, UNC School of Government, etc. Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0204(d) allows that

“Other events or activities may be individually approved by the Commission when they meet the requirements of this Rule.” The Division is looking for soil and water or natural resource conservation topics. A request from Mr. Chad Spencer in Hyde SWCD has been submitted for the Commission’s consideration. Mr. Spencer is serving in a 2020-2024 term and has until December of this year to achieve 6.0 clock hours. Presently he has accumulated just 0.75 hours. Mr. Spencer is requesting 5.0 STCs for his participation outside of the suggested training events. After reviewing the materials Supervisor Spencer submitted, the Division recommends awarding a total of 3.0 STCs.

Event	Request	Recommendation	Explanation
Soybean School	1.0 STCs	1.0 STCs	Technical presentations related to natural resources conservation.
Saltwater Intrusion Meeting	2.5 STCs	2.0 STCs	Technical presentations related to natural resources conservation. “Welcome & Intro” time should not be awarded STCs.
Swan Quarter Watershed Steering Committee	1.5 STCs	0.0 STCs	Based on the agenda provided, this appears to be a business meeting not a training opportunity. STCs should not be awarded for routine business activities.

Commissioner Bleiweis stated the Commission should not be flexible and Commissioner Teague agrees that the hours can be obtained by attending the Annual and Area Meetings. Ms. Fischer stated the Rule does state the Commission has the authority to grant these training hours when they meet the training requirements. Ms. Fischer stated only one other supervisor requested outside Supervisor Training Credits and the supervisor was awarded the STCs.

16. Nutrient Sensitive Water Strategies Update: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Allie Dinwiddie to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Dinwiddie stated the map of North Carolina shows all of the nutrient sensitive waters and nutrient management strategies that currently exist, most of which are in the Piedmont and Eastern Regions. Each strategy has an agricultural rule and sets different goals for reduction in nitrogen and phosphorus. Each strategy requires an annual report, and there is a current strategy under development in the High Rock Lake Watershed in the western part of the state that is in the upper portion of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin.

- Crop Year 2022 Highlights – All Basins and Watersheds from October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022 show a reduced phosphorus loss risk from agricultural lands
- Nutrient Strategy Activity – Status and Updates
 - Neuse: Agriculture Rule was readopted in 2020
 - Tar-Pamlico: Agriculture Rule was readopted in 2020
 - Falls Lake Watershed
 - Rule revision/strategy readoption activities to begin before December 2024
 - Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) submitted its Concepts and Principles for the Reexamination and Consensus Principles II to DWR in November 2023

- NC Policy Collaboratory submitted final report to the NCGA in December 2023 on an analysis of nutrient management strategies.
- High Rock Lake Watershed
 - Model finalized (2005-2009 data); 2006 to be the baseline year
 - Site specific chlorophyll-a standard
 - Overall Strategy Commitments
 - Administrative rules will mandate actions/requirements for agriculture, new development, existing development, and wastewater (public and industrial)
 - Overall Strategy Commitments for Stormwater Commitments
 - Post construction stormwater requirements to apply equally to all local government jurisdictions throughout watershed
- Jordan Lake
 - Rules are currently opened for readoption and the goal is to finalize the strategy readoption by 2025
 - New modeling completed (undergoing DWR review), potential new baseline 2014-2016, potential new reduction target, Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) updates, and Cape Fear Basin Plan – Release expected FY 2025

Chairman Langdon called a break at 8:08 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:31 p.m.

17. CREP Update: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Jen Roach to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Roach stated the following:

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a partnership program between USDA Farm Service Agency and the State of North Carolina and is an “extension” of the FSA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Purpose of the program is to improve water quality by reducing non-point source pollution from agricultural operations by establishing buffer zones along streams and agricultural ditches and restoring wetlands
- Voluntary program offered in only 76 counties
 - Most conservation practices involve tree planting
- CREP is a cost share program and conservation easement program
 - Program has 10, 15, and 30- year and permanent enrollment options.
 - Landowner receives an annual payment on the land for 10-15 years, plus a one-time payment for 30-year or permanent easements.
 - 30-year and permanent easement options
 - To date, we have 1,250 conservation easements for a total of 32,079 acres
 - Roughly 70% are 30-year term conservation easements and 30% are permanent conservation easements
 - Average easements are 25 acres, but the program has forested easements as large as 200 acres and as small as 1 acre
- Conservation Easement Committee will routinely meet at least on an annual basis
 - Need Commission representation.
 - The Committee is made up of Federal partners, NRCS, North Carolina State Forest Service and North Carolina Wildlife Commission

18. District Items: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present the request from Vance SWCD. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Henshaw stated that district staff and a supervisor will be in attendance tomorrow. Mr. Larry West has been engaged with the cooperators. A program review was completed with two supervisors who spent time in the field all day. These three post approvals were verified by someone that has Job Approval Authority at these sites. All three projects can be approved and meet the standards of those practices. The district is taking the right steps and understands how the process works.

18A. Post Approvals: The three contracts for approval are: Contract No. 91-2022-005, Contract No. 91-2024-004, and Contract No. 91-2024-003

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

Ms. Anne Coan stated that she appreciates the presentation of the Nutrient Sensitive Water Strategies Update. It has been an important effort by the Division and all of Agriculture. Ms. Coan stated we are not getting as much push back from the environmental groups and wastewater treatment folks because we are using approved tools by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to report what agriculture has been doing, and we are successful in reducing nutrients. It has raised agricultural visibility for what farmers are doing to benefit water quality. Ms. Coan stated she is the chairwoman of all four committees from the reports Ms. Dinwiddie presented.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:49 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 , 2024.



**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION
BUSINESS SESSION MEETING MINUTES
March 27, 2024**

Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Division of Soil & Water Conservation
NC State Fairgrounds
Jim Graham Building
Hillsborough Street – Gate 3
Raleigh, NC 27607

Commission Members	Guests	Guests - Online
Barbara Bleiweis - Teams	Shelby Kaplan	Aaron Franks
Billy Kilpatrick	Jen Roach	Annette Adams
James Lamb	Lisa Fine	Vickie Baker
John Langdon	Michael Shepherd	Tyler Cornett
Brian Parker	Elise McLaughlin	Daphne Cartner
Patrick Baker	Chris Love	Paula Day
George Teague	Ken Parks	Amanda Sand
Commission Counsel	Eric Pare	Kori Higgs
Christine Ryan	Keith Larick	Tyler Hodge
Guests	Dewitt Hardee	Gail Hughes
David Williams	Brad Moore	Fredrick Cox
Julie Henshaw	Lorien Deaton	Kayla Mounce
Matt Safford	Milo Lewis	Lisa Russ
Kristina Fischer	Allie Dinwiddie	Martin McLawhorn
Ralston James	Brandy Myers	Pamela Bowman
Rick McSwain	Diana Irizarry	Levi Preston
Scott Melvin	Kylie Ross	Rebecca Hanna
Josh Vetter	Joey Hester	Heather Reichert
Bryan Evans	Cayle Aldridge	Tyler Fair
Tom Hill	Guests - Online	Moriah VanVoorhis
Helen Wiklund	Anne Coan	Jamey Walker

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 10. Chairman Langdon stated the meeting guidelines and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Chairman Langdon thanked and recognized the Association members and former Commission members that have served on the Association for their strong leadership, contributions, and the newly elected Commission members.

- 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.

Chairman Langdon stated Ms. Milo Lewis is the executive director of the North Carolina Cattleman's Association will present after Mr. Bryan Evans' Executive Director's report.

- 2. Reading of Statement of Economic Interest Evaluations:** Chairman Langdon recognized Counsel Christine Ryan to present. Counsel Ryan stated the Commission received two letters from the State Ethics Commission for Mr. Baker and Ms. Bleiweis. 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 available upon request.

A letter dated March 11, 2024, from the State Ethics Commission to Governor Cooper for the Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Mr. Patrick K. Baker for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

"Our office is in receipt of Mr. Patrick K. Baker's 2024 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").

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. Baker would fill the role of Coastal Regional Representative, nominated by the Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. He retired from his local government position with the Craven Soil & Water Conservation District. He has a part-time position with the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Division of Soil and Water Conservation and serves as the District Board Supervisor for the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District. In addition, he is employed by Michael Peed Construction on a part-time basis. As such, Mr. Baker has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of his public duties should issues involving any of these entities come before the Commission for official action.

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).

A letter dated March 7, 2024, from the State Ethics Commission to Governor Cooper for the Evaluation of Statement of Economic Interest filed by Ms. Barbara Bleiweis for the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the State Ethics Commission determined the following:

Our office has received Ms. Barbara Bleiweis' 2024 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").

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.

Ms. Bleiweis would fill the role of a member who is the First Vice President of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. She is the supervisor of the Mecklenburg Soil and Water Conservation District. As such, she has the potential for a conflict of interest and should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of her public duties should issues involving her district come before the Commission for official action.

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).

3. Election of Vice Chairman: Chairman Langdon stated it is a testament of the quality and talent to consider and elect Commissioner James Lamb as Vice Chairman. Commissioner Lamb accepted the position.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes: Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the minutes. Commissioner Lamb moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Kilpatrick second. Motion carried.

4A. January 7, 2024, Work Session Meeting Minutes

4B. January 7, 2024, Business Session Meeting Minutes

5. 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 reported on the following:

- Reminders will be sent out to each Commissioner to annually complete their SEI due by April 15 and will double check the training requirements are fulfilled every three years
- Personnel Update
- New Part-Time Staff for Forestland Conservation Planning in Haywood SWCD
- DEQ Cooperation for Ag Projects
 - Division met with staff from DEQ (DEMLR and DWR) to address the situation where we were having to get sedimentation and erosion control permits and file plans for projects that were the districts and are an NRCS standard that required implementation for sedimentation control plans and the work we do is clearly agriculturally related which makes it exempt from the requirement to file a plan under the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act
 - Division will periodically share a list of projects involving state/federal/local cost share
 - DEQ will direct field staff to not cite construction projects that are involved in cost share and addresses the requirements for buffers on trout streams

- DEQ attorney will draft an agreement
- There is remaining work to develop an understanding for ag projects not involving cost share that are not specifically exempt
- Switched to New State Payment System in October
 - Affects supervisor payments and cost share payments because processing payments during the transition period have fallen behind
 - Department will issue corrections to those that received a 1099
 - Supervisors will receive a W-2 for per diem payments
- Flood Resiliency Blueprint
 - Decision Support Tool to help local governments identify and plan flood resiliency projects
 - Initial Neuse Basin Strategy has been developed
 - DEQ is planning several outreach sessions in the last week in April
 - Potentially significant opportunities for districts to engage in, i.e., debris removal, water farming, pond construction/rehabilitation, buffers, cropland conversion, ag and community conservation BMPs
- Technical Assistance Funds
 - Division has not received a recurring increase for district technical assistance since 2006
 - Requesting a \$600,000 recurring expansion
 - These funds help districts by paying for staff who help administer these programs.
 - Working with NRCS to develop an agreement to compensate the districts on their programs.
 - Also seeking encouraging districts to pursue TA funding opportunities through the Sentinel Landscapes Project
- Fundamentals of Conservation Planning will be held May 6-10 in Waynesville
- New website was created for the Division and Ms. Julie Henshaw was presented with an award for her coordination.

Chairman Langdon asked for a motion on Agenda Item 3. Commissioner Parker moved to approve Commissioner Lamb to serve as Vice Chairman and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

6. Association Report: Chairman Langdon recognized President Kilpatrick to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. President Kilpatrick reported on the following:

- 2025 Annual Meeting will take place at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel in Durham
- 2024 NACD Annual Meeting was held in San Diego with three resolutions that were adopted by NACD
- NACD Fly In was held in Washington and discussed the three resolutions, increasing funding for PL-566, flood control structures, and forest management and the concerns about Natural Assets Trading and the State needs a Farm Bill
- Spring Meetings have been completed and learned something new at every meeting
- Grow More Outreach Trainings

- Entered into an agreement with the National Wildlife Association which will consist of six total trainings across the state with the next session on April 23 at the Crystal Coast Civic Center in Morehead City

7. 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 reported on the following:

- 2024 Legislative Items
 - Short session and working to increase technical assistance money and State assistance for PL-566 matching funds
- Basic Training for Soil & Water Conservation Supervisors completed with the lowest year attendance with 14 supervisors participating
- Securing an Education Coordinator Position in partnership with Randolph SWCD
- Upcoming Education/Outreach
 - Poster judging will be held April 24, and the State Speech Contest will be held May 3
 - Resource Conservation Workshop will be held June 16-21 at NC State University
- State Conservation Farm Family Celebration will be held on May 9

Mr. Evans thanked the Chairman for recommending the Association's presence at the Cattlemen's Annual Meeting. He participated in the meeting in Hickory with Deputy Director Henshaw and had a booth at the meeting to interact with the cattle growers. He congratulated Ms. Milo Lewis on being named Executive Director. Mr. Evans stated he will return to the Cattleman's Association Annual Meeting each year.

Commissioner Parker stated he is putting a demonstration on at his farm through NRCS and Wilkes SWCD with two or three fencing companies to teach you how to build a fence and get hands on experience. There will be a few different areas to view feed pads and water structures. There are 60 slots available.

Chairman Langdon introduced the new executive director, Ms. Milo Lewis, of the North Carolina Cattleman's Association. Ms. Lewis stated she is from Pitt County and lives on her family farm. She has been at the NC Farm Bureau for 11 years and recently served as the Livestock Director. Ms. Lewis stated she sees the benefits of our producers by engaging in the various programs administered by the Commission and Division. In January, Ms. Lewis joined the North Carolina Cattleman's Association, which is a grassroots organization which has members in all 100 counties. It is the Association's intent to promote the beef and cattle industry on the legislative and regulatory front through production. Many cattle producers have full-time jobs. We work with our congressional delegation and leaders. The farm bill is being discussed in the House of Representatives in the next two weeks. We will promote our voluntary conservation programs to ensure that there is funding for conservation programs such as EQIP.

8. NRCS Report: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Diana Irizarry to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Irizarry reported on the following:

- Personnel Updates

- Mr. Tim Beard accepted a position as acting associate deputy chief for the science and technology division for 120 days starting on February 11, and Mr. Julius George stepped in as the Acting State Conservationist
- Mr. Reuben Torres, who was the State Resource Conservationist, has left NRCS
- Ms. Heather Hinson, from Texas, started on March 10 as Acting State Resource Conservationist
- Ms. Kim Poteat is being promoted from financial resources specialist to Assistant State Conservationist for Management and Strategy, effective April 7
- Fiscal Year 2024 Program Updates
 - Allocated over \$90M to provide financial assistance to producers to address identified resource concerns and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - EQIP Classic Allocation: \$22.6M
 - EQIP - IRA: \$30.2M
 - CSP Classic: \$13.8M
 - CSP – IRA: \$8.2M
 - FY 2024 CSP – Renewal: \$1.3M
 - Applications
 - EQIP: 897 pending, 1,551 eligible, \$2.6M obligated
 - CSP: 996 pending, 424 eligible, \$1.1M obligated
 - Adjustments have been made to the CSP program to increase the benefits available with the minimum payment increased from \$1,500 to \$4,000
 - Agriculture Conservation Easement Program
 - Loss of farmland due to development and other economic factors but our producers are serious about preserving agricultural lands
 - ACT Now
 - Fifty-six contracts have been obligated for a total of \$2.6M
 - Sixty-eight applications are in approved status for a total of \$4.1M
 - 237 applications are in pre-approved status waiting to be funded
- General FY 2023 Updates
 - Six personnel achieved Certified Conservation Planners (CCP) Level 1
- Local Working Groups (LWG) provides the Partnership recommendations on resource priorities and activities with the following amount invested in addressing land uses
 - Crop \$2.8M, Pasture \$2.4M, CAFO \$14.4M
- Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO/PL-566) Program

Commissioner Bleiweis would like an update on the Urban Ag and Innovative Production Group. Ms. Irizarry will research this and contact Commissioner Bleiweis later. Commissioner Bleiweis asked about the Commodity Smart Planning Tool where several districts in the nation submitted to NACD the Commodity Smart Planning Tool and/or the Carbon Measurement Tool. The tool is complicated to use and would like to know what NRCS is doing to make the tool easier or look at other tools to make it more broadly implemented. Ms. Irizarry will check with the Ecological Science Division for any possible training and contact Commissioner Bleiweis.

Chairman Langdon called a break at 10:36 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:47 a.m.

- 9. Consent Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the consent agenda. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the consent agenda and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

9A. Supervisor Appointments:

- James W. Short II, Fishing Creek SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of J. Wayne Short for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Short
- Lee W. McConnell, Gaston SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Danon Lawson, for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Lawson
- Brent P. Coston, Henderson SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Jerred Nix for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Nix
- Chet Stephens, Jackson SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Boyce Deitz (deceased) for 2022-2026
- Robert Yutzy, McDowell SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Beverly Lonon Foster for 2020-2024 with an attached resignation letter from Ms. Foster
- Joseph Bennett, Stokes SWCD, filling the unexpired elected term of Dowell Lester for 2022-2026 with an attached resignation letter from Mr. Lester
- Rodney Dickerson, Vance SWCD, filling the unexpired appointed term of Talmadge Burgess (deceased) for 2022-2026

9B. Supervisor Contracts: 8 contracts; totaling \$159,626

9C. Technical Specialist Designation:

- Ms. Carly Graves, Agri-Waste Technology, Inc., Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category
- Mr. John Wesley Hairr, Murphy Family Ventures, Waste Utilization Planning/Nutrient Management (WUP/NM) category

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

10. Commission Member Contracts: Chairman Langdon recused himself and passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Lamb. Vice Chairman Lamb recognized Ms. Julie Henshaw to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

10A. Contract 51-2024-015: Ms. Henshaw stated this contract is for a Rock-lined Outlet in the amount of \$7,965. All information is in order.

Vice Chairman Lamb asked for approval of the contract. Commissioner Parker moved to approve Contract 51-2024-015 and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

10B. Contract 51-2024-401: Ms. Henshaw stated this contract is for a Non-field Farm Road in the amount of \$8,713 for a partial repair completed in 2018.

Vice Chairman Lamb asked for approval of the contract. Commissioner Baker moved to approve Contract 51-2024-401 and Commissioner Teague seconded. Motion carried.

Vice Chairman Lamb returned the gavel to Chairman Langdon.

11. ACSP Supplemental Allocations: 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 every March the Division requests voluntary returns of cost share funds from districts and receives requests for supplemental Ag Cost Share (CS, SFR, II) allocations. Districts can return funds that were not contracted, and 15 districts requested to return FY 2024 funds totaling \$130,327.

- FY 2024 Supplemental ACSP Requests
 - 21 counties requested \$1,182,973 in regular agriculture Cost Share funds (CS/SFR)
 - 1 county requested \$17,770 for the Impaired and Impacted streams initiative (II)

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the FY 2024 Spring Supplemental Allocation. Commissioner Lamb moved to approve the allocation and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

12. AgWRAP Items: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Lorien Deaton to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

12A. Regional Applications: Ms. Deaton stated there are 21 applications and 11 are recommended for funding. There are three projects in the East, four projects in the Central region, and four projects in the West.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the 11 projects. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the regional projects and Commissioner Baker seconded. Motion carried.

12B. AgWRAP New and Expanded Operations Policy Revision: Ms. Deaton stated the current policy was modified in 2010 prior to AgWRAP's existence. A new policy has been drafted to cover the AgWRAP program requirements. The changes were highlighted and shown in red.

- Statement of Intent
 - Clarified BMP Definition
 - Added that the following sections pertained to the Ag Cost Share Program
- Added an additional section that covers AgWRAP
- Focus on water quantity as a concern instead of water quality,
- AgWRAP requires operations to be established for one year not three years
- Clarified the types of operations that do not qualify for AgWRAP
- Added to the Rule that expanded operations are allowed under AgWRAP

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the AgWRAP New and Expanded Operations Policy Revision. Commissioner Kilpatrick moved to approve the revision and Commissioner Lamb seconded. Motion carried.

12C. AgWRAP & ACSP Well Policy Revisions: Ms. Deaton stated the ACSP Stream Protection Well and AgWRAP Water Supply Well Policy revisions clarifies which part of the policy is for ACSP and creates a new section for AgWRAP to improve consistency between well policies. The Stream Protection Well Policy has been updated to align better with AgWRAPs Water Supply Well Policy. The language has been adjusted and the changes were highlighted and shown in red.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the AgWRAP & ACSP Well Policy Revisions. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the Well Policy Revisions and Commissioner Parker seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Baker stated he must leave the meeting due to a death in the family. Commissioner Baker left at 11:07 a.m.

13. 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.

13A. Applications: Mr. Vetter stated there are four applications.

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

14. 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 out \$22M in reimbursements to grantees for completed work
- 3.1M linear feet of stream debris removal reimbursed
- 36 contracts completed and closed out
- Application period closed on February 23
- 119 submitted applications from various organizations
- Total requested was over \$226M
- Largest requested repairs for funding was for Streambank Stabilization and next Vegetative Debris Removal
- Adjusted Applications – Outliers
- Draft Allotment Amounts based on grantees interests and project types with 50% to stream debris removal, 5% to sediment removal, and 13% to PL-566 for structural engineering and dam engineering or bank stabilization
- DEQ pledging 10-15% of \$96 million appropriation as described earlier by Director Williams
- Proposed Allotment is a draft version and allocate funds to all project types with proposed award caps

Category	Award Cap per Grantee per Category
Stream Debris Removal	\$250,000
Combined Total of Sediment Removal, Bank Stabilization, Stream Restoration, Other	\$500,000
PL-566	\$1,000,000
Per Grantee Total	\$1,000,000

- Twenty counties had applications from multiple organizations
- May meeting will present the finalized proposed allocations for different stream segments and project types

15. Supervisor Training Program: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

15A. Supervisor Attendance Report: Ms. Fischer stated the Commission’s Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0301(b) requires District boards to submit a supervisor attendance report, annually, for all members. This report covers the time from December 1 through November 30 of the previous year with the average number of meetings totaling 9.48 and average participation rate by district supervisors ~85.33%

NCASWCD Area 1	9.75 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 2	10.38 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 3	9.18 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 4	10.18 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 5	8.44 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 6	9.42 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 7	8.22 meetings / year
NCASWCD Area 8	10.17 meetings / year

The Rule also requires District boards to notify the Commission in writing of any member that fails to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, except when prevented by illness. There were five supervisors who failed to attend three consecutive regularly scheduled meetings between December 1, 2022, and November 30, 2023.

Carteret SWCD	Adam Lockey	Staffing difficulties	2 of 8 attended
Cleveland SWCD	Roger Eaker		Verbally resigned
<i>Henderson SWCD</i>	<i>Jerred Nix</i>	<i>Business commitments</i>	<i>Resigned</i>
Nash SWCD	Robert Glover	Business commitments	Resumed attendance
Warren SWCD	Mike Hight	Business commitments	Resumed attendance

The Division recommends Mr. Adam Lockey and Mr. Roger Eaker to the Inquiry Committee with the intent to send these individuals letters for an opportunity to respond in 30 days by late April and meet in early May ahead of the May Commission meeting.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval to send these two supervisors to the Inquiry Committee. Commissioner Teague moved to approve the recommendation and Commissioner Bleiweis seconded. Motion carried.

15B. Basic Training Report: Ms. Fischer stated the Division is required to submit documentation about participants in Basic Training by April 1. Only one supervisor has not met the Basic Training Requirement and that is Mr. Guy Davenport. One other supervisor has until September to complete the course. The recommendation is to send Mr. Davenport to the

Inquiry Committee for consideration.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval to send Mr. Davenport to the Inquiry Committee. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the request and Commissioner Bleiweis seconded. Motion carried.

15C. Consideration of approval of Credits for External Training Events: Ms. Fischer mentioned that General Statute requires six clock hours per term. Rule 02 NCAC 59A .0204(d) allows that “Other events or activities may be individually approved by the Commission when they meet the requirements of this Rule.” Mr. Chad Spencer’s term will expire in December 2024. He has requested 5.0 STCs and based upon the activities Mr. Spencer attended, the recommendation is to award 3.0 STCs.

Chairman Langdon asked for approval of the Division’s recommendation to award 3.0 STCs.

There was much discussion about supervisors that must commit to completing the 6.0 hours in 48 months. Commissioner Bleiweis stated that the policy should be reviewed but it would require a Rule change. This is only the second time the Commission has been asked to approve this type of request.

Commissioner Teague moved to approve the consideration of external training credits and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

16. Nutrient Sensitive Water Strategies Update: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Allie Dinwiddie to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Dinwiddie reported on the nutrient strategies in each basin/watershed and then reported on the progress and current status of collective compliance in each watershed.

17. CREP Update: Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Jen Roach to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes. Ms. Roach reported that the program is a partnership program with the USDA Farm Service Agency and the State of North Carolina to improve water quality and wildlife habitat in targeted areas of the State. Ms. Roach shared background and history of the program. She also reported on the status of the program. She announced an intention to reconvene the CREP Easement Committee within the next couple of months and requested a member of the Commission to serve on the Committee.

Chairman Langdon asked if any Commissioner would like to serve on the Committee to let him know.

18. District Items: 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 that the Chairman of the Board Mr. Powell and Mr. Larry West were available to present the district’s request. A post approval for three contracts.

18A. Post Approvals: Mr. Charles Powell stated the Vance SWCD is requesting post approvals for three contracts, #91-2022-005 in the amount of \$1,808, Contract 91-2024-004 in the amount of \$263, and Contract 91-2024-003 in the amount of \$2,450. All issues relate to miscommunication between cooperators and former field office staff. All practices were

installed properly according to NRCS standards, but the contracts had not been approved in advance by the Division.

The district board understands the approval process and will do a better job communicating with cooperators. District technician, Mr. Larry West stated that all these contracts do meet standards and specifications. He is asking for Commission's approval to move forward with payment to the farmers who acted in good faith.

Chairman Langdon asked for post approval of these three contracts. Commissioner Parker moved to approve the three contracts and Commissioner Kilpatrick seconded. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Dewitt Hardee reported that NC State Grange has approved grant funds to assist districts with signage and acquisition costs for conservation easements on cropland and forest land. The funds are available through March 31. To apply go to www.lagrangenc.com.

Director Williams stated that he appreciates Mr. Ralston James who retired from the Division. He left a void with his expertise in our public address system. We are working to correct the glitches that we had at the Annual Meeting with our system. We are working to purchase new equipment.

Chairman Langdon stated the May Commission meeting will be rescheduled to May 21 and 22 in Duplin County with Commissioner Kilpatrick hosting.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:37 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 , 2024.

NCDA&CS
Division of Soil and Water Conservation
David Williams, Director



NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation
David B. Williams, Director
May 22, 2024



Personnel

- **New Hires:**
- **Vacancies (10):**
 - Engineer Tech I (Taryn Hendrickson), Engineer Tech I (Matt Hall) – Merging to establish new Engineer I
 - CREP Surveyor (Jacob Berry), Engineer Tech I (Ben Wilkins) – Due to lack of eligible applicants, considering contracting surveying services
 - Engineer II (Layne Owen) – Preparing to repost
 - Engineer II (Cindy Safrit) – Preparing to repost
 - Sr. Eastern Regional Coordinator (Kristina Fischer) – Interviews this week
 - Soil Scientist (Patrick Mitchell) – Scheduling interviews
 - Admin. Officer (Maegan Trimnal) – Posting closed May 3, awaiting referred candidates
 - Engineering Supervisor (Scott Melvin) – Posting closed May 3, awaiting referred candidates



Flood Resiliency Blueprint

- Neuse Basin Action Strategy sessions in LaGrange, Durham, and New Bern
- Reviewed current action strategies for Basin and for each county
- Discussed potential missing action strategies
- Division representatives mentioned opportunities to assist with
 - Debris Removal (StRAP)
 - Ag & Community Conservation BMPs (ACSP, CCAP, EQIP, CSP)
 - Buffers, Cropland conversion (ACSP, CREP)
 - Water Farming
 - Pond construction/rehab – Potential pilot project

NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water Conservation

David B. Williams, Director

May 22, 2024

Technical Assistance Funds

- The Division has submitted a conceptual proposal to NRCS for funding to support for TA for IRA projects (EQIP, CSP)
- 5-year proposal includes
 - Funding for new district staff
 - Supplemental funding for existing district staff
 - Training position in the Division
- Also working on a proposal to continue ATAC agreement (initiated in 2010) for additional 5 years

Upcoming Commission meetings

- July 23-24, NC State Fairgrounds, Martin Bldg, Raleigh
- September 16, Doubletree Atlantic Beach, in conjunction with Conservation Employees Training
- November 19-20, TBD

Fundamentals of Conservation Planning

- May 6 – 10
- Waynesville
- Registration is open through April 26
- Room block closes April 15





Association Report to the Commission

May 22, 2024

May 2024 Commission Meeting

As President of the Association, I appreciate the Commission meeting here in my county. It is a great opportunity for us as a Commission to see the varying parts of the state that all have different challenges and unique opportunities to assist landowners.

2025 Annual Meeting

Our contract has been finalized for the 2025 Annual Meeting to be held at the Sheraton Imperial in Durham. Information concerning the meeting registration and hotel reservations will be sent late summer. The Association is hopeful that the Commission will hold their January meeting in conjunction with our Annual meeting as in the past.

2024 NACD SE Meeting

The SE NACD meeting will be held June 16-18 in Gainesville, Florida.

Advanced Supervisor Training

The Association appreciates the opportunity to work with the Division to deliver this training. It is encouraging as well that this type of training has been requested by Supervisors wanting to increase their knowledge of issues that affect Districts.

Resource Conservation Workshop

We will be assisting the Division with the delivery of this year's RCW. The date has been moved up a week to avoid conflicts with the State FFA Convention. It does appear that attendance will be good this year.

Grow More Outreach Trainings

We are continuing the offerings of this outreach training program across the state. The following trainings are scheduled:

July 9 – Western Carolina Ag Center in Fletcher, October 16 – Steve Troxler Ag Science Center in

Raleigh, December 10 – Pitt County Ag Center in Greenville, and April 22, 2025 – Greensboro As Center in Greensboro



Association Executive Director's

Report to the Commission

May 22, 2024

2024 Legislative Items

This year, we will be working on increased Technical Assistance. This is a short session, so legislators will likely not be in town for very long.

So far, the Governor's budget includes \$1 million for AgWRAP and \$20 million for StRAP. The Legislators opened session on April 24 and there are a lot of meetings starting.

Basic Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors

We will start shortly on planning for the 2025 Basic Training. I plan to bring for your approval the planned training topics in July.

2024 Farm Family

We are in the process of selecting this year's Farm Family and hope to finish judging by the end of August.

Education Coordinator Position

The Association is moving forward with an agreement for the deliverables needed for the position based on the funding we have had pledged from Districts.

Education/Outreach

We have held Poster, Essay, Slide Show, and Speech contests. This year there was good participation from Districts and really good entries.

The State Envirothon was a big success with pre-COVID numbers of teams. There were just over 100 teams that competed and over 100 volunteers onsite to assist with the competition. All total, we had around 700 people at the event. Enloe High School from Wake County won 1st place in the high school competition and High Rock Home School from Davidson County won 1st place in the middle school competition. The Enloe High School team will represent us in New York for the NCF Envirothon.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

North Carolina



Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Program Updates

FY 2024 Farm Bill conservation financial assistance programs, special funding pools and initiatives in North Carolina included:

- \$22,608,633.00 has been allocated for FY2024 to fund EQIP Classic applications received during the current sign up. Total EQIP Classic contracts obligated to date is 181 contracts for a total of \$6,964,899.22.
- \$30,209,000.00 has been allocated for FY2024 to fund EQIP IRA applications received during the current sign up. Total EQIP IRA contracts obligated to date is 214 contracts for a total of \$14,363,060.51.
- \$13,875,000.00 has been allocated for FY2024 to fund CSP Classic applications received during the current sign up. Total CSP Classic contracts obligated to date is 14 for a total of \$830,425.00.
- \$8,285,000.00 has been allocated for FY2024 to fund CSP IRA applications received during the current sign up. Total CSP IRA contracts obligated to date is 7 for a total of \$288,532.00.

EQIP continues to be the main effort, we're working diligently through our applications and getting our funds obligated in order to get these conservation efforts into place.

Easements

Recently NRCS and its partners renewed the North Carolina Sentinel Landscapes High Priority Protect Program (NCSLHPPP) for \$6.3 million. The agreement focuses on land parcels that were selected based upon a must-protect area for the continuance of military training in North Carolina and having a high conservation value as a natural resource for farming and agriculture. Through this project, 5,952 acres of productive agricultural land have been perpetually preserved, and more landowners are interested in participating in this RCPP.

General FY 2024 Updates

Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool (FRST)

The Fertilizer Recommendation Support Tool, or "FRST", is a national initiative to modernize fertilizer recommendations by pooling expertise and soil test correlation and calibration data from across the country into an accessible decision support tool. Users will select specific conditions, such as soil, crop, geographic region, and soil test extractant, to provide tailored soil test recommendations that are expected to save farmers millions of dollars annually while reducing excess nutrient losses to the environment.

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Tropical Storm Fred made landfall along the northern Gulf Coast on August 16, 2021, before its remnants moved through the southern Appalachians. Widespread, persistent rainfall resulted with some areas seeing locally heavy amounts, notably in western North Carolina. Since then, the agency has been diligently working with relevant stakeholders in addressing resource concerns.

Performance Updates:

Lazy J Campground- Not Started
Headwaters Trout Farm- Material staging
Sweet Water Ridge - Construction Completed
Hightower- Construction Completed
At The Ridge Campground- Equipment and material staging

Milestones for Projected Completion:

Complete Quality Assurance Plan- Projected June 30, 2024
Provide Final Inspection- Projected July 31, 2024
Complete Operations & Maintenance Plan- Projected July 31, 2024
As-built drawings and/or Final Report- Projected September 2, 2024
Final Payment- Projected September 21, 2024

NRCS and Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

This year, USDA's NRCS will offer assistance for sample collection and laboratory analysis to determine if PFAS might be present in soil or water on a producer's agricultural operation, using EPA-approved or state-approved field sampling techniques and laboratory methods. This is available through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and is part of what USDA calls a Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activity (CEMA). PFAS testing can provide pre-screening information to determine if PFAS might be present in water or soils on the producer's agricultural operation. NRCS will help cover the cost for impacted producers. If a producer suspects but does not yet have confirmation of the presence of PFAS on the farm, this PFAS testing CEMA can help farmers better understand their situation.

Contacts:

Acting State Conservationist—Julius S. George

(Tel) 919.873.2104

State Public Affairs—Joshua J. Hammond

(Tel) 919.873.2103

(Email) Joshua.Hammond@usda.gov

WWW.NC.NRCS.USDA.GOV



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

**NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
Alleghany	03-2024-007	Travis Dalton	Spring Development, Heavy Use Area, Tank, Livestock Exclusion Fencing	\$ 30,645	Applicant: Dalton Farms LLC
Beaufort	07-2024-016	Archie Griffin	Residue and Tillage Management	\$ 15,000	Applicant: Griffin Ag
Caldwell	14-2024-008	Michael D. Willis	Feed/Waste Storage Structure	\$ 40,500	
Cumberland	26-2024-014	Wayne Collier, Jr.	Ag. Road Repair/Stabilication	\$ 4,995	
Lenoir	54-2024-008	Charles Hughes	Grassed Waterway	\$ 4,126	
Transylvania	88-2024-004	Thomas Galloway	Pasture Renovation, Heavy Use Area, Tank, Livestock Exclusion Fencing	\$ 12,136	

**Number of Supervisor Contracts: 6
Total: \$107,402**

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

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Alleghany 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: Spring Development, HUAP, Tanks & Troughs, Livestock exclusion

Contract number: 03-2024-007 Contract amount: \$ 30645

Score on priority ranking sheet: 87 out of 105

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 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): Travis Dalton




(District Supervisor's signature)

4/15/2024

Date

Approved by (Print): Alvin C Dixon



(District Chairperson's signature)

4/16/2024

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 Beaufort 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: Residue & Tillage Management

Contract number: 07-2024-016 Contract amount: \$ 15,000

Score on priority ranking sheet: 25 out of 40

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 16 out of 16

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): Archie Griffin



(District Supervisor's signature)

2-20-24

Date

Approved by (Print): James Allen



(District Chairperson's signature)

2-21-24

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 Caldwell 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: Feed/waste storage structure

Contract number: 14-2024-008 Contract amount: \$ 40,500.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 100 out of >90

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 6 out of 8

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 D. Willis

[Signature]

(District Supervisor's signature)

4/4/2024
Date

Approved by (Print): Russell Dellinger

[Signature]

(District Chairperson's signature)

04/16/2024
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.

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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 Cumberland 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: NCACSPBest management practice: Ag Road Repair/StabilizationContract number: 26-2024-014 Contract amount: \$ 4,995.00Score on priority ranking sheet: 90 out of 105Cost Share Rate: 75% If different than 75%, please list % percent: NAReason: NARelative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 3 out of 5Were 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:

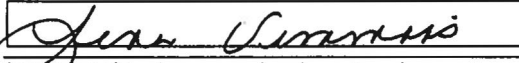
--

Supervisor name (Print): Wayne Collier Jr.


(District Supervisor's signature)

<u>5/9/2024</u>
Date

Approved by (Print): Lena Simmons


(District Chairperson's signature)

<u>5/9/2024</u>
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). 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 Lenoir 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: Grassed Waterway

Contract number: 54-2024-008 Contract amount: \$ ~~4,910~~

Score on priority ranking sheet: 75 out of 225

*JL 5/6/24
84,126 MW 5-7-2024
CWA 5-7-24*

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

Reason: Operation in production more than 10 years

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 5 out of 5

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): Charles Hughes (District Chair)

Charles Hughes

(District Supervisor's signature)

3-13-2024

Date

Approved by (Print): Macon Wooten, Jr

Macon Wooten Jr

(District Vice Chairperson's signature)

3-13-2024

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.

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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 Transylvania 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: NCACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Exclusion, Watering Tank, Heavy Use Area Protection, & Pasture Renovation

Contract number: 88-2024-004 Contract amount: \$ 12,136

Score on priority ranking sheet: 10 out of 25

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 2

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 Scott Galloway

Thomas Scott Galloway
(District Supervisor's signature)

3/21/24
Date

Approved by (Print): _____

Dick Bony
(District Chairperson's signature)

3/21/24
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.

**NC Cost Share Programs Supervisor Contracts
Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

County	Contract Number	Supervisor Name	BMP	Contract Amount	Comments
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Caldwell	14-2024-008	Michael D. Willis	Feed/Waste Storage Structure	\$ 40,500	
Lenoir	54-2024-008	Charles Hughes	Grassed Waterway	\$ 4,126	
Transylvania	88-2024-004	Thomas Galloway	Pasture Renovation, Heavy Use Area, Tank, Livestock Exclusion Fencing	\$ 12,136	

Number of Supervisor Contracts: 5

Total: \$102,407

ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Alleghany 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: Spring Development, HUAP, Tanks & Troughs, Livestock exclusion

Contract number: 03-2024-007 Contract amount: \$ 30645

Score on priority ranking sheet: 87 out of 105

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 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): Travis Dalton




(District Supervisor's signature)

4/15/2024

Date

Approved by (Print): Alvin C Dixon



(District Chairperson's signature)

4/16/2024

Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

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ADDENDUM TO APPLICATION FOR ASSISTANCE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION COST SHARE PROGRAMS

As a Soil and Water District Supervisor, for the Beaufort 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: Residue & Tillage Management

Contract number: 07-2024-016 Contract amount: \$ 15,000

Score on priority ranking sheet: 25 out of 40

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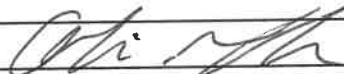
Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 16 out of 16

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): Archie Griffin



(District Supervisor's signature)

2-20-24

Date

Approved by (Print): James Allen



(District Chairperson's signature)

2-21-24

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.

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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 Caldwell 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: Feed/waste storage structure

Contract number: 14-2024-008 Contract amount: \$ 40,500.00

Score on priority ranking sheet: 100 out of >90

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 6 out of 8

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 D. Willis



(District Supervisor's signature)

4/4/2024
Date

Approved by (Print): Russell Dellinger



(District Chairperson's signature)

04/16/2024
Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

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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 Lenoir 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: Grassed Waterway

Contract number: 54-2024-008 Contract amount: \$ ~~4,910~~

Score on priority ranking sheet: 75 out of 225

JL 5/6/24
84,126 MW 5-7-2024
CWA 5-7-24

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

Reason: Operation in production more than 10 years

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 5 out of 5

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): Charles Hughes (District Chair)

Charles Hughes

(District Supervisor's signature)

3-13-2024

Date

Approved by (Print): Macon Wooten, Jr

Macon Wooten Jr

(District Vice Chairperson's signature)

3-13-2024

Date

To be completed by Department of Agriculture staff only:

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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 Transylvania 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: NCACSP

Best management practice: Livestock Exclusion, Watering Tank, Heavy Use Area Protection, & Pasture Renovation

Contract number: 88-2024-004 Contract amount: \$ 12,136

Score on priority ranking sheet: 10 out of 25

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

Reason: _____

Relative rank (e.g., ranked 8th out of 12 projects considered): 2 out of 2

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 Scott Galloway

Thomas Scott Galloway
(District Supervisor's signature)

3/21/24
Date

Approved by (Print): _____

Dick Bony
(District Chairperson's signature)

3/21/24
Date

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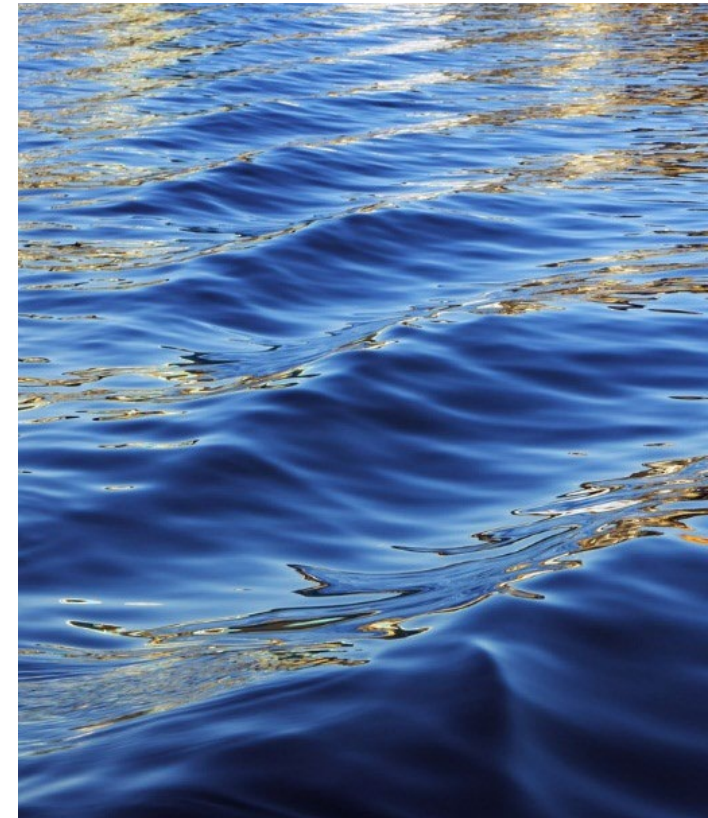
*Beneficiaries include but are not limited to applicant, landowner, and/or business partners.

Please upload this form into the Cost Share Programs' Contracting System Reference Materials Section.

Duplin County Soil & Water

Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program Report

Zac Hatcher
Cole Smith

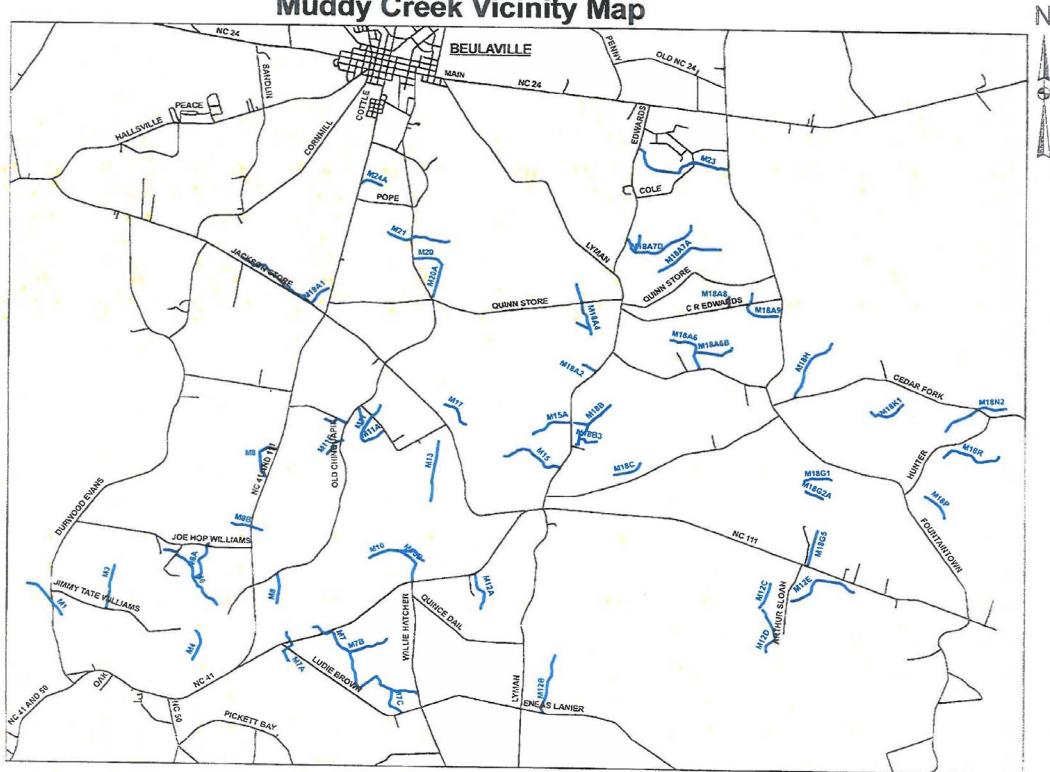


StRAP Funding

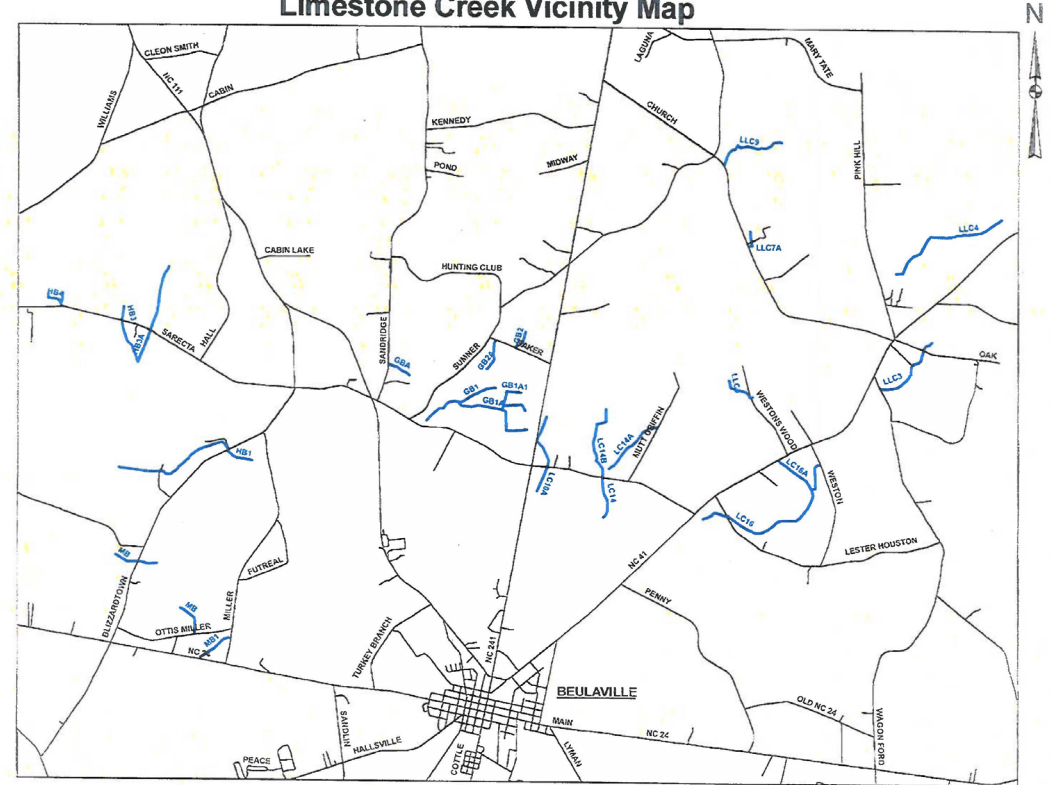
- Received \$1,656,157.00 in Total Funding
- Spent to Date: \$764,700.94
- Projects Included:
 - Stream Debris Removal Projects on County Maintained Watersheds
 - Stream Debris Removal on One Section of the Northeast Cape Fear River
 - Maintenance on Limestone and Muddy Creek PL-566 Projects
 - Cabin Lake Emergency Action Plan and Repairs after Assessment
 - Storage Building for County Equipment: Boats, Kayak, and UTV

Duplin's PL-566 Watersheds

Muddy Creek Vicinity Map

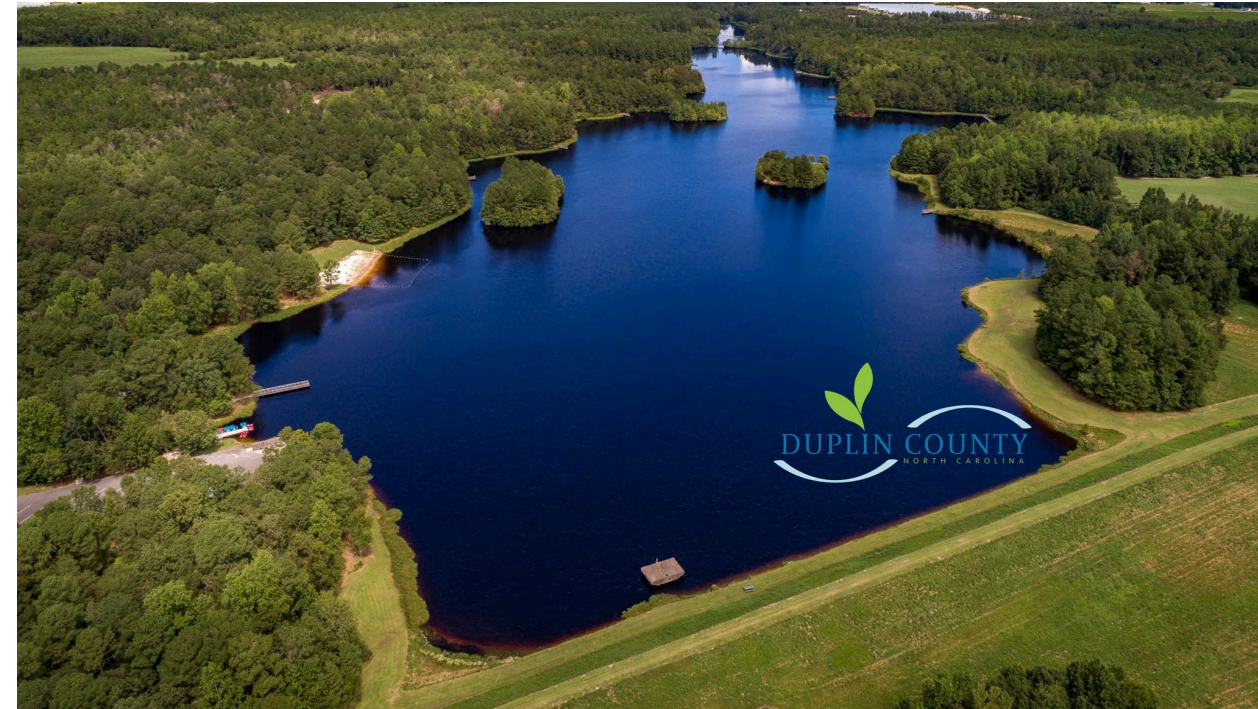


Limestone Creek Vicinity Map



Cabin Lake

StRAP PL-566 Funds are being used for Dam Assessment, Repairs, and Emergency Action Plan



Limestone and Muddy Creek Cleanout Projects

StRAP Funds used for Stream Debris Removal in Watershed Creeks





Northeast Cape Fear River Cleanout

StRAP Funds used for Stream Debris Removal in NECFR





Limestone and Muddy Creek PL-566 Repairs

StRAP Funding was used for watershed bank stabilization, crossing repairs, sediment removal, and maintenance





Duplin Soil and Water Storage Facility

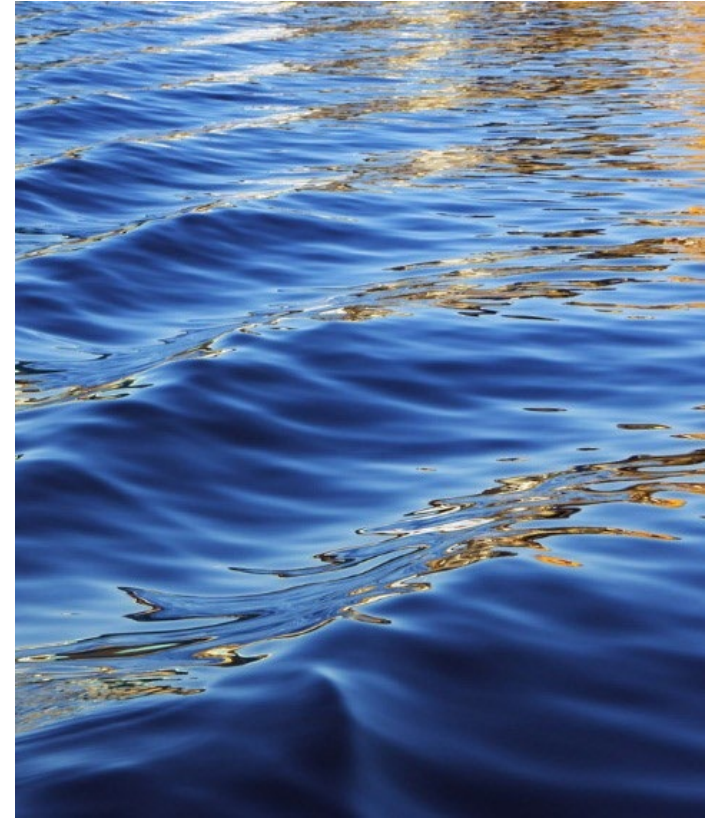
Using StRAP Admin Funding, we were able to help finance a storage building for our watershed and river inspection equipment



Future StRAP Projects in Duplin County

- 2 sections of the Northeast Cape Fear River awaiting funding for stream debris removal
- 2024 Watershed mowing and maintenance is being funded by StRAP
- Privet removal project on watershed lateral currently out for bids
- Possible yearly debris removal maintenance on NECFR

Questions?





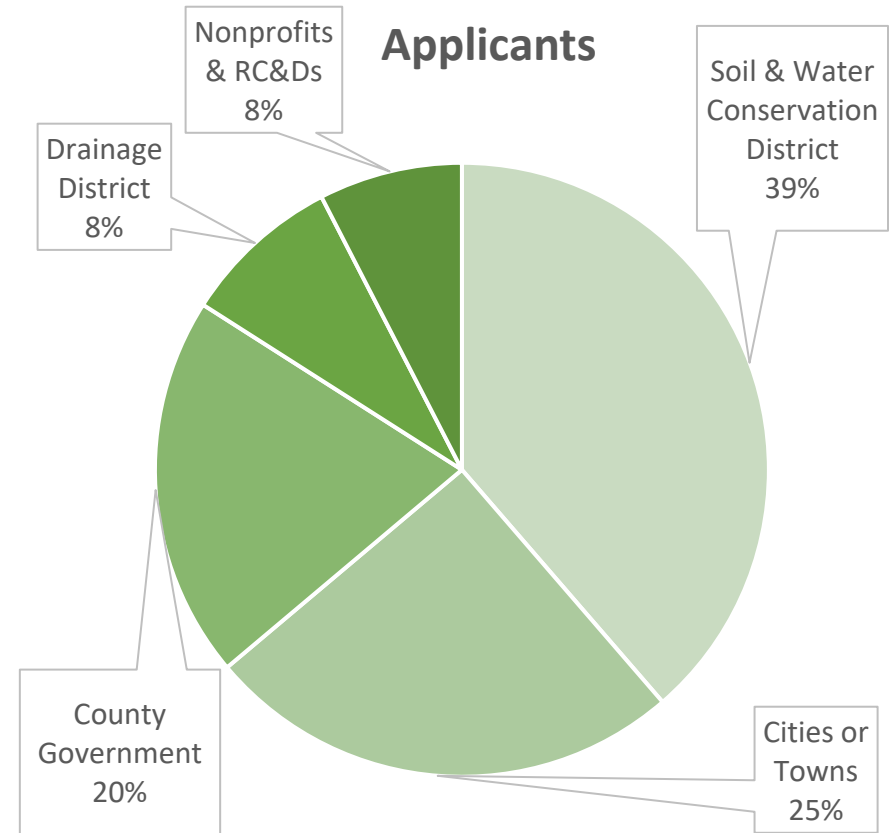
Program Updates

As of May 13, 2024:

- The Division has paid \$23,987,924 (65% of awarded funds) in reimbursements to grantees for completed work
 - 292 Requests for Payment processed by Division
- Completed Work:
 - 3.2 million LF of stream debris removal reimbursed (66% of total)
 - 730 beaver dams removed
 - 29 PL-566 watershed structure repairs completed
- 40 contracts completed and closed out
 - 68 grantees still working on projects



- Application Closed February 23
- 118 Applicants
- Total Request: \$217,607,579
 - Smallest Request: \$10,000
 - Largest Request: \$44 million
- 578 Individual Stream Segments/Sites
- Project Types applied for:
 - Stream debris removal
 - Sediment removal
 - Streambank stabilization
 - Stream Restoration
 - Other (culvert replacement, non-PL566 dam repair)
 - PL-566 structure repair.



- Sites were ranked to determine funding priority.
- Incorporated feedback from:
 - Current Grantees
 - SWCC
 - NCSU
 - Division & NRCS staff
- Ranking form will continue to be developed for future applications.
 - Appreciate feedback and suggestions for future improvements.

Primary Factor Considered during Ranking

Amount of unspent funds remaining from previous Division funded-projects

- Hurricane Florence & Eta
- Hurricane Matthew
- FY22 StRAP

Total Site Cost

Site Description

Potential Benefits of work- number of:

- Structures
- Utility crossings
- Road crossings
- Farms
- Acres of ag land

Waterway type (PL-566, blue-line stream, USGS mapped swamp)

Priority Site (Each grantee identified their single highest priority site based on local ranking)

Amount of matching funds

- Sediment removal, streambank stabilization, stream restoration, and other projects sites were each ranked individually.
- Each applicant's **average** stream debris removal site values were ranked.
 - Due to large number of stream debris removal sites and to allow flexibility in how grantees priorities debris removal sites.

Project Type	Maximum Possible Score	Highest Scoring Site
Stream Debris Removal	130	98
Sediment Removal	165	115
Streambank Stabilization	165	120
Stream Restoration	165	90
Other	165	90
PL-566	165	80

Category	Total Percentage of Requests	Adjusted Percentage (requests cut off at \$1million per category per grantee)	Initial Proposed % Allotment per category	Proposed \$ Allotment per category	Amended Proposed % Allotment per category (Approximate)
Stream Debris Removal	33%	61%	50%	10,000,000	48%
Sediment Removal	1%	7%	5%	1,000,000	1%
Bank Stabilization	27%	13%	12%	2,400,000	14%
Stream Restoration	26%	10%	10%	2,000,000	16%
Other	1%	4%	5%	1,000,000	3%
PL566	12%	5%	13%	2,600,000	13%
Division Admin	--	--	5%	1,000,000	5%
Total	\$217 million		100%	20,000,000	

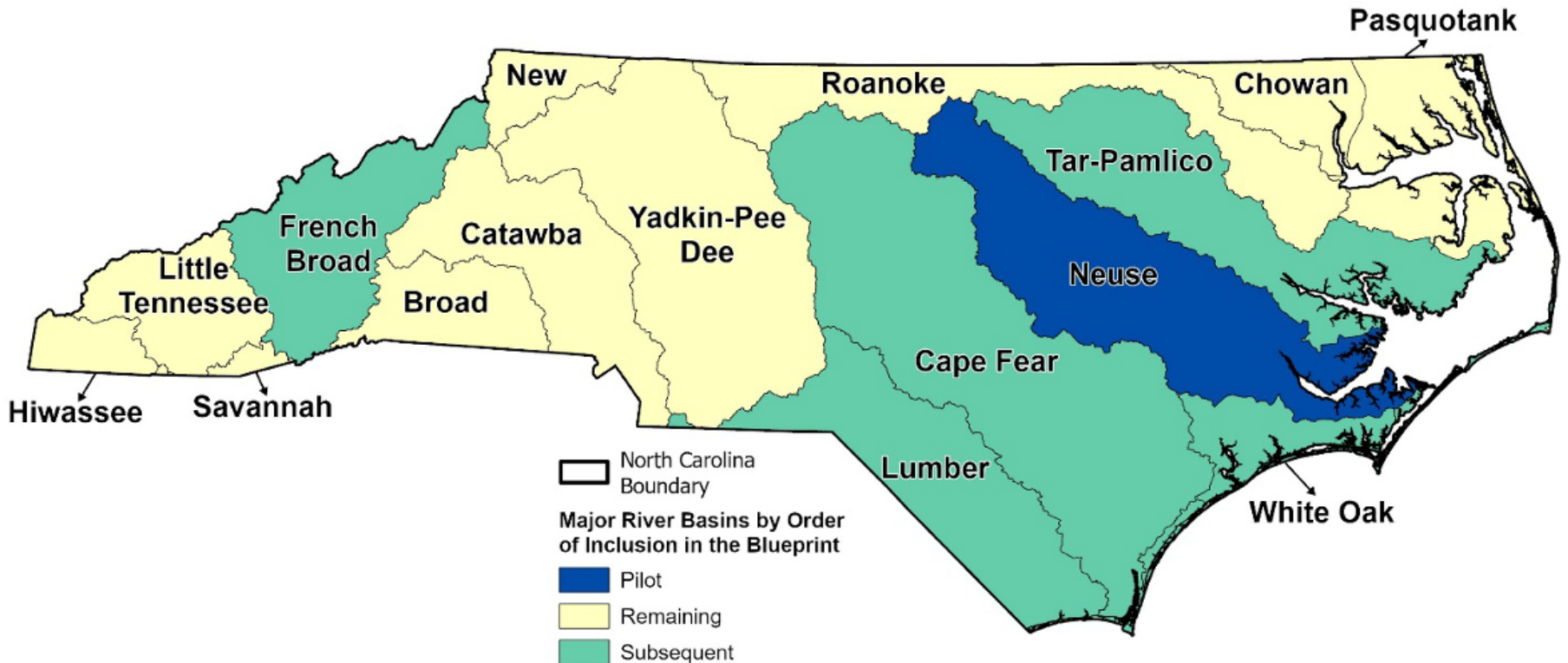
Category	Award Cap per grantee per category
Stream Debris Removal	\$250,000
Combined Total of Sediment Removal, Bank Stabilization, Stream Restoration, Other	\$500,000
PL566	\$1,000,000
Per Grantee Total	\$1,000,000

DSWC proposes delaying the allocation of funds due to additional funding opportunities.

- Department of Environmental Quality has approached DSWC about allocating DEQ funds to be used for StRAP projects.
- Proposed added funds: up to \$20 million
 - Based on which projects DEQ selects to fund
- Part of \$96 million allocated to DEQ for flood mitigation projects as outlined by the Statewide Flood Resiliency Blueprint
 - <https://ncfloodblueprint.com/>

This document serves as the **Draft North Carolina Flood Resiliency Blueprint**, representing the most significant statewide flood resiliency investment in North Carolina's history. The Blueprint is designed to bring together all flood-related resources and knowledge in the state into one unified platform. It will offer decision-makers at all levels a standardized methodology for flood planning, an online decision-support tool, and river basin-specific action strategies to address flooding in North Carolina communities. It will also allow the state to make targeted decisions about where to allocate resources for the most significant impact. The Blueprint will continue to be refined based on further stakeholder and community engagement, the pilot Neuse River Basin Flood Resiliency Action Strategy, the development and implementation of the Flood Resiliency Blueprint Tool, and on-the-ground project implementation.

- DEQ funding would be restricted to identified priority river basins:
 - Tar-Pamlico
 - Neuse
 - Cape Far
 - Lumber
 - White Oak



Ongoing Coordination:

- DEQ is developing an interagency Memorandum of Understanding to finalize the allocation of DEQ funds to StRAP.
 - Will confirm the amount of funding DEQ will award to StRAP projects.
- DEQ is reviewing StRAP applications within priority river basins
- StRAP would fund high-ranking sites in non-priority river basins, or high-ranking sites in priority river basins that are not funded by DEQ
 - StRAP would fund most PL-566 sites and all approved sediment removal work.

- At this time, DSWC requests that the Commission schedule a special called meeting in late June for the StRAP allocation.
 - This would give DEQ time to review applications and decide which sites they would fund.
 - A called session would allow all StRAP funding (both DSWC and DEQ) to be allocated in a single round of contracts.
 - A single allocation would ensure the most efficient allocation of funding as DSWC and DEQ could work together to plan allocations.
- The Director will work with the Chairman to schedule this meeting.