

Beaufort Conservation News

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

July-December
2020

Board of Supervisors

James E. Allen, Chairman
Pantego, NC

Joseph E. Rogers, Vice-Chairman
Washington, NC

Tracy B. Warren, Sec.
Chocowinity, NC

Sid M. Cayton, Supervisor
Aurora, NC

S. Archie Griffin, Supervisor
Washington, NC

District Staff

Ann Williams
Office Manager

Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Specialist

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

Bill Gardiner
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservation Technician



Supervisors and Staff Update

In addition to holding their regular meetings, the Supervisors also attend other meetings and training to keep informed of the priorities and upcoming issues in the field of soil and water conservation.

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is currently working under North Carolina Phase II. You may come inside the Agricultural Center and call us at 252-946-4989 Ext. 3 to let us know you are here.

Please respect social distancing measures and follow the State of North Carolina's 3W plan: wear a cloth face covering; Wait 6 feet apart; Wash hands often and use hand sanitizer.



- ◆ *Soil and Water Conservation District employees attended online virtual fall training sessions sponsored by NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in November and December.*
- ◆ *Training for Winter sessions begin in January.*



Supervisors and Staff Update Continued

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5 2020 Fall Meeting

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 12, 2020 and was hosted by the Currituck Soil and Water Conservation District. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and for everyone's safety, the Area 5 Executive Committee voted to have this year's meeting online.



Chairman Manly West called the meeting to order and a business session followed. Chairman West reviewed the consent agenda and it was approved. Tracy Warren, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor, presented the Nominating Committee report.

The business session concluded and Chairman West introduced the guest speaker, Tien Cheng, Assistant Attorney General from the NC Department of Justice. Mr. Cheng presented information on confidentiality considerations and responsibilities when collecting information from landowners and producers.



Length of service awards were announced. Joe Rogers, Supervisor with the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, will be presented his 35 year length of service award.

Partnership reports were given. Blount Knowles, VP-NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, gave updates on the Annual Meeting, trainings, and agreements on partnering with other conservation agencies. Franklin Williams, Board Member-NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, shared information about a NACD Grant Program and Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, shared that the state continues to seek funding for the Resilience Initiative. Vernon Cox, Director NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, gave an update on Job Approval Authority, public records, disaster recovery, and several other agreements and programs. Updates on NRCS programs, trainings, and partnerships were given by Tim Beard, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist. Julius George, Assistant State Conservationist of Field Operations with USDA NRCS, introduced himself to the Area 5 Supervisors and Staff and was welcomed by Manly West on behalf of Area 5.

Vice Chairman Richard Cannon thanked Chairman West for his time and dedication during his tenure.

After closing comments by Chairman West, the meeting was adjourned by incoming Chairman Cannon at 12:00 noon.

Attending the online meeting at the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Office were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Joe Rogers, Office Manager, Ann Williams, and District Resource Specialist, Nathaniel Woolard.

“Soil and Water...Yours for Life”

Program News

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP)



For Program Year 2021, the District was allocated \$7,857 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for AgWRAP practice installation. The District received 3 applications for Irrigation Wells. These applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2021 Board Meeting. In June, the District's Supervisors approved one Regional Application for an Irrigation Pond. The application was submitted on July 7, 2020. The District was contacted on December 7, 2020 by the Division to inform that their Technical Services Staff would be in contact with them to set up a site assessment.

Funds Anticipated For Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)



For Program Year 2021, the District was allocated \$43,872 from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for the Agriculture Cost Share Program. The District opened a batching period in September to rank and fund Cover Crop applications only. Leading up to the September batching period, a total of three Cover Crop applications were received. Three Cover Crop applications and contracts were approved during the September 2020 meeting. The District received 7 additional Program Year 2021 ACSP applications for practices including Land Smoothing, Water Control Structures, Erosion Control, Long Term No-Till, and Lagoon Biosolids Removal. These applications will be reviewed and ranked by the District's Supervisors during their January 2021 Board Meeting.

2016 Disaster Recovery Program

Phase IV of the 2016 Disaster Recovery Program resumed in December 2020. The District's Board of Supervisors selected Rodriguez Debris Removal Construction to remain as contractor for the fourth phase of work. RDC began work on the project December 10, 2020. The contract is for 47,400 linear feet of storm debris removal.

Stream	Location	Length (ft.)
Old Mill Creek	Belhaven	900
Bear Creek II	Chocowinity	4,000
Cherry Run	Washington	14,000
Tankard Creek	Pinetown	24,500
Chocowinity Creek II	Chocowinity	4,000



Farm Service Agency Updates

USDA Safety Net Program Enrollment for 2021

Agricultural producers now can enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs – two U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) safety net programs – for the 2021 crop year. Producers have an opportunity to make a new election, Agriculture Risk Coverage or Price Loss Coverage, on the FSA base acres for each farm. Signup for the 2021 crop year closes March 15, 2021. Contract packets are being mailed and emailed. When you receive your contracts, please review for any changes then sign and return by the deadline.

NAP Application for Coverage Deadlines

- March 15th Green Beans
- September 1st Strawberries, Aquaculture, and Floriculture

Quality Loss Adjustment Program

Signup for the Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program began Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. Funded by the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, this new program provides assistance to producers who suffered eligible crop quality losses due to natural disasters occurring in 2018 and 2019. The deadline to apply for QLA is Friday, March 5, 2021. Producers who believe they have quality issues for 2018 and 2019 should gather all production evidence showing the crop grading deductions and contact the FSA office for review and application instructions.

USDA is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer.

2020

Education

2020

**2020 Fall Events cancelled due to
COVID-19 Virus and Social Distancing**



*2020 Ag Expo
Senator Bob Martin
Eastern Agricultural Center*



***Envirothon events will be held
either face to face or virtually in 2021!***

Coastal Envirothon - March 16, 2021

State Envirothon - April 16-17, 2021

We know everyone was disappointed about the cancellation of the 2020 Envirothon events due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Envirothon committee members are working hard on planning the 2021 competitions. Ideally, Coastal and State Envirothons will be held in person, but we are also working on a contingency plan that will allow the competition to be held virtually.



Did you know?
We all live in a watershed!



A “watershed” is the land that rain water, melting snow, or storm water runoff flows across or under on its way to a stream, creek, lake, river, wetland, or ocean. Water flows or “sheds” from the highest point to the lowest point in a watershed.

When you think about a watershed, picture an umbrella or a funnel. When it rains on an umbrella or you pour water into a funnel, it doesn't stay in one place, it “sheds” from the highest to the lowest point...

just like in a watershed!



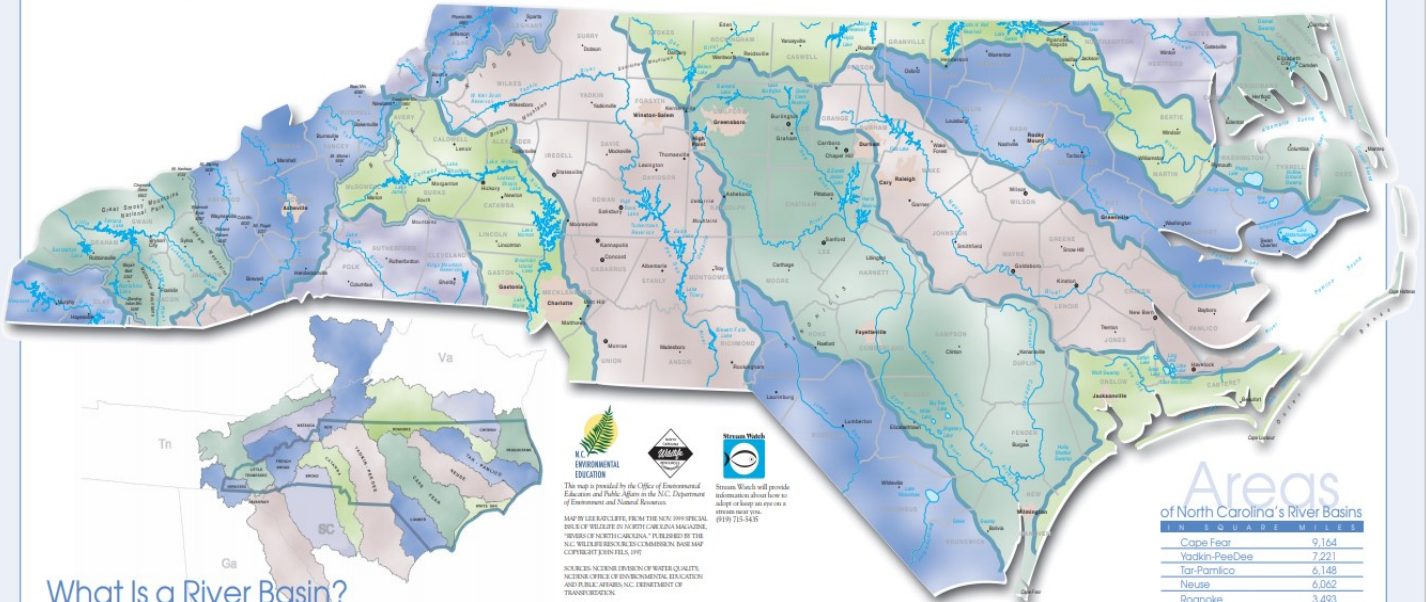
What is your watershed address?

www.mywaterway.epa.gov/

There are 17 River Basins in North Carolina.

Which River Basin do you live in? Learn more [here](#):

North Carolina's River Basins



Discover Your Ecological Address!

Your river basin is one part of your ecological address. To learn more about your ecological address, contact the Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs at (919) 733-0711 or check out the Web site at <http://www.eenorthcarolina.org>



Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 6:00 p.m. in the office of the:

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












Board of Supervisors

***(L to R) Archie Griffin, James Allen, Chairman,
Joe Rogers, Vice-Chairman, Tracy Warren Secretary, Sid Cayton***

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote the wise use and management of the natural resources within its boundaries by providing dedicated leadership, technical excellence and educational information to the citizens of Beaufort County. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to providing equal services to all clients without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status.

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