



# **BEAUFORT CONSERVATION NEWS**

*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District 155 Airport Road Washington, NC  
Newsletter July 2024 - December 2024*

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## **SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE**

*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Staff and Supervisors  
attend in person and online virtual training sessions as offered.*



### **2024 NCASWCD AREA 5 FALL MEETING**



*The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 14, 2024 at Camp Cale Conference Center.*

*Chairman Steve Harris, Pasquotank SWCD, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. Roll Call was taken, and the Treasurer's Report was given by Maurice Berry, Jr., Pasquotank SWCD.*

*A Business Session was held, and Partnership Reports were then given.*

*Guest speakers were Keith Larick, Natural Resources Director for NC Farm Bureau, Vernon Turner, Meteorologist, Spectrum News, Jennifer Roach, NCD&CS DSWC-CREP, and Rodney Woolard, NCD&CS Farmland Preservation.*

*Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.*





***ANTHONY HESTER - SUPERVISORY SOIL  
CONSERVATIONIST FOR TEAM 14***

*Congratulations to Anthony Hester, who became the Supervisory Soil Conservationist for Team 14 effective October 2024.*

*Anthony has worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for more than nine years, starting in 2015 as a Soil Conservation Technician and later as a Soil Conservationist, which eventually led him to his new position.*

*After graduating from Southeastern Community College with an AAS degree in Environmental Science, Anthony attended North Carolina State University. While attending SCC, he interned at the Columbus County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for two summers, which led him to a career in conservation. After graduating, he was offered a job with the Wilson Soil and Water Conservation District and later accepted a position with the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, working a combination of thirteen years with the two jobs and gaining a wealth of knowledge on conservation and all programs offered both on the State and Federal sides.*

*In 2015, he applied for and accepted a position as a Soil Conservation Technician with NRCS. He then moved to a higher-level Soil Conservation Technician at the Edenton field office. Later in his career he applied for and accepted a position as a Soil Conservationist. All of these steps led to his present position.*

*"I owe a lot to many supervisors, co-workers, and farmers I have met and worked with over the years through both SWCD and NRCS. I look forward to this next chapter and the challenges of my new position."*

*In his spare time he enjoys fishing, sports, soccer with both of his children, grilling, and spending time with his family. Anthony and his wife, Leigh Anna have two children Sawyer (12) and Leah (9), and three beagles as well. He has always been a big UNC fan!*

## **BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER WELCOMES NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

*Welcome to Melanie Simmons, our new Soil and Water Education Coordinator effective November 25th.*

*Mrs. Simmons spent 33 years with the Beaufort County School system before retiring in June of 2023. after teaching advanced math and AIG classes. Additionally, she spent many years coaching students for Science Olympiad, Envirothon, MathCounts and assorted Advanced Math competitions.*

*"I loved my years working with all of my students and coworkers. The students taught me so many new things and I loved getting to be a part of their lives and development as students. My coworkers were family and are part of my life forever. I look forward to continuing to work with students in this education coordinator position. Debbie Boyd was such an inspiration to me when I was the school coach at Northeast Elementary School, and I look forward to providing that same support and opportunity to others as her successor.*

*In her spare time, Melanie enjoys going to the beach, hanging out at the river with her family and pets, reading and walking or going to the gym. She and her husband Phil also run the CCMX dirtbike series on the weekends.*



# PROGRAM NEWS



## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CCAP)

*For Program Year 2025, the district received three applications for Marsh Sills to submit in the regional application process. Two applications were approved for \$40,500 each.*



## AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AgWRAP)

*For Program Year 2025, the district was allocated \$10,500 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practice installation. The district received 12 applications for Irrigation Wells & two applications for Ag Ponds. All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the district's Supervisors during their January 2025 meeting.*



## FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

*For Program Year 2025, the district was allocated a total of \$52,378 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Agriculture Cost Share Program. The district opened a batching period in September 2024 to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September 2024 batching period, a total of six Cover Crop applications were received. Six Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the September 2024 Board Meeting.*

*The district received 4 additional Program Year 2025 ACSP applications for practices including Residue and Tillage Management, and Precision Land Forming & Smoothing. These applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2025 meeting.*

# *PROGRAM NEWS*

## Streamflow Rehabilitation Assistance Program (StRAP) Phase III

Phase III of the StRAP program began in October of 2024. J&J Environmental LLC was selected as the contractor to complete this phase. Phase III will be completed in December of 2024.

During Phase III, 21,400 linear feet of stream will be cleared.

<b>Stream</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Length (ft)</b>
South Creek II	Aurora	2,900
Harvey Creek	Bath	13,500
Maple Branch	Washington	5,000



# EDUCATION NEWS



## 2024

Annual Dan Windley  
Environmental Field Days  
at Goose Creek State Park



*Wildlife*



*The Windley-May families*

*Over 450 fifth grade students, teachers, and chaperones, from Beaufort County attended the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 16th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days. The educational event was held at Goose Creek State Park November 4-6, 2024.*

*On each school's assigned day, attendees were divided into groups to rotate at fifteen-minute intervals throughout six stations. Stations included Aquatics, Soils, Wetlands, Forestry, Conservation, and Wildlife and were instructed by representatives from various agencies who specialize in the topics covered. Presenters were from Goose Creek State Park, NC Estuarium, Beaufort County Cooperative Extension, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, Domtar, NRCS APHIS, and retired USDA NRCS. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.*

*Environmental Field Days was started 37 years ago by Mr. Dan Windley from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Windley passed away in September 2006. To honor his family for their continued dedication to this yearly event, the name of the event was changed to the Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days in 2008.*



## CONSERVATION



# ***EDUCATION NEWS***



## ***SOILS***



## ***WETLANDS***



## ***FORESTRY***



# ***EDUCATION NEWS***



## ***WILDLIFE***



## ***AQUATICS***





*Board Meetings are open to the public and are held  
the 3rd Monday of each month, except  
July and August, at 5:30 p.m. in the office of the:*

*Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District  
Beaufort County Agricultural Center  
155 Airport Road  
Washington, NC 27889*

## **Board of Supervisors**



**James Allen**  
(Board Chairman)



**Tracy Warren**  
(Board Vice Chairman)



**Sid Cayton**  
(Board Supervisor)



**Archie Griffin**  
(Board Secretary)



**Wayne Black**  
(Board Supervisor)

### *District Staff*

*Ann Williams*  
*Office Manager*

*Nathaniel Woolard*  
*District Resource Conservation Specialist*

*Debbie Boyd*  
*Education Coordinator*

### *USDA-NRCS*

*Anthony Hester*  
*Team 14*  
*Supervisory Soil Conservationist*

*Soil and Water...Yours for Life*