

**NORTH CAROLINA
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION
WORK SESSION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
November 19th, 2024**

Guilford County Agricultural Center
3309 Burlington Road
Greensboro, NC 27405

Commission Members	Guests	Guests Online
John Langdon, Chair	Shelby Kaplan	Anne Coan
Billy Kilpatrick	Jennifer Roach	Cayle Aldridge
James Lamb	Tinesha McNeil	Laken Creed
Brian Parker	Michael Shepherd	Daphne Cartner
George Teague	Elise McLaughlin	Lisa Fine
Barbara Bleiweis	Chris Love	Martin McLawhorn
Patrick Baker	Ken Parks	Allie Dinwiddie
Commission Counsel	Mrs Kilpatrick	Levi Preston
Victor Unnone III	Keith Larick	Paula Day
Guests	Brandy Myers	
David Williams	Lorien Deaton	
Julie Henshaw		
Matt Safford		
Kristina Fischer		
Rick McSwain		
Josh Vetter		
Bryan Evans		
Tom Hill		

I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Langdon called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

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II. PRELIMINARY: Chairman Langdon charged the Commission members to declare any conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest, that may exist for agenda items under consideration, as mandated by the State Ethics Act. Commissioner Patrick Baker announced a conflict for agenda item 8A, parts 2 & 3 and declared that he would be recusing himself on that item.

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

III. BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the agenda. None were offered.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Langdon asked for comments on the minutes from the September Work Session and Business Session (Attachments 2A & 2B) and the minutes from the special called October 16 business meeting (Attachment 2C).

INFORMATION ITEMS

3. **Division Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized Director David Williams to present. Mr Williams stated the report will be presented at the business meeting tomorrow morning.
4. **NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts:**
 - A. **President's Report:** Chairman Langdon recognized President Billy Kilpatrick to present Attachment 4A). 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 tomorrow morning.
 - B. **Executive Director's:** Report Chairman Langdon recognized Executive Director Bryan Evans to present (Attachment 4B). 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 tomorrow morning.
5. **NRCS Report:** Chairman Langdon inquired as to whether Tim Beard would be present for the business meeting to present the NRCS report (Attachment 5). Director Williams confirmed that Mr. Beard will share the NRCS report will be presented at the business meeting tomorrow. A copy of the report is an official part of the minutes.

ACTION ITEMS

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

Ms. Kristina Fischer presented 6 supervisors who've been nominated to fill unexpired 2022-26 terms
 - B. **Supervisor Contracts (Attachment 6B):**

Mr. John Beck presented two district supervisor contracts for consideration.
 - C. **StRAP Supervisor Contract (Attachment 6C):**

Mr. Matt Safford presented a StRAP supervisor contract for consideration. He explained that the supervisor is the landowner and not the grantee for this contract.
 - D. **Job Approval Authority Applicants for Consideration (Attachment 6D):**

Mr. Josh Vetter presented recommended Job Approval Authority for three individuals.

- 7. Designation of Commission Rules for Readoption:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. David Williams to present. Director Williams stated that state law requires the Commission to evaluate its rules at least every 10 years to confirm that the rules are still necessary. He added that the Division recommends to designate each of the rules to be necessary. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes (Attachment 7).
- A. 02 NCAC 59A
 - B. 02 NCAC 59B
 - C. 02 NCAC 59C
 - D. 02 NCAC 59E
 - E. 02 NCAC 59F
 - F. 02 NCAC 59G

- 8. 2024 – 2028 Supervisor Terms:** Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes (Attachment 8A & B).

A. Recommendations for Supervisor Appointment and Reappointment

Ms. Fischer explained that the nominations for appointment/reappointment will be broken into several groups. She explained the rationale for the groupings and presented the Division's recommendation for each group. She called attention to several supervisors who have not attended any area or state meetings of the Association during their current term. There was considerable discussion about whether a supervisor should be reappointed if he/she has not participated in these meetings. Ultimately, the resolution proposed was to send a letter from the Commission encouraging these supervisors to participate in Association meetings, noting the important information presented at the meetings.

Commissioner Patrick Baker recused himself from consideration and discussion for Items 8A 2 and 3.

B. Election Report

Ms. Fischer presented the results of the 2024 General Election for each district's supervisor position (attachment 8B). She noted that 70 supervisors were re-elected, having completed the required 6 STCs. She further noted that 6 supervisors have not yet achieved 6 STCs were re-elected. There are 22 supervisors who are newly elected to fill seats on the board, and there are two districts for which the election is awaiting confirmation of the write-in candidates with the most votes. She noted that she would present a report on supervisor training credits at the January meeting, at which time the Commission can consider how to handle the re-elected supervisors who did not attain the required 6 STCs by December 2, 2024.

- 9. Guidance on Supervisor Participation:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes (Attachment 9).

Ms. Fischer shared the Division's recommendation to revise the Commission's Guidance on Supervisor Participation. This guidance has been in place since March 2011, but it needs to be updated to acknowledge the relevant procedures in rule 59A.

- 10. Vance SWCD Supervisor Failure to Attend:** Chairman Langdon recognized Ms. Kristina Fischer to present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes (Attachment 10). Ms.

Fischer shared notification submitted by Vance SWCD that supervisor Rodney Dickerson has failed to attend 3 consecutive regularly scheduled meetings. The district has considered changing its meeting time to accommodate Mr. Dickerson's availability, but Mr. Dickerson has indicated an intention to resign.

11. Agriculture Cost Share Program Policy Revisions: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. John Beck to present recommended policy revisions from the Technical Review Committee (Attachment 11). A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes.

A. Waste Application Systems

B. Constructed Wetlands

12. Community Conservation Assistance Program Regional Application Recommendation: Chairman Langdon recognized Mr. Tom Hill present. A copy of the report is included as an official part of the minutes (Attachment 12). Mr. Hill shared the recommendations from the Division regarding approval of CCAP applications.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Chairman Langdon asked for any public comments. Director Williams described some of the damages from Tropical Storm Helene.

V. ADJURNMENT: With no further business, Chairman Langdon declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.

David B. Williams, Director
Division of Soil & Water Conservation, Raleigh, N.C.

Tinesha McNeil, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the North Carolina Soil & Water Conservation Commission on January 5, 2025.