

Beaufort Conservation News



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

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Pantego, NC

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Sid M. Cayton, Supervisor
Aurora, NC

Archie Griffin, Supervisor
Washington, NC

District Staff

Ann Williams
Office Manager

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

Richard Peed
District Resource Specialist

USDA-NRCS

Amy Halker
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservation Technician



Annual Report

(July 1, 2018—June 30, 2019)

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the state. Annual and long-range programs of conservation and development within the District boundaries are developed and carried out with the assistance of local, state, and federal agencies. The District publishes an annual report in the fall of each year.

Supervisors and Staff Update

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

NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Area 5 2018 Fall Meeting

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 8, 2018 at the Cale Camp and Conference Center in Hertford, NC. Chairman Fenton Eure called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the area. A business session followed. Chairman Eure introduced guest speakers Vernon Cox, Division Director, Eric Pare, Area 5 Regional Coordinator, Bryan Evans, NC Association of SWCD Executive Director, Dietrich Kilpatrick, President of NC Association of SWCD, John Finch, NACD Alternate Representative, Tim Beard, NRCS State Conservationist, and Rep. Bob Steinburg from NC House of Representatives.

After dinner, catered by Nixon's Catering, Length of Service Awards were presented.

BSWCD Supervisor Lex Mann receives a 20 year length of service award from Dietrich Kilpatrick.

Attending from the BSWCD were left to right: Supervisor Lex Mann, Supervisor Joe Rogers, District Resource Specialist Ricky Peed, Supervisor Tracy Warren, Education Coordinator Debbie Boyd, Supervisor James Allen, and Office Manager Ann Williams.



**NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts'
2019 Annual Meeting**



The 75th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held January 6-8, 2019 at the Sheraton Imperial at Research Triangle Park in Durham, NC. "Changing with the Future" was the theme. Dietrich Kilpatrick, 2018 NCASWCD President, presided over the meeting. Myles Payne was sworn in as the NCASWCD 2019 President. Representing the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were James Allen and Tracy Warren, Supervisors, Ann Williams, Office Manager, and Ricky Peed, District Resource Specialist.

"Soil and Water...Yours for Life"

**NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts'
Area 5 2019 Spring Meeting**

The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 21, 2019 at the Currituck Extension Center in Barco, NC. Chairman Manly West called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the area. A business session followed. Chairman West introduced guest speakers Vernon Cox, Division Director, Miles Payne, President of NC Association of SWCD, Dru Harrison, DEA President, Bryan Evans, on behalf of Franklin Williams, NACD Representative, and Tim Beard, NRCS State Conservationist. Will Creef of the Currituck Soil and Water Conservation District spoke on **Service Districts**, and Michelle Lovejoy, Executive Director of the NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation, spoke on **Visioning the Future of Conservation Delivery**. Lunch was catered by Southland Restaurant & Catering. Attending from the District were Supervisors Joe Rogers and Tracy Warren; Amy Halker, Team 14 Supervisory Soil Conservationist; Ann Williams, Office Manager; and Richard Peed, District Resource Specialist.



Staff Changes

Richard Peed was hired on October 1, 2018 as District Resource Specialist with the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. He resigned effective May 31, 2019. Thank you Richard for your dedication to Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation!



Chairman James Allen presents a 20 year service award to retiring Supervisor Lex Mann during the December Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Board Meeting.



Archie Griffin, newly elected board member, is sworn in by Marty Paramore, Clerk of Superior Court.



Clerk of Superior Court Marty Paramore swears in re-appointed Supervisor Joe Rogers and re-elected Supervisor James Allen during the December Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Board Meeting.



Program News



Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)

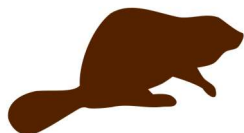
Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) — The District has participated in the ACSP program since 1987. It has been and continues to be, a superb means of helping farmers and owners of agricultural land apply conservation measures to assist in protecting our waterways and the environment. For Program Year 2019, the District was allocated \$47,916 from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Applications were taken until the January 28, 2019 Board of Supervisors meeting where applications were ranked according primarily on their impact on water quality. During the meeting, nine applications and contracts were approved for practices including cover crops, land smoothing, water control structures, and filter strips.

Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) — Mandated in 2011, AgWRAP was established to assist farmers and landowners in increasing water use efficiency and availability on agricultural land and to conserve and protect water resources using best management practices. For Program Year 2019, the District was allocated \$7,500 by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission. On January 28, 2019, during a meeting of the District's Board of Supervisors, AgWRAP applications were ranked primarily by their impact on water use efficiency. One application and accompanying contract was approved for the installation of a water supply well.

Agricultural Input Management Program (AIM) — Plans for a nutrient recycling trial and demonstration, which included the installation of an automated water control structure, were drafted and reviewed extensively in the Spring of 2017. Design work was completed during PY 2018 and a contract for the project was approved. The automated water control structure was installed during PY 2019. A site visit was conducted by USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel on June 12, 2019. The installation of the automated structure was certified as being installed according to NRCS standards and specifications. During a June 17, 2019 meeting of the District's Board of Supervisors, a Request for Payment of the project was approved. The project is complete.

2016 Disaster Recovery Program — With the addition of a new District Resource Specialist in October 2018, Phase III of this stream debris removal project was re-addressed. The initial Scope of Work for the project was reviewed and revised. The revisions were approved by the District's Board of Supervisors, the Beaufort County Board of Commissioners, and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Other than revisions to the Scope of Work, efforts to implement Phase III activities were again delayed with the departure of the District Resource Specialist in May 2019.

BEAVER



Beaufort County Beaver Bounty Program – Established in 2004, the county bounty program reimburses registered landowners \$10 per beaver tail for beavers trapped on their property. Seven beaver tails were delivered to the District's office during Fiscal Year 2018-2019. Since the program's establishment, 75 land owners and 24 trappers have registered for participation in the program. A total of \$6,060 has been paid to land owners for 606 beavers.



USDA-NRCS NEWS



On-going Program – The Natural Resources Conservation Service and District Staff provided assistance to many individuals, land users, and units of government during Fiscal Year 2019. Some of those required more than one visit to get a practice installed or to resolve resource problems. Among the services provided, the Beaufort County Soil Survey and aerial photography from the past were furnished to many individuals, contractors, environmental consultants, foresters, realtors, and others to assist them in making planning decisions. A total of 4,524 acres were planned and 4,056 acres were benefited by the application of a conservation practice. The following conservation practices were reported during the fiscal year: long term no-till (5 years)—90 acres, three year conservation tillage-8.71 acres, cover crop – 600 acres, nutrient management – 700 acres, and 25 water control structures.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



We received 9 EQIP applications and 2 were approved for funding. The funded applications involved cover crop. Total funding amounted to \$90,000. In order to be considered for funding for FY 2020 funds, applicants must have an active conservation plan on file. If you are interested in pursuing funding for your project, contact NRCS to schedule a planning appointment.

Conservation Stewardship Program - (CSP)

The current fiscal year saw the funding of 6 applications. These applications involved the producer adopting a new practice such as cover crop. CSP contracts are for 5 years and the annual payment limitation is \$40,000. Payment rates are now based on payment schedules much like EQIP. Through a new computer application called the Conservation Activity Evaluation Tool (CAET), resource concerns and enhancements, which address those concerns, must be chosen. The enhancements do not have to be performed on all enrolled acres, but that does influence funding received to carry out those enhancements. Producers who no-till the majority of the acres that they tend rank well. Interested producers are encouraged to contact NRCS with their inquiries.



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

By allowing the USDA to work in partnership with state and local interests to meet specific conservation objectives, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) expands the effectiveness of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). CREP utilizes federal and state resources to achieve long-term voluntary protection of environmentally sensitive cropland and pastureland. Water quality and wildlife habitats are improved and protected through the implementation of forested riparian buffers, grass filter strips, and wetland restoration. Per programmatic requirements, signs have been placed along the boundaries of 30-year and permanent easements. A total of 2,013 acres are enrolled in the program in Beaufort County.



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

This program is basically the same as the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), but contains an added practice of shallow water area for wildlife (duck ponds). There were no new applications in FY 2019.

Education

2018 DAN WINDLEY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD DAYS



Over 600 Beaufort County fifth graders, teachers, and chaperones attended the District's 11th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days event October 23-25, 2018. Attendees rotated through six stations including Aquatics, Soils, Super Soil Bracelet, Wetlands, Forestry, and Conservation. The District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.



FORESTRY

10/25/2018



SUPER SOIL BRACELET

10/25/2018



AQUATICS

10/24/2018



WETLANDS

10/25/2018



SOILS

10/25/2018



CONSERVATION

10/25/2018

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Education

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces Contest Winners

“The Living Soil” was the theme for the 2019 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in third through fifth grades in the county. The essay contest was for sixth graders only.

Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were John Small, Chocowinity Middle, Northeast, Pungo Christian Academy, and Unity Christian Academy.

Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation, presented ribbons and cash prizes to the poster winners at a gathering held at the Agricultural Center in Washington. The teachers who submitted first place posters also received cash prizes. In addition to their awards, the first-place winners’ posters from Beaufort County competed with other districts in the Area 5 competition, which includes sixteen counties. Jake Kozemchak, a student at Unity Christian Academy, received third place and a cash prize in the area competition.

The 2019-2020 contest theme will be *Wetlands are Wonderful*.

2019 Beaufort Soil and Water Contest Winners



Pictured with their ribbon, prize money, and a copy of their poster are: (l to r) Kaitlin Mason (Unity), Alison Garcia (John Small), Allison White (John Small), Lisa Moore, Art Teacher (John Small), Jake Kozemchak (Unity), Marshall Ricks (Pungo), Landen Sparks (Pungo), and Susan Knox, 4th Grade Teacher (Pungo). Not pictured is Angie Kolibek, 5th Grade Teacher (Unity).



Education



2019 Envirothon Training Day

The 2019 Envirothon Team Training Day at Goose Creek State Park was held on March 7, 2019. Seventy two students from Area 5 rotated through five stations to help prepare for the NC Coastal Envirothon competition, which was held on

March 19, 2019 at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center. Testing areas included Forestry, Aquatics, Wildlife, Soils, and Current Environmental Issues.

Schools attending were Northside High School, Southside High School, J A Holmes High School, Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience , Pungo Christian Academy, Northeast Middle School, and Chowan Middle School.

Area 5 would like to thank our presenters for the day, Soils—Matt Ricker and Stephanie Kulesza, Wildlife—Samaria Burnette and Ben Spaulding, Aquatics—Russ Chesson, Forestry—Goose Creek (Joe Martin and Joe Hawley) and Current Environmental Issues--Carrie Ortel. We would also like to thank Goose Creek State Park for hosting our event.

2019 Coastal Envirothon Competition



Beaufort County middle school and high school students competed in the Areas 5 and 6 Coastal Envirothon held on March 19, 2019 at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center in Craven County. Fourteen teams represented Beaufort County in the area competition. The top fourteen teams (seven high school and seven middle school) from each area advanced to the State Envirothon May 3-4 at Cedarrock Park in Alamance County. State winners competed in the National Envirothon competition held in North Carolina on the campus of NC State University July 28-August 2, 2019.

Beaufort County teams qualifying for the state competition from Area 5 were the Tree O Dream and Name Unknown teams from Northside High School, Wissenschaft Kadar team from Beaufort County Early College, and Venustus team from Southside High School. The Enviroshakers, Milk Duds, and Winging It teams from Northeast Elementary will represent Beaufort County in the middle school competition.

Other teams who competed in the Coastal Envirothon from Beaufort County were Northside High School (Marbled Salamanders), Beaufort County Early College (The Bulldogs and The Green Beans) and Pungo Christian Academy (Huskies, Southern Tides, and Baby Sharks). Beaufort County's Envirothon advisors are Daphne Cullom, Northside High; Melanie Simmons, Northeast Elementary; Crystal Crosby, Southside High; Tabitha Roberson, Beaufort County Early College; and Abby Anderson, Pungo Christian Academy.



Envirothon is the most widely recognized hands-on environmental education program in the nation. Middle and high school students immerse themselves in a year-long learning process that combines curriculum with hands-on field experiences facilitated by resource professionals such as soil scientists, foresters and wildlife specialists. This intense training culminates in a competition where teams are tested in five subject areas: soils/land use, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. Scores determine winning placements.

Locally, the Envirothon competition is coordinated by soil and water conservation districts in Areas 5 & 6 and sponsored by the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Coastal Envirothon photos are courtesy of Sabra Cahoon, Coastal Envirothon Committee Photographer.

Education

Beaufort County Coastal Envirothon State High School and Middle School Qualifiers



Tree O Dream Team-Northside High School



Enviroshakers-Northeast Middle School



Wissenschaft Kader-Beaufort County Early College

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Milk Duds-Northeast Middle School



Name Unknown-Northside High School



Winging It-Northeast Middle School



Venustus-Southside High School

*Coastal Envirothon photos
courtesy of
Sabra Cahoon,
Coastal Envirothon
Committee Photographer.*

Education

Beaufort County High School Student attends Environmental Workshop

NC high school students participated in the 56th annual Resource Conservation Workshop June 23-28, 2019 at North Carolina State University in Wake County. Soil and Water Conservation District boards across the state chose students to participate in the workshop based on demonstrated conservation interests. Four days of resource topics were taught by an innumerable number of resource professionals and NC State University staff. Students also received information and insight into careers in natural resource management throughout the week. The fifth day culminated the classroom and field sessions where a written exam was conducted and an Awards Luncheon was held before students departed for home.



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Supervisors selected and sponsored local student **Alex Plasencia-Garcia** to attend the workshop. Alex, the son of Rebeca Gonzales and Alfonso Sandoval, is a junior at Beaufort County Early College. Alex has been an active participant in Envirothon and Science Olympiad competitions.

The Resource Conservation Workshop is hosted by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in conjunction with the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation, NC State University Soil Science Department, and the Soil and Water Conservation Society Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter.

Current freshmen, sophomores or juniors who are interested in attending the 2020 Resource Conservation Workshop may contact the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District office at 155C Airport Rd, Washington or call 946-4989, Ext. 3.

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK 2019



The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) held its 63rd annual Stewardship Week April 28-May 5, 2019. Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation, a member of NACD, participated in the theme "Life in the Soil: Dig Deeper." Materials promoting this theme were distributed by the District throughout the county.

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 Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District at the Agricultural Center, 155C Airport Rd., Washington, N.C. 27889

Board of Supervisors

James Allen, Chairman

Joe Rogers, Vice-Chairman

Tracy Warren Sec./Treasurer

Sid Cayton, Supervisor

Archie Griffin, Supervisor

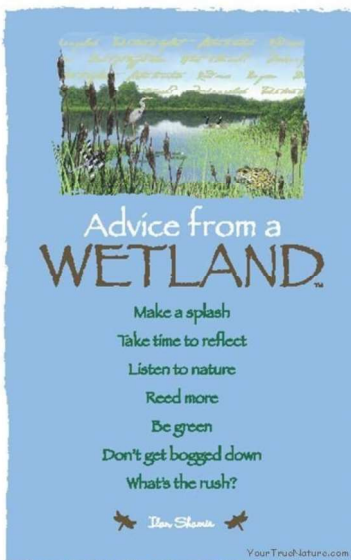


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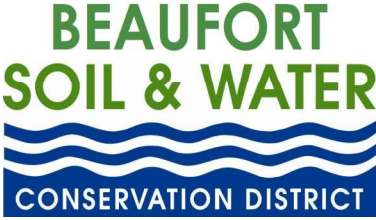





<http://co.beaufort.nc.us/departments/community-services/soil-and-water>



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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