



## 2022 NCASWCD ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Resolution 1 – Request for Change in EWP Funding Type

Resolution 2 – Supporting the Use of NCACSP Funds for BMPs that Improve Soil Health, Soil Sustainability and Soil Regeneration

Resolution 3 – Association Position of Adoption of Code of Conduct Policy

Resolution 4 – To Provide Field Support Staffing to Assist Soil and Water Districts for the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Protection Trust Fund Applications and Procurement of Conservation Easements in North Carolina

RESOLUTION

REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN EWP FUNDING TYPE

WHEREAS; the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) work with local communities and USDA-NRCS for disaster assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP), AND

WHEREAS; Soil and Water Conservation Districts are a significant part of the recovery process to responsively get drainage infrastructure repaired and functional in a timely manner to protect life and property, AND

WHEREAS; EWPP has to deny assistance before FEMA can assist, AND

WHEREAS; storm damage repairs need to be expedited quickly to prevent future damage and risk to health and safety by removing impairments to flow, THEREFORE

LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts requests that EWPP have the same funding authority as FEMA to assist with immediate disaster recovery.

Adopted at an official meeting of the Haywood SWCD on 9/21 2021.

[Signature] District Chair

Considered at the Area 1 Fall Meeting on 10/12 2019 and ✓ Adopted     Rejected

[Signature] Area Chair

## RESOLUTION

Supporting the use of NCACSP funds for BMPs that improve soil health, soil sustainability and soil regeneration

WHEREAS; the State of North Carolina provides funds to the North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) to assist in use of best management practices promoting voluntary natural resource management and conservation on private lands of NC through a non-regulatory, incentive-driven approach, AND

WHEREAS; the Soil and Water Conservation Districts across North Carolina provided technical assistance for the planning and design of best management practices (BMPs) to address natural resource issues, AND

WHEREAS; the mission of the Soil and Water Conservation Division of NCDA&CS is to foster voluntary, incentive-driven management of soil, water and related natural resources for the benefit of the environment, economy and all citizens, AND

WHEREAS; the Soil and Water Conservation District partner with federal, state and local entities to deliver state and federal on conservation programs related to water quality practices, farmland protection, wetland restoration, wildlife habitat enhancement, and soil health, AND

WHEREAS; disturbing the soil as little as possible, keeping the soil covered with diverse, green plant life year round conserves and improves the environment for soil organism and the important biological processes they perform, THEREFORE

LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the Area 5, Soil & Water Conservation District requests that "and soil health" be added to the last sentence of Chapter 106, Article 72, SS106-850 (7) of the NC General Statutes.

LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the Area 5, Soil & Water Conservation District request that North Carolina Agriculture Cost Share Program (NCACSP) funds may be used to fund contracts that have soil health benefits. Eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be evaluated to determine the impact on soil health, practice sustainability and soil regeneration.

Adopted at an official meeting of the Camden SWCD on August 12, 2021

Alber Wayne Staples, Camden Chair

Adopted at an official meeting of the Albemarle SWCD Conservation District on August 12, 2021

Don Lee Kenton, Albemarle District Chair

Considered at the Area 5 Fall Meeting, November 16, 2021 and ☒ Adopted ☐ Rejected

[Signature], Area Chair

RESOLUTION  
ASSOCIATION POSITION ON  
ADOPTION OF CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

WHEREAS; the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Districts) nationally were formed to provide locally led conservation to landowners and land users, AND

WHEREAS, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts are public bodies as defined by North Carolina State Statute, AND

WHEREAS; Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors (Supervisors) are elected or appointed within their respective Districts to serve in a capacity that directs conservation delivery through a science based priority basis only, AND

WHEREAS; Supervisors offer diverse opinions regarding District policies, procedures, programs and priorities, AND

WHEREAS, Supervisors are responsible and accountable to the District and the public to accurately represent District policy in a manner that does not adversely impact delivery of conservation services, AND

WHEREAS, current federal and state laws regarding code of conduct are not specifically addressed in association mandated training, AND

WHEREAS; the Association believes that District effectiveness can be enhanced when Supervisors fully understand their responsibilities and accountabilities for any and all statements made and behaviors exhibited during their tenure. THEREFORE

LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts supports that Districts adopt a Code of Ethics policy that incorporates a Code of Conduct provision AND

LET IS BE RESOLVED: that the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide policy guidance on the remedies for Supervisor misconduct.

LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts incorporate Ethics and Code of Conduct Training in the mandatory Supervisor Training provided by the UNC School of Government.

ADOPTED , MECKLENBURG SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, August 31, 2021

Barbara Bleiweis Board Chair

Barbara Bleiweis

CONSIDERED AT THE 8 Area Fall Meeting on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

ADOPTED ✓

REJECTED \_\_\_\_\_

AREA CHAIR Jeff Soper





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Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District  
2727-C Old Concord Road  
Salisbury, NC 28146  
(704)216-8999

### RESOLUTION

To Provide Field Support Staffing To Assist Soil and Water Districts For the North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Protection Trust Fund Applications And Procurement Of Conservation Easements  
In North Carolina

Whereas, The North Carolina Agricultural Development and Farmland Protection Program was established in 2005 by House Bill 607 for the purpose of securing Conservation Easements; and

Whereas, North Carolina farmland is being lost at an alarming rate due to commercial and residential development; and

Whereas, said farmland is vitally important to the production of food and fiber for our citizens; and

Whereas, said farmland can never be reclaimed from development once lost; and

Whereas, many North Carolina Soil and Water Districts have very limited staff available to work on Conservation Easement applications and procurement and the process is extremely time consuming and tedious; and

Whereas, the available staff in many North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Districts are contractually obligated to devote a large percentage of their time to other county and state business; and

Whereas, North Carolina Landowners currently rely on the technical services and expertise of local Soil and Water Conservation District staff to prepare Conservation Easement applications and easement paperwork to carry out their wishes for the future uses of their land; and

Whereas, North Carolina Conservation Districts are trusted as "grass roots partners" by landowners to assist in the process of carrying out their conservation interests of their land; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the sense of this assembly recognizes the need to conserve farmland in North Carolina for the production of food and fiber for future generations.

*Resolved*, That this body urges the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to lead the charge to streamline the Conservation Easement application and procurement process in order to expedite the acquisition of Conservation Easements before more farmland is lost due to local staffing constraints.

*Resolved*, That this body urges the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts assist with development of a plan to provide funding for additional regional and/or statewide staffing with the specialized professional skillset to assist local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and landowners in the preparation of Conservation Easement Applications, Easement Procurement, and language paperwork.

*Resolved*, That this body urges that aforementioned staffing services be available to assist Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts at no cost to the local district or landowner.

Adopted at an official meeting of the Rowan Soil and Water Conservation District on Aug 19, 2021.

Brian J. Miller District Chair

Considered at the 8 Area Fall Meeting on Oct 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 and ✓ Adopted        Rejected

Jepi Gopate Area Chair