

*Collaborative Natural Resource Protection and Conservation Education*



*North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts*

# 2025 Policies, Positions & Action Items



*Building district capacities since 1944*

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Dear Conservation family and friends,

This year marks the 88th anniversary of the Federal legislation authorizing the creation of soil and water conservation districts. The vision for locally led, voluntary conservation created by North Carolina's own favorite son, Hugh Hammond Bennett, remains alive and thrives through us and these resolutions.

Annual association meetings review our important work often through the lens of a rear-view mirror. Two major events since 2020, the COVID pandemic and Hurricane Helene, exposed the fragility and the critical need to protect those natural resource systems for food, fuels, and fiber-the very systems that we support to sustain our communities.

The value of locally led conservation, now more than ever, must be viewed through the lens of resiliency, protecting these natural systems in this ever changing and unpredictable landscape. We are the foot soldiers for natural resource conservation, before, during and after catastrophic events.

As we enter a new year, I know we will be vigilant and focused as our work continues even as funding and other policy challenges play out.

Please know that you are valued, respected and loved.

Thank you for all you do!

With appreciation,

Barbara Bleiweis  
President  
NCASWCD

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<b>2025 POLICIES, POSITIONS &amp; ACTION ITEMS OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMON ABBREVIATION LIST</b>
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ACSP	NC Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control
AgWRAP	Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
Association	North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
BMPs	best management practices
CCAP	Community Conservation Assistance Program
CCP	Certified Conservation Planner
CES	Cooperative Extension Service
Commission	NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission
CREP	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
Districts	local soil and water conservation districts
Division	NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation
EEP	NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program
FFA	Future Farmers of America
FLP	Project Food, Land & People
FTE	full-time equivalent
Foundation	NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, Inc.
JAA	job approval authority
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NACD	National Association of Conservation Districts
NC	North Carolina
NCDA&CS	North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
NCDEQ	North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
NCFS	North Carolina Forest Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PCEP	Professional Conservation Employees Program
RCW	Resource Conservation Workshop
SENACD	Southeast Region of the National Association of Conservation Districts
StRAP	Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VAD	Voluntary Agricultural District

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

**Chair – Max Ralston James (Iredell)**

**Vice Chair – Matt Collogan (New Hanover)**

### ***Policies & Positions***

1. The Association recognizes the need for land use planning, but opposes any state or federal land use planning act that fails to delegate authority in such planning to local officials. The Association recommends that the Districts become one of the main agents to develop and implement local land use plans. Districts should work to ensure adequate representation with local work groups including; but not limited to Parks & Recreation and Planning & Zoning so that good conservation practices may be implemented and maintained. Promotion of greenways, open spaces, buffers, and other green land use practices are encouraged. Actions of all officials should include adequate public hearings. **2007**
2. The Association encourages Districts to promote soil and water conservation BMPs with contractors, real estate developers, lending institutions, government agencies, and local citizens. To do this, Districts need to provide technical assistance so that their clients will become aware of the importance of conserving all rural, suburban and urban land. **2007**
3. The Association encourages users of eminent domain for the taking of farm or forest land to prove an overriding public need exists--without a reasonable or prudent alternative--before public funds could be invested for roads, streets, water or sewer facilities, and similar items. In addition, this public need must be proven if actions taken were to decrease the productivity or adversely affect the remaining or adjacent farm and forestland. **2015**
4. The Association supports the NC Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973, including the review process required by local ordinances for erosion control plans by District Supervisors, NRCS staff, and District staff. Each District is encouraged to work on erosion and sedimentation problems to maintain agriculture's exemption from the Act. This will be done by providing education on and promoting the use of BMPs to prevent sediment runoff. Each District is encouraged to support local sedimentation and erosion control programs. **2006**
5. The Association will continue to support an effective level of recurring funding for the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program, the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Community Conservation Assistance Program. **2025**
6. The Association supports dedicated funding for the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, the NC Land and Water Fund, and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. The Association endorses the preservation of open space by providing incentives to land owners to preserve farm and forest land. **2019**
7. The Association supports district involvement in assisting with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I and Phase II Regulations to help improve surface water quality. **2007**

8. The Association supports the continual expansion of approved BMPs for Community Conservation projects as needs are identified by Districts across the state. **2007**
9. The Community Conservation Committee urges Districts to develop relationships with nonprofit organizations, land trusts, corporations, and other government agencies. **2010**
10. The Association recognizes the Lower Cape Fear Stewardship Development Awards™ Program as an exemplary conservation program and encourages all Districts to implement similar Stewardship Development Awards™ Programs to achieve statewide coverage. **2010, 2025**
11. The Association seeks to encourage more widespread adoption of low impact development (LID) techniques. The Association encourages districts to promote the adoption of LID techniques through adoption of local government ordinances, modifications of state and local mandates for conventional stormwater management, and outreach to developers and/or builders to show the financial benefits of LID using available resources including the Wildlife Resources Commission's Green Growth Toolbox. **2014**
12. The Association will annually confer the "Outstanding Accomplishments in Community Conservation" known as the Jim Stephenson Award for an outstanding District community conservation effort. **2015**

**Action Items**

1. The Association requests recurring funds of \$1.5 million for CCAP BMP implementation, and \$225,000 for technical assistance. **2024, 2025**

**DISTRICT OPERATIONS**

**Chair – Gwen Minton (Wilkes)**

**Vice Chair – Madison Bridges (Cleveland)**

**Policies & Positions**

1. The Association will continue as a leader to improve the quality of NC soils and waters. The Association encourages the Districts to expand their role in developing policies and programs with our conservation partners toward meeting the conservation challenges. This effort must retain our non-regulatory function in assisting cooperators and would be contingent on the provision of adequate funding. **2005, 2024**
2. The Association encourages the Division to seek funds and grants to fund additional projects and personnel to assist Districts in addressing soil and water quality problems. **2005, 2024**
3. The Association is interested in maintaining a leadership role for improving water quality and other natural resources in NC by encouraging Districts to take State & Local officials on an annual tour of their BMP's, and to express appreciation to State Representatives, Senators and local officials for their support. The Association encourages District Supervisors to maintain contact with their members of Congress, State Legislators and local officials to seek their support in funding Division conservation programs. **2014**
4. The Association supports additional staffing, scheduling, and formatting of statewide technical training and testing with reasonable access to all District areas. **2024**

5. The Association supports District employees being properly trained in animal waste management systems and any other aspects of future technical areas. This technical training will be based on the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Standards and other applicable information. There needs to be continual training, so that District employees can stay current and new employees are qualified to handle the role of duties associated with inspections. **2005**
6. The Association will continue to support the conservation partnership organization's efforts to provide cooperators with the information and technical support they need to comply with regulations. Having this partnership also serve as the regulatory authority, the role traditionally served by NC Department of Environmental Quality, would threaten the partnership's historical working relationship with producers, which has been very effective in reaching resource conservation goals over the years. **2003**
7. The Association encourages all conservation partners; District supervisors and employees of the Districts, NRCS, Division, NCDA&CS and CES, to participate in the Basic Training and Advanced Training for Soil and Water Conservation Supervisors. **2006, 2025**
8. The Association appreciates and supports the Division for maintaining, updating and posting the NC District Directory, which includes; Districts, the Division and NRCS. **2014**
9. The Association encourages every District to involve NRCS, CES, NCDA&CS and the Division in annual and long-range planning. In addition, the management of NRCS, CES, NCDA&CS, Division and NCDEQ are encouraged to follow the lead in their planning processes. All Districts are encouraged to list in all planning documents; Division, Foundation, NRCS, CES, NCDA&CS and NCDEQ programs. **2016**
10. The Association encourages that any partner with significant policy change or operational changes that may impact another partner notify well in advance all other partners affected by the change via electronic communication and regular mail. **2007**
11. The Association supports District involvement, where appropriate, in creating and implementing Local Ordinances that protect important natural resources; these local ordinances include, but are not limited to, Erosion and Sediment Control ordinances, Low Impact Development ordinances, Stormwater ordinances, Steep Slope ordinances, and Water Conservation ordinances. **2008**
12. The Association fully endorses the NC Conservation District Employee Training & Certification Initiative. The Association supports the workgroup in carrying out the training by including this in the Program Objectives of the Association. The Association supports a survey of the current trainings, from all available partners and resources that are available to District employees. District staff and supervisors shall provide input to the training needs or training that could be improved upon. **2010**
13. The Association encourages all District Supervisors to become aware and knowledgeable of the importance of Job Approval Authority (JAA), the level of authority currently held by technical district staff, and encourage all staff to seek the highest possible JAA for commonly used practices in the District. The Association encourages all District Supervisors to work with staff to ensure all employees have comprehensive training plans. **2011, 2015, 2019, 2025**
14. The Association supports the Division of Soil and Water Conservation exploring the option of utilizing engineering graduate students from NCSU and or other engineering schools to assist with implementation of conservation practices, as needed. **2020**

15. The Association encourages each District in the state to include, as part of each official meeting, a conflict of interest statement be read and affirmed by District officials before any business of the District is conducted. **2019**
16. The Association supports full and continued effort by NACD to enable NRCS to fill vital conservation technical assistance positions and vacancies, even during hiring freezes. These positions are crucial supports of Districts' effort to provide conservation programs. **2020**
17. The Association, along with the Division and other partners, will continue to encourage the NC Department of Transportation to allow the Districts to post signs at each county line and major thoroughfare in the state in a uniform and professional manner as to be beneficial to the public. **2020**
18. The Association supports the PCEP in its efforts to create and maintain a database to document and track partnership employees in their efforts to enhance and expand their professional knowledge, skills and abilities. The database would track efforts such as successful completion of the training courses and workshops, securing JAA, or obtaining related certifications (e.g. Certified Conservation Planners (CCP)). **2020**
19. The Association encourages Districts to support the Foundation through an annual donation to the Foundation's Sustainability Fund. **2020**
20. The Association encourages each District in the state to adopt the Statement of Professionalism presented by the ad-hoc committee. **2023**

**Action Items**

1. The Association will urge the NRCS leadership to supply a portion of their conservation technical assistance and BMP funds to the Division, Foundation and other capable non-profits, to allocate these funds to the 96 Districts for the implementation of BMPs. **2019, 2025**
2. The Association will encourage District Supervisors to establish an equal partnership with county government and to educate county officials of the importance of what Districts do for the county and area. The Association shall work on a reporting model for all districts to use and adjust as needed. **2025**
3. The Association will encourage District Supervisors to seek incentives of monetary gains for staff who complete and receive JAA certification and other technical achievement from their local county government and other resources. **2025**

**EDUCATION**

**Chair – David Harris (Durham)**  
**Vice Chair – Richard Hayes (Chatham)**

**Policies & Positions**

1. The Association encourages all local Districts to participate in the following educational activities:
  - a. assist schools in developing projects on and off campus.



- b. obtain a conservation plan on all school grounds and recognize these schools for installing this plan.
  - c. distribute Soil and Water Conservation materials in schools.
  - d. support 4-H Environmental Quality Demonstration Contests, FFA Land Judging Contests, the Forestry Contest, and any other career conservation education programs.
  - e. support Soil and Water Stewardship Week. Districts will be responsible for copying and distributing available materials.
  - f. support the Resource Conservation Workshop by sponsoring a student representative. **2014**
2. The Association supports and endorses Project Food, Land & People, Project Learning Tree, Project Wild, Project Catch, Project WET and Ag in the Classroom as additional conservation education programs for Districts. **2003**
  3. The Association supports implementation of natural resource programs to be used for teacher renewal credit workshops offered by Districts. **2003, 2024**
  4. The Association supports the Area and State Envirothon competition for grades 5-8 and 9-12 and encourages all Districts in NC to sponsor at least one team from their District to the Envirothon competition. **2003**
  5. The Association will provide \$300 cash award and \$150 travel allowance to each of the Conservation Teachers of the Year to attend the state association annual meeting awards banquet. **2003, 2019**
  6. The Association encourages each District to include all children in its diverse educational programs. **2014, 2019**
  7. The Association strongly encourages each of the Association's eight areas continue to sponsor two Resource Conservation Workshop counselors on an annual basis by covering their registration fee, meal costs and mileage as applicable. In addition, the Association encourages each area to give their respective counselor a stipend after he/she has completed the one-week of service at the workshop. The suggested amount of the one-week stipend is \$100.00 per counselor per week. **2014**
  8. The Association requests that each District appoint one person to act as an Education Coordinator. Each District should send the name of its Education Coordinator to the Association. Upon receipt, a list will be sent to the Education Committee Chairperson. **2014, 2024**
  9. The Education Committee Chairperson is encouraged to develop a list of resource materials applicable to assigned topics for poster, essay and public speaking contests. The District Educators are encouraged to assist in development and sharing of these resources at the annual Conservation Employee Training Institute. To the extent feasible, this list should be available by September 1<sup>st</sup> each new school year and will be provided to each Area of the Association. **2020, 2024**

10. The Association shall provide an educational display at the NC State Fair and at the Mountain State Fair promoting the Districts of NC. **2014**
11. The Association does hereby recognize April as Environmental Awareness Month in NC and NACD Stewardship Week. The Association proclaims October as the Environmental Education Month. **2003, 2024, 2025**
12. The Area I Association will be allowed to draw funds from the Association's State Fair budget for the Mountain State Fair, to be coordinated annually. A representative from the Mountain State Fair shall be appointed to the State Fair Committee by the Education Committee Chair. Also, all handouts and other materials for the Mountain State Fair shall be ordered with the material for the NC State Fair. **2014, 2025**
13. The Association shall continue to maintain a website to provide information on educational programs, guidelines and templates to be used by the districts in developing educational outreach. **2014, 2025**
14. The Association will join the Division as a sponsor of the NC Environmental Education Certification Program. All District educators are encouraged to obtain this certification. Districts are encouraged to support their personnel in this effort both financially and with paid work time to enable the employee to accomplish certification. **2019**
15. The Association encourages Districts and Areas to support Conservation Volunteers, the AmeriCorp Member Program, the NRCS Earth Team Volunteer Program, and to implement local intern programs for high school and college students. **2022, 2025**
16. The Association wants to ensure that environmental education programs are accessible and relevant to current science and natural resource topics. Statewide coordination of existing programs, and the need to implement new education programs, to increase outreach efforts in environmental education are needed. The Association encourages Districts to pledge financial support annually to fund an Association environmental education position. **2024, 2025**

### **Action Items**

1. The Association encourages and requests Districts to embrace Soil, Water, Agriculture Training (S.W.A.T.) curriculum as a core educational program. The Association requests each Area to schedule and implement an annual S.W.A.T. teacher's workshop or activity. The Association encourages the Division to support S.W.A.T. by providing adequate staff hours and resources to implement the statewide coordination of the program as staff to the S.W.A.T. Committee. The Association encourages the Division to support the S.W.A.T. Committee's Action Plan objectives for recurring funding, marketing materials, facilitator and teacher workshop and strategy. **2025**
2. The Association commits to annual support of the environmental education position. The Association requests Districts commit annual financial support for the environmental education position. **2024, 2025**
3. A steering-committee will be formed to include the Mobile Soils Classroom (MSC) Committee Chair, two District supervisors, representatives from the host districts, and a representative(s) from the lesson planning steering-committee. Their function will be:
  - a. Mobile Soils Classroom programs

- 1) Create Host District Memorandum of Understanding with the Association
  - 2) Plan and schedule Annual Host Meeting
  - 3) Plan and schedule Annual Host Training
  - 4) Create a MSC trailer maintenance schedule
  - 5) Plan and schedule training on the Groundwater Simulation model
  - 6) Create a new lesson annually and update any MSC lesson plans that are currently incomplete
- b. Seek funding
  - c. Develop displays & handouts on activities for school classes and for adult field days
  - d. Explore electronic advertising and outreach including but not limited to social media and website for Mobile Soils Classroom projects. **2014, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024**
4. The Association will support the Soil and Water Conservation State Fair Committee in working with the State Fair Management group to increase the visibility of the Soil and Water Conservation State Fair display booth. Begin the design process through a subcommittee as to what the message at the booth should be. Update the "Wheel of Conservation". The planning committee will partner with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society to research options for providing a permanent commemoration of Hugh Hammond Bennett and the history of the Soil and Water Conservation movement. **2018, 2020, 2021, 2024**

## FINANCE

**Chair – Bill Yarborough (Haywood)**  
**Vice Chair – Melinda James (Macon)**

### ***Policies & Positions***

1. The Association will operate by paying dues as assessed. The following dues assessment will be used to fund the Association's budget: Dues \$700 per county, effective fiscal year 2023. **2023**
2. The Association shall contribute an amount not to exceed \$1,500 to the host District and/or County in paying itemized expenses of the NC Association of Future Farmers of America to conduct an annual statewide land-judging contest. **2014**
3. The Association endorses the selection of an outside auditor to be hired to audit the financial records of the Association. The books will be closed on December 31 and audited as soon as possible thereafter and reported to the Association. A full audit will be done every third year with compilation reviews in between. **2024**
4. The Association encourages gifts and contributions to the Association Endowment Fund with interest income used to help defray expenses of the Association. Should the Association be dissolved, the Executive Committee shall place all remaining funds of the Association

Endowment Fund with the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. **2003**

5. The Association recommends that District Supervisors who are requested to attend meetings called by the Association or government agencies pertaining to Association business be reimbursed mileage at \$0.40 per mile rate. If overnight lodging is required, lodging and meals will be reimbursed at actual cost not to exceed the State rate. Receipts are required. **2008**
6. The Association adopts the Finance Committee recommendation that the Association provide funds for travel expenses for the following meetings: NACD and SENACD Meetings \$2,000 per delegate, up to 8 delegates for the NACD meeting and \$1,500 per delegate, up to 8 delegates for the SENACD Meeting. **2025**
7. The Association will be responsible for one room and banquet costs (up to 6 tickets) per regional winner to defray Conservation Farm Family expenses to attend the annual meeting. The Area/District will be responsible for all other expenses. **2016**
8. The Association will provide \$1,200 to help cover costs of sending the NC Envirothon Committee Chairman, or his designee (giving District Supervisors first priority) to two National Envirothon Committee Meetings. **2003**
9. In the case of death of any past or present supervisor, the Association will send a memorial of \$50.00 to the endowment fund annually for each supervisor recognized at the Memorial Service at the Annual Meeting. **2025**
10.
  - a. There will be a \$50.00 differential between Annual Meeting early registration and registration at the door. (An attendee saves \$50.00 by registering early.) An exception will be made for new supervisors whose service begins on or after the registration deadline. The State Association Executive Committee will set the registration deadline each year.
  - b. The Finance Committee will give no refunds of Annual Meeting Registration fees after the Wednesday prior to the start of the Annual Meeting without special approval of the Executive Committee. **2025**
11. Special requests for approval of refunds must be presented to the State Association Executive Committee. Approval or disapproval of such special requests or emergency situations is solely at the discretion of the State Association Executive Committee. **2005**
12. The Finance Committee institutes a past dues collection policy as follows:
  - a. The Association President will send a letter to the district chairman of any district with any dues outstanding as of September 1. **2014**
  - b. The Association President or designee will call the district chairman of any district with any dues outstanding as of November 1. **2014**
13. The Association has the right and expectation for existing and new programs to collect an administration fee up to 15%. **2021**

## LEGISLATIVE

**Chair – Craig Frazier (Randolph)**

**Vice Chair – Nancy Carter (Mecklenburg)**

### ***Policies & Positions***

1. Each District shall submit annually the name of a District supervisor who will serve as an active Legislative Liaison to the Association for that District. Area Legislative Delegates will assist with getting names from each District within their Area and report those findings to the Association's Legislative Chair and Executive Director. **2022**
2. The Association expresses its appreciation to the members of the General Assembly for their continued support given to the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, the Community Conservation Assistance Program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, and the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program, Disaster Funding, the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program, and their support in sustaining the local conservation infrastructure in Districts. The Association strongly encourages the General Assembly to continue to provide strong support for non-regulatory programs delivered through Districts. **2024**
3. The Association supports the restoration of full technical assistance funding for the NRCS to the level required to have one NRCS field employee per District. **2025**
4. The Association supports recognition by the Environmental Protection Agency, state and local water quality programs that nonpoint source program funding seriously lags behind point source programs, and is not allocated to NC based on the attributed nonpoint source proportion of the water quality problem. **2014**
5. The Association supports federal and state legislation or other action to compensate landowners, through tax benefits or other incentives, for conservation actions taken in response to federal and state regulations for wetlands, animal waste management, buffers, threatened and endangered species, and other water quality related programs. **2025**
6. The Association believes that a collaborative and coordinated effort by the Section 319 Program is essential to achieve clean water goals, and urges the NC Congressional Delegation to support the continued funding of the Section 319 grant program. **2007**
7. The Association will take action through NACD (e.g., via resolutions) to ensure NC plays a leadership role in dealing with national conservation issues. **2003**
8. The Association supports common conservation goals and actions taken through the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA), the Association of Conservation Executive Directors (ACED) and the National Association of State Foresters (NASF). **2023**
9. The Association strongly opposes any barriers such as no rise studies, and air quality permits for burning, that prevent or impede conservation planning and the implementation of BMPs for landowners. **2025**
10. The Association supports that Supervisors for North Carolina always serve as non-partisan elected and appointed positions. **2020**

11. The Association requests that the USDA-NRCS accept and provide assistance with supervisors interested in participating in any program that could assist with the Districts to legally hold and legally monitor conservation easements of working lands. **2018**
12. Any new or existing funding request should not come from any existing NCDA&CS funds unless so specified. **2021**
13. The Association supports the permanent reinstatement of the NC State tax credits for conservation easements for farm and forest lands, military buffers, floodplains, and public access. **2023**
14. The Association supports NACD working closely with the appropriate congressional committees to re-establish general and adequate technical assistance funding for NRCS personnel within USDA that is separate and independent from Conservation Programs that are delivered through each occurring Farm Bill. **2023**
15. The Association encourages Area Legislative Delegates and Alternates to attend an annual Legislative Day, coordinated by the Association, as part of their mid-year committee meeting. **2023**
16. The Association will support the efforts to enhance benefits to landowners participating in VAD or Enhanced VAD. **2024**

### **Action Items**

1. The Association will work with the NC General Assembly to remove maximum caps on state cost share programs administered by the Commission under NC G.S. 106-850 (6) NC Agricultural Cost Share, 106-860 (b) (4) Community Conservation Assistance, and 139-60 (c) 1 & 2 Ag Water Resources Assistance. **2025**
2. The Association will seek increased funding for the ACSP best management practices and technical assistance. The Association will request additional amounts of \$4.0 million for best management practices and \$600,000 for District technical assistance. **2023**
3. The Association shall work with NACD and other partners to support an increase in the federal funding rate for the construction phase of the PL-566 Watershed Rehabilitation Program from the current cost share rate of 65% federal and 35% local to a cost share rate of 90% federal and 10% non-federal when the project is designed to meet the federal NRCS standard. Furthermore, the Association shall work with NACD and other partners to allow a construction cost share rate of 65% federal and 35% local when the rehabilitation project is designed to meet applicable State Dam Safety hydrologic criteria for principal and auxiliary spillways with concurrence from appropriate State Dam Safety officials and the NRCS Conservation Engineering Division. **2023, 2024**
4. The Association will request that the General Assembly provide \$20 million in recurring funding for the Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program sufficient to meet ongoing program needs. **2023**
5. The Association will support NACD to change Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP) funding authority so that funds are available for use as authorized for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) following a disaster event. **2023**

6. The Association will seek increased funding for the statewide CCAP, established in NCGS-106 Article 73. The Association requests an increase in the amount of recurring funding to \$1.5 million for BMP funding and \$225,000 for technical assistance to assist Districts with delivery of Community Conservation. **2023**
7. The Association will request the Governor and the General Assembly raise the annual recurring appropriation from \$5 million to \$15 million for the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. **2023**
8. The Association will request that the Governor and the NC General Assembly increase the appropriation of recurring funds made available each year to reimburse District Supervisors for necessary travel and training expenses to conduct their official duties by the number sufficient to meet the needs and increase matching funds by \$240,000 during the current budget process. The Association President, the Commission Chairman, and Director of the Division, will work in concert with NCDA&CS, the Governor and the General Assembly to achieve this priority funding need. **2024**
9. The Association will seek an additional recurring appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) for financial and \$215,000 for technical assistance. Funding should not come from a reduction in other soil and water conservation cost share programs. **2014, 2024, 2025**
10. The Association shall request that the General Assembly specify in District Law (N.C.G.S. 139) that the mileage reimbursement rate for District Supervisors shall equal the current business standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service. **2023**
11. The Association requests change in legislation to authorize the FSA Farm, Tract, and Field Number to be included as an additional eligibility criteria for the ACSP and AgWRAP. **2023**
12. The Association requests that the Division establish a “Soil Health Program” and seek funding for BMPs that improve soil health just as the ACSP funds BMPs to improve water quality. **2024**
13. The Association will work with the Division and the NC General Assembly to secure adequate staffing support for Technical Assistance and Engineering. **2025**

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

**Chair – Donald Rogers (Johnston)**

**Vice Chair – Grace Summers (Guilford)**

### **Policies & Positions**

1. The Association recommends that Districts take a stronger initiative in encouraging improved forest land management and forest health programs in their Districts.
  - a. The Association recommends that all Districts devote at least one meeting a year to evaluating and developing a specific program for improved forestland management in their Districts, and invite the local NC Forest Service to participate.
  - b. The Association supports the following programs:

- 1) The NC Forest Service Forest Development Program, the NC Tree Farm Programs, and Forest Stewardship and Forest Legacy Programs;
  - 2) The NC State University College of Natural Resources' Small Woodlot Research and Demonstration Program; and,
  - 3) The implementation of forest BMPs by forest landowners, timber buyers, and harvesting loggers when harvesting and/or re-foresting timberlands to reduce accelerated erosion, to reduce stream sedimentation and improve water quality.
- c. The Association supports, under supervision of the NC Forest Service and other certified burners [as defined in GS 113-60.41], the practice of prescribed burning as a tool in forest management.
- d. The Association and Districts are urged to take a strong stand on increasing financial assistance for the Forest Development Program (FDP) and other forestry incentive programs and also, to work with our state and national legislators toward a better understanding of forestry practices and costs. **2013**
2. The Association supports the Wildlife Resources Commission in its program efforts to focus on cropland, forestland, and right-of-way management. **2003**
  3. The Association endorses the extension of Conservation Reserve Program contracts and asks that local Districts encourage program participants to extend their Conservation Reserve Program contract. **2003**
  4. The Association supports the partnership established to administer the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and encourages Districts to actively promote this program to eligible landowners. The Association also supports adequate new funding for CREP. **2003**
  5. The Association supports the NRCS in:
    - a. the creation and enhancement of wildlife habitat under the Working Lands for Wildlife;
    - b. the protection and enhancement of soil, water, air, wildlife, forests and natural resources under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and to include funding for these programs from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA); and,
    - c. implementing the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) as authorized in the 2014 and 2018 Farm Bill. Continue to support the legacy easement programs (ALE) as authorized. **2022**
  6. The Association supports the State's goal of preserving open space and encourages the state to consider ways to maintain private ownership of working farm and forest lands as a means of achieving this goal. **2021**
  7. The Association supports preserving the state's farmland and encourages emphasis on prime farmland:
    - a. Districts to take an active role in developing and implementing state and/or local farmland preservation initiatives and creation of Voluntary Agricultural Districts/Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts.



- b. The General Assembly and local governments to provide financial and other incentives to farmers to preserve working farmlands. **2022**
8. The Association supports Districts holding conservation easements generated by the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund, Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP), NC Land and Water Fund, and other open space preservation programs and encourages the State to make long term funding available for monitoring conservation easements. **2019**
9. The Association recognizes and supports Waterway Cleanup and does further hereby urge every District to do their part to restore the beauty and function of our lakes and streams with promoting, supporting, volunteering, or in-kind services for the event. **2016**
10. The Association supports prescribed grazing on pastureland and encourages Districts to emphasize this practice. **2015**
11. The Association encourages District supervisors to work with county officials to encourage Present Use Value (PUV) at the local level. The Association also encourages revenue sources to maintain PUV data that supports the program. **2020**
12. The Association strongly encourages NACD to request USDA and NRCS, to deliver all Federal conservation assistance programs in a way that maximizes the locally led process, fully utilizes decisions and priorities formulated through local work groups, and allocates financial cost share resources and ranks program applications at the lowest possible organizational level, preferably at the local District level. The Association recommends support for a standardized advertising criterion for local workgroup meetings. **2014**
13. The Association strongly encourages the waiver or exemption of state and local permit fees associated with conservation practices included in a technically sound conservation plan meeting published approved standards. **2013**
14. The Association will encourage a forestry representative to serve on each county's voluntary agriculture district board. **2013**
15. The Association through local Districts shall identify major sources of nonpoint source pollution within each District and shall work cooperatively with the NC Division of Water Resources, other agencies and the private sector to develop and implement local and regional strategies to address identified water quality concerns. These local strategies shall be included in District Strategic Plans for ACSP and offered for incorporation into NC Division of Water Resource's river basin plans and any Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), ELG's, or other Implementation Strategies developed to address water quality concerns. **2019**
16. Districts are encouraged to develop strategies for addressing water quality concerns in impaired and impacted streams under the Association's Impaired and Impacted Streams Initiative and to work cooperatively with other Districts, the Division, and other entities to seek funds and implement BMPs to affect water quality improvement. **2015**
17. The Association supports the Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP) and Districts that identify nuisance beaver problems. **2019**

18. The Association will support partners to produce training and provide education and outreach on conservation easement topics, including legal and fiduciary responsibilities with easements and land ownership for Districts with yearly updates. **2017**
19. The Association supports the policies for the State of NC to conserve and/or protect our prime, unique, state and locally significant farmland, prime forestland, wildlife habitat, and natural heritage survey sites (hereinafter referred to as important farm and forestlands) and endorses agriculture districting, farmland preservation and estate planning in NC. The Association encourages all Districts in NC that are located in a county without a Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Ordinance in place to work with their county commissioners towards adoption of a VAD Ordinance in their county. **2017**
20. The Association supports debris clean out and maintenance of rivers, creeks, streams, and canals, etc., to maintain adequate drainage and help alleviate flooding. **2020**
21. The Association supports the continuation of soil health training by the Conservation Partnership as a priority for all field employees in NC so that there is direct farmer access to quality technical assistance from conservation professionals. **2020**
22. The Association supports Conservation employees receiving education and training to ensure they understand the relationship between conservation measures and food safety, and continues to support financial assistance provided for BMPs to maintain viable marketable products. **2020**
23. The Association supports working with Districts, NCFS, NRCS, North Carolina Longleaf Coalition and others to restore the Longleaf Pine habitat of this historic, economically valuable and environmentally desirable resource. **2020, 2025**

**Action Items**

\* Action item #1 is the top priority of this committee.

1. The Association will request the ACSP Technical Review Committee (TRC) and Commission revise the ACSP Detailed Implementation Plan to reflect a maximum maintenance period of 5 years for all agronomic practices to encourage implementation in light of the current farmland situation in our state for adoption for the Program Year beginning July 2025. **2025**
2. The Association should work with the NRCS in NC and encourage surrounding states to utilize funding from the IRA to promote and increase forest management planning and implementation so long as IRA funding is available. **2024, 2025**
3. The Association will seek recurring funds statewide for Districts and / or local governments to annually clear debris from rivers, creeks, streams, and canals, etc., to maintain adequate drainage and help alleviate flooding. **2023**
4. The Association will request the NC General Assembly and the Division to establish an independent cost share program that will promote the use of BMPs to improve soil health, sustainability, and soil regeneration. **2024**

## RESEARCH and TECHNOLOGY

Chair – Craig Myers (Davie)

Vice Chair – Denny Norris (Watauga)

### ***Policies & Positions***

1. The Association encourages and should seek new funding to enable the NC Agricultural Research Service, the NC Cooperative Extension Service, and USDA - Agricultural Research Service to continue and expand research and technology transfer in soil and water conservation. Key research needs include:
  - a. Continue research to perfect methodologies for estimating the natural resources and economic benefits of implementation of conservation practices for various production systems. **2025**
  - b. Improve methodologies for targeting limited cost share and technical assistance resources for implementing effective conservation practices. **2025**
  - c. Remote Sensing and Precision Farming
    - 1) Research and demonstration on economical on-farm use of Remote Sensing Technology and Precision Farming to evaluate crop nutrient, water, and pest status and improve the efficiency of crop inputs. **2025**
    - 2) Research 'precision irrigation' systems and techniques to improve irrigation efficiency and irrigation water management. **2025**
  - d. Soil Health
    - 1) Continue to promote research on evaluating and improving soil health on working land. **2025**
    - 2) Research and demonstration on grazing cover crops (including both winter and summer annuals) as part of cropping systems to support soil health. **2025**
    - 3) Research and demonstration of farm implement technology that is capable of uniformly distributing cover crop seed mixes containing different sized seeds. **2025**
  - e. Herbicide-resistant weed management
    - 1) Evaluate alternative weed control methods, such as heavy cover crops, alternative modes of action for pesticides and crop rotation. **2025**
    - 2) Support development of economically viable crop rotations to address herbicide-resistant weed concerns. **2025**
  - f. Research and demonstration on developing new and protect existing pollinator habitat. **2025**

- g. Evaluate and demonstrate alternative techniques for waste treatment, application systems, nutrient recycling, and other procedures that use soil as a receiving medium. **2025**
  - h. Develop models to quantify wetland functions and values, as well as the economic and social impact of wetlands, in order to support land-use flexibility decisions and landowner participation in environmental markets. **2025**
- 2. The Association actively promotes alternatives to tillage as a means of weed control. **2025**
  - 3. The Association actively promotes the use of soil health systems to increase soil organic matter, moisture retention, and weed suppression on very low residue crops. **2025**
  - 4. The Association supports continued research and policy development to promote effective and sustainable use of nutrients from animal wastes. **2025**

### **Action Items**

- 1. The Research & Technology Committee will continue to develop a list of the priority research needs related to soil and water conservation and related research concerns.  
  
This list will be presented, through the Association President, to the Dean of CALS at NC State University, NC A&T State University and the USDA Agricultural Research Service for consideration when developing their respective research agendas.  
  
This list will be compiled annually and presented by the June meeting following the approval of this document by the Association. **2025**
- 2. The Association will encourage and maintain communication between the Research and Technology Committee and USDA-ARS to continue funding opportunities for both organizations and provide mutual support when requested. **2025**
- 3. The Research & Technology Committee will designate a liaison to the USDA-ARS to attend the annual briefing at the Coastal Plain Soil, Water, and Plant Conservation Research Center in Florence, SC, and to identify ways for the Association and the ARS (including the Plant Science Research Unit at NC State University) to be mutually supportive. The designated liaison will report to the Committee on highlights of ARS research and findings of interest to the Association. **2025**
- 4. The Committee will provide recommendations to the NRCS State Conservationist for priorities for state-level Conservation Innovation Grant request for proposals. **2025**

## WATER RESOURCES

**Chair – Chris Hughes (Watauga)**

**Vice Chair – Kevin Dixon (Rockingham)**

### ***Policies & Positions***

1. The Association supports continuation of Drainage/Service Districts and the creation of new districts as needed. **2019**
2. The Association urges the State and Federal Water Quality Organizations to continue funding and working together in ongoing comprehensive, integrated water quality and water quantity planning at the watershed and basinwide scale. **2020**
3. The Association actively supports the Aquatic Weed Control Program of the NC Division of Water Resources and encourages management alternatives that can minimize aquatic weed infestations. **2020**
4. The Association supports the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of PL-566 Small Watershed Program Structures. The Association:
  - a. Encourages Federal and State funding to address rehabilitation, restoration and repair or removal of older watershed structures which have reached their design life-span and/or no longer meet safety requirements based on a change in land use, new dam safety requirements, or other factors not associated with inadequate operation and maintenance. The Association shall support NACD, World Environmental and Water Resources Congress, and the National Watershed Coalition in their work with Congress to obtain and sustain funding to support restoration and maintenance of PL-566 structures. **2020**
  - b. Encourages Districts to work with other local sponsors of PL-566 structures to assess the maintenance needs of these structures to enable them to continue to safely provide the benefits for which they were initially installed. **2013**
5. The Association supports the increase of recurring funding for AgWRAP, to expand water efficiency BMPs and farm pond improvements to increase resiliency against damage from future storms and it encourages the use of this program for conservation of our fresh water resources while providing fresh water for farm production. **2020, 2025**
6. The Association strongly encourages Districts to develop and implement strategies to improve water use efficiency. **2021**
7. The Association supports the responsible construction and maintenance of farm ponds and the 2015 Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, Section 111 which requires the Clean Water Act, Section 404(f)(2) to be less burdensome for agricultural activities. **2015**
8. The Association encourages the authorization of funding to support scientists, engineers and health professionals to continue testing and ensure water protection statewide. Additionally, the Association encourages adequate understanding of environmental and public health implications prior to any discharge of wastewater. **2020**

## **Action Items**

\* Action items #1, #2 and #3 are the top three priorities of this committee.

1. The Association requests \$20,000,000 in recurring appropriations for program grants and Division positions to continue the StRAP to support the implementation of projects that protect and restore the integrity of NC's drainage and PL-566 structures, infrastructure, and/or NC Watersheds. **2024**
2. The Association also requests additional funding for StRAP to be used as needed to fund additional activities associated with Disaster Recovery. **2025**
3. The Association encourages and requests the State of North Carolina, in conjunction with US EPA, to establish and enforce reasonable water quality standards on the discharge of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), to protect the environment and public health. **2024**
4. The Association urges Districts to become active participants and leaders for local nonpoint source planning and implementation activities using a watershed approach. Individual Districts are encouraged to consider multiple programs and funding sources (such as 319, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, CREP, NC Land and Water Fund, Federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements, Division of Mitigation Services, Community Conservation Assistance Program, etc.) when addressing water quality issues. **2017**
5. The Association President, Water Resources Committee chair, NRCS State Conservationist and the Directors for Energy, Minerals and Land Resources, Water Resources, and Soil and Water Conservation are encouraged to meet and begin efforts to develop a comprehensive long-range strategy to address the restoration, maintenance and safety concerns associated with PL-566 Small Watershed Program structures in North Carolina. **2014**
6. Encourage Associations with agricultural interests to continue seeking resolutions and actions from their organizations in support of revising and strengthening the NRCS policy for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program for use with removal of storm-related stream debris affecting agricultural land. **2022**
7. The Water Resources Committee authorizes the Chair to form a subcommittee to comment on active Interbasin Transfer proposals during public comment on an as needed basis. **2011**
8. The Association will request that NACD work with the US Congress to reclassify current language on jurisdiction, provide alternative language for implementation of conservation practices when owners/producers are working with a District and/or USDA/NRCS. Or, alternatively develop an MOU with the US Army Corps of Engineers for BMPs that are allowable without an investigation or permit. **2023**
9. The Association will work with the NC Department of Insurance, through the NC State Fire Marshal, to correct the USDA-NRCS agency name and include "Soil and Water Conservation District" on the Water Point Certification Form. The Association will work with the conservation partners to develop a training and certification process for employees seeking the knowledge, skills, and abilities to conduct Water Point surveys. **2024**
10. The Association requests that the Strategic Plan for Protecting Agricultural Water Resources in North Carolina as directed in Session Law 2010-149, be updated to reflect current needs and that funding the plan be provided by the NC General Assembly. **2025**

11. The Association requests that USDA include agricultural lands as qualifying for assistance under the EWP Program. **2025**



## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	Barbara Bleiweis (Mecklenburg)
<b>First Vice-President:</b>	Gail Hughes (Orange)
<b>Second Vice-President:</b>	Steve Harris (Albemarle - Pasquotank)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Wayne Collier (Cumberland)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Josh Myers (Guilford)
<b>Assistant Treasurer:</b>	Bill Yarborough (Haywood)
<b>NACD Board Member:</b>	Myles Payne (Alexander)
<b>Alternate NACD Board Member:</b>	Craig Myers (Davie)
<b>Chaplain:</b>	Tracy Warren (Beaufort)
<b>Assistant Chaplain:</b>	Patrick Baker (Pamlico)

### 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<b>President:</b>	Barbara Bleiweis (Mecklenburg)
<b>First Vice-President:</b>	Gail Hughes (Orange)
<b>Second Vice-President:</b>	Steve Harris (Albemarle - Pasquotank)
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	William "Billy" Kilpatrick (Duplin)
<b>Secretary:</b>	Wayne Collier (Cumberland)
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Josh Myers (Guilford)
<b>NACD Board Member:</b>	Myles Payne (Alexander)
<b>Finance Committee Chair:</b>	Bill Yarborough (Haywood)
<b>Legislative Committee Chair:</b>	Craig Frazier (Randolph)
<b>Area 1 Chair:</b>	Matthew Reynolds (Macon)
<b>Area 2 Chair:</b>	Ed Spivey (Caldwell)
<b>Area 3 Chair:</b>	Dennis Simmons (Caswell)
<b>Area 4 Chair:</b>	Tom Traylor (Warren)
<b>Area 5 Chair:</b>	Steve Harris (Albemarle - Pasquotank)
<b>Area 6 Chair:</b>	Mike Barbee (Brunswick)
<b>Area 7 Chair:</b>	Ryan Patterson (Harnett)
<b>Area 8 Chair:</b>	Daniel Austin (Mecklenburg) / Chester Lowder (Stanly)

### 2025 STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION

<b>At Large Member:</b>	John Langdon, Chairman (Johnston)
<b>Association President Seat:</b>	Barbara Bleiweis (Mecklenburg)
<b>Association First Vice-President Seat:</b>	Gail Hughes (Orange)
<b>Association Immediate Past President Seat:</b>	William "Billy" Kilpatrick (Duplin)
<b>Mountain Region Seat - 2023-2025:</b>	Brian Parker (Wilkes)
<b>Piedmont Region Seat – 2025-2027:</b>	James Lamb (Sampson)
<b>Coastal Region Seat – 2024-2026:</b>	Patrick Baker (Pamlico)



## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 ASSOCIATION STANDING COMMITTEES

#### **COMMUNITY CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

Chair: Max Ralston James (Iredell)  
Vice-Chair: Matt Collogan (New Hanover)  
Recorder: Chelsie Bobbitt (Alleghany)

##### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Drew Brannon (Henderson)  
Area 2 Evan Crawley (Burke)  
Area 3 Scott Sheffield (Moore)  
Area 4 Kenyon Browning (Durham)  
Area 5 Blount Knowles (Bertie)  
Area 6 Matt Collogan (New Hanover)  
Area 7 Matthew Lindsay (Hoke)  
Area 8 Max Ralston James (Iredell)

##### **Alternates:**

Joe Bennett (Stokes)  
Shane Whitaker (Randolph)  
Ardis Crews (Vance)  
Johnny Griffin (Bertie)  
  
Gary Hendrix (Hoke)  
Rick Karriker (Davie)

##### **Resource Contacts:**

Julie Henshaw	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Tom Hill	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
J'Nay Domineck	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Dru Harrison	NC District Employees Association

#### **DISTRICT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Chair: Gwen Minton (Wilkes)  
Vice-Chair: Madison Bridges (Cleveland)  
Recorder: Sabra Cahoon (Pamlico)

##### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1: James Ferguson (Haywood)  
Area 2: Michael Willis (Caldwell)  
Area 3: Kate Campau (Rockingham)  
Area 4: Dewitt Hardee (Johnston)  
Area 5: Stephen Harris (Albemarle - Pasquotank)  
Area 6: Dietrich Kilpatrick (Craven)  
Area 7: Eddie Hester (Bladen)  
Area 8: Madison Bridges (Cleveland)

##### **Alternates:**

Gwen Minton (Wilkes)  
Ray Briggs (Guilford)  
  
Stuart Pierce (Hertford)  
Glenn Skinner, Jr. (Carteret)  
  
Kevin Marion (Davie)

##### **Resource Contacts:**

Cayle Aldridge	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Kim Poteat	USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Gary Holtzmann	NC District Employees' Association

## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 ASSOCIATION STANDING COMMITTEES

#### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

Chair: David Harris (Durham)  
Vice-Chair: Richard Hayes (Chatham)  
Recorder: Marybeth Watkins (Brunswick)

#### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Charles Boyd (Haywood)  
Area 2 James Booth (Stokes)  
Area 3 Richard Hayes (Chatham)  
Area 4 David Harris (Durham)  
Area 5 Butch Byrum (Chowan)  
Area 6 Frank Meares (New Hanover)  
Area 7  
Area 8 Bill Ward (Gaston)

#### **Alternates:**

Bob Lindsay (Stokes)  
Anna Amoriello (Guilford)  
Tom Taylor (Warren)  
  
Tara Hughes (Lenoir)  
Jim Chandler (Richmond)  
Jeff Goforth (Cabarrus)

#### **Resource Contacts:**

Elise McLaughlin Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Lee Holcomb USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Michael Jones USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Lisa Marochak NC District Employees' Association

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Bill Yarborough (Haywood)  
Vice-Chair: Melinda James (Macon)  
Recorder: Annette Adams (Johnston)

#### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Melinda James (Macon)  
Area 2 Johnny East (Stokes)  
Area 3 Bruce Whitfield (Person)  
Area 4 Cody Waters (Edgecombe)  
Area 5 Manly West (Albemarle - Currituck)  
Area 6 Macon Wooten, Jr. (Lenoir)  
Area 7 Wayne Collier, Jr. (Cumberland)  
Area 8 Tommy Houser (Lincoln)

#### **Alternates:**

Wes Schollander (Forsyth)  
Roy Stanley (Alamance)  
Adam Gardner (Wilson)  
Wayne Black (Beaufort)  
  
Tracy Grice (Scotland)  
Ben Knox (Rowan)

#### **Resource Contacts:**

Ken Parks Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Amanda Sand NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation  
Elliot Swain NC District Employees' Association

## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 ASSOCIATION STANDING COMMITTEES

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chair: Craig Frazier (Randolph)  
Vice-Chair: Nancy Carter (Mecklenburg)  
Recorder: Kathryn Reis (Randolph)

#### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Pam Bell (Macon)  
Area 2 Chris Hughes (Watauga)  
Area 3 Bill Alston (Randolph)  
Area 4 Charles Hill (Johnston)  
Area 5 Maurice Berry, Jr. (Albe/Pasquotank)  
Area 6 Billy Kilpatrick (Duplin)  
Area 7 James Sarvis (Columbus)  
Area 8 Nancy Carter (Mecklenburg)

#### **Alternates:**

Jo Linville (Yadkin)  
Don Thompson (Montgomery)  
Dewitt Hardee (Johnston)  
Harvey Roberts (Albe/Currituck)  
Lloyd Ransom (Columbus)  
Tommy Porter (Cabarrus)

#### **Resource Contacts:**

Bryan Evans	NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
David Williams	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Tim Beard	USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service
Brandy Oldham	NC District Employees' Association

#### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Chair: Donald Rogers (Johnston)  
Vice-Chair: Grace Summers (Guilford)  
Recorder: Morgan Pope (Harnett)

#### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Randy Cabe (Jackson)  
Area 2 Ed Spivey (Caldwell)  
Area 3 Chris Hogan (Orange)  
Area 4 Beth Farrell (Wake)  
Area 5 J.W. Spencer (Hyde)  
Area 6 Marlene Salyer (Craven)  
Area 7 Willie Beard (Bladen)  
Area 8 Bruce Rider (Rowan)

#### **Alternates:**

Joe Wenzel (Burke)  
Grace Summers (Guilford)  
Donald Rogers (Johnston)  
James Allen (Beaufort)  
Charles Gillespie (Bladen)  
Vicky Porter (Cabarrus)

#### **Resource Contacts:**

John Beck	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Jennifer Roach	Division of Soil & Water Conservation
Julius George	USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
Sheri Goodlet	NC District Employees' Association

## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 ASSOCIATION STANDING COMMITTEES

#### RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Chair: Craig Myers (Davie)  
Vice-Chair: Denny Norris (Watauga)  
Recorder: Leanna Staton (Clay)

##### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Ross Young (Madison)  
Area 2 Denny Norris (Watauga)  
Area 3 George Teague (Guilford)  
Area 4 Charles Mitchell (Franklin)  
Area 5 Richard Saunders (Albe/Perquimans)  
Area 6 Franklin Williams (Duplin)  
Area 7 Jeff Joyner (Richmond)  
Area 8 Bruce Miller (Rowan)

##### **Alternates:**

Jennifer Hanifan (Watauga)  
Karen McAdams (Orange)  
Thomas Dean (Wake)  
Hal Davis (Martin)  
  
Ryan Patterson (Harnett)  
Lloyd Phillips (Davidson)

##### **Resource Contacts:**

Rick McSwain Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Josh Vetter Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Brandon King USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Mark Walton NC District Employees' Association

#### WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Chair: Chris Hughes (Watauga)  
Vice-Chair: Kevin Dixon (Rockingham)  
Recorder: Celeste Maus (Albemarle - Chowan)

##### **Area Delegates:**

Area 1 Richard Smith (Polk)  
Area 2 Marvin Cavanaugh (Stokes)  
Area 3 Larry Baker (Rockingham)  
Area 4 Thomas Sledge (Franklin)  
Area 5 Gerda Rhodes (Washington)  
Area 6 Donna Mills (Wayne)  
Area 7 Michael Herndon (Robeson)  
Area 8 Wayne Moser (Union)

##### **Alternates:**

Brian Parker (Wilkes)  
Charles Lucas (Montgomery)  
  
Leroy Smith (Pitt)  
  
James Norfleet (Scotland)  
Arnold Weatherman (Davie)

##### **Resource Contacts:**

Lorien Deaton Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Matt Safford Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Rachel Smith Division of Soil & Water Conservation  
Jim Kjelgaard USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Mitch Miller NC District Employees' Association

## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 STATE ASSOCIATION: OTHER POSITIONS and COMMITTEES

#### **Crowdfunding Sub Committee (of District Operations Committee):**

Chairman – Chris Hughes, Watauga SWCD

#### **Hall of Fame:**

Chairman – Franklin Williams, Duplin SWCD

#### **Leadership Development Committee:**

Chairman – Dietrich Kilpatrick, Craven SWCD

#### **Mobile Soils Classroom Committee:**

Rich Hayes, Chatham SWCD

#### **Past Presidents Committee:**

Myles Payne, Alexander SWCD

#### **Personnel Committee:**

Barbara Bleiweis, Mecklenburg SWCD – Chair (Association President)

William “Billy” Kilpatrick, Duplin SWCD – member (Association Past President)

Gail Hughes, Orange SWCD – member (Association Vice President)

Steve Harris, Albemarle SWCD-Pasquotank – member (Association Second Vice President)

Bill Yarborough, Haywood SWCD – member (Association Finance Committee Chair)

Josh Myers, Guilford SWCD – member (Association Treasurer)

#### **Resource Conservation Workshop Committee:**

Chairman – Bruce Whitfield, Person SWCD

#### **State Envirothon Committee:**

Chairman – Rich Hayes, Chatham SWCD

## 2025 ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

### 2025 DISTRICT SUPERVISOR MEMBERS: SERVING ON OTHER CONSERVATION RELATED BOARDS and COMMITTEES

*\*For a complete list of Board/Committee members and activities, please visit the listed websites*

#### **Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Advisory Committee:**

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/programs-initiatives/ccap/ccap-advisory-committee>

Scott Sheffield, Moore SWCD – alternate member

#### **National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)**

<http://www.nacdnet.org/>

##### **Executive Board:**

Franklin Williams, Duplin SWCD – Southeast Region

##### **District Operations and Member Services Committee:**

Myles Payne, Alexander SWCD – member (board member)

Craig Myers, Davie SWCD – member (board alternate)

#### **North Carolina Ag Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee:**

<http://www.ncadfp.org/>

Barbara Bleiweis, Mecklenburg SWCD – member (Association President)

#### **North Carolina Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation Board of Directors:**

<http://www.ncsoilwater.org>

William “Billy” Kilpatrick, Duplin SWCD – member (Association Past President)

Barbara Bleiweis, Mecklenburg SWCD – member (Association President)

Gail Hughes, Orange SWCD – member (Association First Vice President)

Chris Hughes, Watauga SWCD – member

James Lamb, Sampson SWCD – member

Chester Lowder, Stanly SWCD – member

#### **Technical Review Committee (TRC)**

<https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/soil-water-conservation/programs-initiatives/acsp/TRC>

##### **2023-2025 Supervisor Representative:**

David Harris, Durham SWCD – member

## NC ASSOCIATION OF SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

1944	O. J. Holler ~ Rutherford County	2002	Albert Troutman ~ Moore County
1945	Dane S. Rhine ~ Gaston County	2003	James Mason ~ Hertford County
1946	A. C. Edwards ~ Greene County	2004	Grover McPherson ~ Forsyth County
1947	W. Herbert White ~ Rockingham County	2005	Tom Davidson ~ Durham County
1948	Wade E. Eller ~ Ashe County	2006	Don Rawls ~ Pender County
1949	J. Hawley Poole ~ Moore County	2007	Ned Hudson ~ Cabarrus County
1950	W. W. Eagles ~ Edgecombe County	2008	Bobby Stanley ~ Columbus County
1951	H. S. Hogan ~ Orange County	2009	William "Bill" Pickett ~ Duplin County
1952	W. J. Fonville ~ Alamance County	2010	James Ferguson ~ Haywood County
1953	J. T. Graham ~ Rowan County	2011	Craig Frazier ~ Randolph County
1954	S. Vernon Stevens ~ Lee County	2012	Donald Heath ~ Craven County
1955	Allen Swindell ~ Beaufort County	2013	Tommy Houser ~ Lincoln County
1956	Charles Ladd ~ Durham County	2014	John Langdon ~ Johnston County
1957	B. L. Angell ~ Davie County	2015	Manly West ~ Currituck County
1958	Neal M. Craig ~ Mecklenburg County	2016	Ben Knox ~ Rowan County
1959	Charles L. Davis ~ Jones County	2017	Chris Hogan ~ Orange County
1960	A. W. Nesbitt ~ Buncombe County	2018	Dietrich Kilpatrick ~ Craven County
1961	A.J. Flanagan ~ Pitt County	2019	Myles Payne ~ Alexander County
1962	Leon Ballance ~ Hyde County	2020	Samuel Green, Jr. ~ Vance County
1963	J.B. Slack ~ Randolph County	2021	Blount Knowles ~ Bertie
1964	James Bellamy, Jr. ~ Brunswick County	2022	Chris Hughes ~ Watauga
1965	Thomas H. Bonham ~ Buncombe County	2023	George Teague ~ Guilford
1966	James T. Moss, Sr. ~ Franklin County	2024	William "Billy" Kilpatrick ~ Duplin
1967	Lloyd C. Bunch ~ Chowan County	<b>2025</b>	<b>Barbara Bleiweis ~ Mecklenburg</b>
1968	George B. Collins ~ Wilkes County		
1969	George Winchester ~ Wake County		
1970	William G. Sullivan ~ Duplin County		
1971	Blair Goodson ~ Lincoln County		
1972	A.W. Bunch ~ Scotland County		
1973	M. E. Knight ~ Gates County		
1974	G. C. Palmer ~ Haywood County		
1975	C. Roy Nifong, Jr. ~ Forsyth County		
1976	Joseph L. Williams ~ Duplin County		
1977	John B. Harris ~ Burke County		
1978	Stewart Adcock ~ Wake County		
1979	Ralph Tucker ~ Pitt County		
1980	Wade Carrigan ~ Iredell County		
1981	D. R. Huff, Jr. ~ Hoke County		
1982	F.C. Laughinghouse ~ Beaufort County		
1983	Charles Patton ~ Buncombe County		
1984	Garland Strickland ~ Nash County		
1985	David Holland, Jr. ~ Onslow County		
1986	H. Gray Ashburn, Jr. ~ Wilkes County		
1987	John Y. Phelps, Jr. ~ Wake County		
1988	William V. Griffin ~ Jones County		
1989	Rebecca H. Rhyne ~ Gaston County		
1990	William Butler ~ Bladen County		
1991	Tom Burns ~ Pasquotank County		
1992	James Ferguson ~ Haywood County		
1993	Charles Snipes ~ Orange County		
1994	Samuel D. Davis ~ Jones County		
1995	Don Abernethy ~ Burke County		
1996	John W. Finch ~ Nash County		
1997	David M. O'Neal ~ Hyde County		
1998	Eddie Stroup ~ Mecklenburg County		
1999	Jeff Turlington ~ Harnett County		
2000	Franklin Williams ~ Duplin County		
2001	Jim Hollifield ~ Rutherford County		

**North Carolina Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Budget Worksheet**

<b>Income From All Sources</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
1 Cash Balance Brought Forward	\$ 176,337.59	\$ 157,398.60
2 Dues From Districts	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
4 Assn. Income-State Convention	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
5 Interest Income-Checking Acct.	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,500.00
7 Endowment Fund	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
8 Expo	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
9 Raffle Income	\$ 8,000.00	\$ -
10 Workshops/Grants	\$ 82,700.00	\$ 100,000.00
11 District Grants thru Association	\$ -	\$ -
12 Farm Family Celebration	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
14 Restricted Fund Admin Fees	\$ -	\$ -
13 State Envirothon	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
14 CET	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
15 Conservation Awareness	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
16 RCW	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
17 Tax Reimbursement		\$ 15,000.00
18 Environmental Ed/Outreach Position		\$ 25,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$ 575,937.59</b>	<b>\$ 587,898.60</b>

<b>Restricted</b>	<b>11/30/2024</b>	<b>2025 Income</b>	<b>2025 Expense</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Endowment Fund	\$ 74,141.00	\$ -		\$ 74,141.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$ 7,500.00	2500		\$ 10,000.00
RCW Scholarships	\$ 2,050.00			\$ 2,050.00

<b>Reserve (50% of Budgeted)</b>	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Used 2024</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
Envirothon	\$ 22,500.00		\$22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00
CET	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Food, Land, People	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Resource Conservation Workshop	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Conservation Awareness	\$ 3,250.00	\$ -	\$ 3,250.00	\$ 3,250.00
Executive Director	\$ 45,088.00	\$ -	\$ 45,088.00	\$ 45,088.00



Mobile Soils Lab / Classroom	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ <b>1,000.00</b>
	\$ 204,029.00			\$ <b>206,529.00</b>

**Bank accounts** **Bal on 11/30/24**

Wells Fargo	\$ 241,932.92
Branch Banking & Trust	\$ 133,197.13
Roxboro Savings	\$ 191,974.44

Bank balace total	\$ <b>567,104.49</b>
Restricted Fund balance	\$ <b>86,191.00</b>
Reserve Accounts	\$ <b>206,529.00</b>
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	\$ <b>274,384.49</b>

**Unrestricted Fund Carry Forward**

2021	\$ 173,145.09
2022	\$ 150,432.78
2023	\$ 176,337.59
2024	\$ 157,398.60

<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>
1 NACD Assessments or Dues	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
2 Travel Expense non-Association Officers		
A. NACD Convention	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
B. SE Regional Meeting	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
C. Committee Meeting	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
3 Expenses of NC Association Annual Meeting	\$58,100.00	\$58,100.00
4 Office Expense	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
5 Expenses of the President	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
7 Expenses of Vice President	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
8 NACD Board Member	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
9 Alt. NACD Board Member	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
10 Auxiliary	\$700.00	\$700.00
11 FFA Land Judging	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
12 NCDEA Donation for Secretarial Assistance	\$800.00	\$1,200.00
13 Education Awards	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
14 Teacher's Travel State Meeting	\$300.00	\$300.00
15 Endowment Fund	\$1,200.00	\$1,000.00
18 Envirothon Chairman Expenses	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
19 NC Envirothon	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
20 Conservation Education/Previous FLP	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
21 State Fair Booth/Mtn. State Fair Booth	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
22 Expo	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
23 Farm Family Celebration	\$4,500.00	\$10,000.00
24 Farm Family Prize Money	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
25 Conservation Awareness Support	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
26 Marketing and Outreach	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00
27 Raffle	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
29 Accounting	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00
30 Workshops/Grants	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00
31 Executive Director	\$87,550.00	\$90,177.00

Executive Director Expenses	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
32 Water Resources Conference	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
33 Expenses for Association Award Recipient	\$750.00	\$750.00
34 Audit / Annual Information Return	\$6,000.00	\$2,000.00
Insurance	\$3,000.00	\$3,300.00
Permits & License	\$100.00	\$100.00
Bank Charges	\$350.00	\$350.00
CET	\$24,000.00	\$35,000.00
RCW	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Mobile Soils Classroom/Trailers	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
35 Contingency Fund	\$5,000.00	\$29,723.00
36 Education Outreach Position		\$25,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$402,150.00</b>	<b>\$455,500.00</b>