



# BUNCOMBE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MAY 19, 2022 BOARD MEETING

## **49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806**

### Board Members Present

Gary Higgins, Chairman; Tyler Ross, Vice Chairman; and David Snelson, Secretary

### Others Present

Amanda Buchanan, NRCS; Michael Frue, County Legal; Jennifer Harrison, District Director; Cayle Aldridge, Area 1; Anthony Dowdle, Soil Conservationist; Ariel Zijp, Program Manager; and Jessica Hughes, Administrative Assistant.

### **The meeting was called to order at 10:06am.**

### Conflict of Interest Statement

Gary Higgins asked those in the meeting to review the conflict of interest statement, “In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.”

### Approval of Agenda

Please see exhibit A.

**Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the May 19, 2022 agenda, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

### Approval of Minutes

Please see exhibit B. Gary Higgins requested Taira Lance be removed from the March meeting attendees.

**Gary Higgins made a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 minutes, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**David Snelson made a motion to approve the April 14, 2022 minutes, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**



## Public Comment

There were no public comments at this time.

## Supervisory Reports

Gary Higgins requested that all staff attend Board meetings in person instead of virtually through Zoom. At this time there are no requirements from the state level requiring Board meetings to be in person or virtually. That is a decision that is made by each District Board.

## RCW Scholarship

Harrison stated the RCW scholarship was not included in the education budget request and to her knowledge she believed it was covered by Board funds. Harrison is hopeful there will be funds by the end of the year but she will not know until the end of June. Harrison agreed if there are funds at the end of the year she would reimburse the Board for the additional student. A financial report of the Board funds was included in exhibit C. Higgins expressed concerns for RCW funding for the next year and requested that Harrison consult with the Board regarding future budgets.

**David Snelson made a motion to approve \$110 for 11 meals and \$450 registration fee for a total of \$575 per student to be paid from Board funds, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

## EWP & StRAP Projects

Harrison shared all EWP contracts have been signed and are moving forward with funding. All EWP projects that could be grouped together have been for ease in engineering. The staff is working with Fish & Wildlife to ensure endangered species are protected throughout construction. The Commission approved 111 applications which totaled \$311 million throughout the state for StRAP projects. Each county was capped at \$330,000. Dowdle and Harrison have been working on prioritizing the applications to see which applications fall within prioritized watersheds. Higgins expressed his concerns for the equity in the StRAP programs. Higgins stated that the program should have been marketed to all Buncombe County citizens since they are public dollars. Hughes suggested we talk about how we could improve the marketing of the programs in future years at the June meeting.

## Directors Report

Harrison shared the Board of Commissioners will be voting on a conservation goal of 20% of Buncombe County by 2030. This will include all lands conservation through Ag Advisory Board, Land Conservation Board, and Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy.

## NCACSP and AgWRAP Report

Anthony Dowdle submitted one application and contract for Board approval. Dowdle also shared the FY23 Strategic Plan for board approval, Please see exhibit D for full plan.

**Tyler Ross made a motion to enter closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 to discuss confidential NCACSP and AgWRAP contracts on 11:32am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**



**David Snelson made a motion to exit closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 at 11:35am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the application for Mary Julian contract 11-2022-502-05 for \$30,000.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the Mary Julian contract 11-2022-502-05 for \$30,000.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Tyler Ross made a motion to approve the FY23 Strategy Plan, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

### NRCS Report

Amanda Buchanan presented an update for NRCS, please exhibit E for full report.

### Farmland Preservation Report

Ariel Zijp shared the following updated for farmland preservation: Clark and Berner easements - Letter of Intent signing

#### Survey & Deed work

- McCurry Easement - Survey draft, deed work, Baseline visit
- Rosseter Easement - Survey draft, deed work, Baseline visit
- Sneddon Easement - Survey draft, deed work, Baseline visit
- Harvey/O'Doherty Easement - survey in the works, baseline visit
- SAHC Teague Property Easement - Starting survey and Baseline April
- Splendor Valley LLC Easement -initial survey visits May 3rd

#### Post-closing document wrap up -

- Hart & Currie Easements - 5 Easements Closed on April 28th 2022
- NCDA and USDA post-closing checklists to request final 10% check

#### Waiting on Grant Funding -

- Sluder Easement - NCDA approved, waiting on USDA funds
- Ramsey Easement - NCDA approved, waiting on USDA funds
- Anthony Cole Farm - awaiting notification from NCDA
- Gary Cole Farm- awaiting notification from NCDA
- Jasperwood Phase 1- awaiting notification from NCDA
- Jasperwood Phase 2 - awaiting notification from NCDA

Commissioners Briefing and Meeting - 20% by 2030 conservation goal

Monitoring Visits - March/April 2022 Completed

NCDA and USDA monitoring reports completed and submitted

NCDA progress and budget reports for all open grants submitted

3 by 3 meetings with the bond

### Area 1 Report

Cayle Aldridge shared the U.S. Capitol tree will be coming from North Carolina this year and there will be celebration as the tree moves through the state. They are requesting for educators to collect ornaments over the summer that highlight conservation. Details will be sent in the coming weeks regarding the ornament information. CET will be in Cherokee in August and all staff are encouraged to attend. The next School of Government training



will be held on the third Tuesday in February of 2023.

## Announcements

With no further business Tyler Ross motioned to adjourn at 11:45am.

Secretary

Date

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BUNCOMBE COUNTY  
**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
MAY 19, 2022 BOARD AGENDA

**Call to order**

**Gary Higgins, Chairman**

**Conflict of Interest Statement**

**Gary Higgins, Chairman**

“In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.”

**Approval of May 12, 2022 agenda**

**Board**

**Approval of the March 10, 2022 minutes**

**Board**

**Approval of the April 14, 2022 minutes**

**Board**

**Public Comment**

**Public**

**Supervisor Reports**

**Board**

**RCW Workshop**

**Board**

**EWP & StRAP Project**

**Staff**

**Update FY23 Annual Plan**

**Board**

**Director Report**

**Jennifer Harrison**

**Area 1 Report**

**Cayle Aldridge**

**NCACSP and AgWRAP Report**

**Anthony Dowdle**

**NRCS Report**

**John Ottinger**

**Farmland Preservation Report**

**Ariel Zijp**





# BUNCOMBE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MARCH 10, 2022 BOARD MEETING

## **49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806**

### Board Members Present

Gary Higgins, Chairman; David Snelson, Secretary; Louise Scruggs, Treasurer; and Aaron Sarver, Member

### Others Present

Jennifer Harrison, District Director; Anthony Dowdle, Soil Conservationist; Taira Lance, Environmental Educator; Cayle Aldridge, Area 1 Coordinator; Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Program Coordinator; Curtis Euler, County Legal; Sherri Snelson; Michael Frue, County Legal; and Jessica Hughes, Administrative Assistant.

### **The meeting was called to order at 10:07am.**

### Conflict of Interest Statement

Gary Higgins asked those in the meeting to review the conflict of interest statement, “In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.”

### Approval of Agenda

Please see exhibit A.

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the March 10, 2022 agenda, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

### Approval of Minutes

Please see exhibit B.

**David Snelson made a motion to approve the February 10, 2022 minutes, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

### Supervisory Reports

Higgins reported the Area 1 spring meeting went well.



## Taira Lance Recognition

Higgins stated Lance worked with the Soil and Water Conservation District for 11 years and the Board noted their appreciation for her dedicated years of service.

## Snelson/NCDOT Project

Curt Euler attended the meeting to update the Board on the process of the lawsuit against the NCDOT and Sycamore Valley Farm in which is under a conservation easement. On October 25, 2016 the State of North Carolina filed an action against Sycamore Valley Farm, the BCSWCD Board, and the United States to condemn part of the farmland (.75 acres along New Leicester Highway). Instead of paying fair market value for the .75 acres the U.S. prefers that another property be placed under an easement for the same amount of land that was taken. However, the State has been unable to locate land that would be feasible for this type of project and would prefer to pay out the project to close the case. The State is proposing a road easement on the parcel that has an active road on it and would prevent the land from being used for anything other than a road, in which, the rest of the parcel would remain under an easement with Sycamore Valley Farm and the United States. Sycamore Valley Farms would still receive compensation for granting the road easement. Sherri Snelson shared the compensation that was offered was not fair market value, but agriculture value which would be much less than the condemnation compensation of the property. Zijp shared her concerns that the development of the road has disturbed much more than just the .75 acres and has also disturbed production. Sherri Snelson shared the draining system that was installed for the road flooded one of the fields and there has not been an effort to resolve the situation. Snelson further explaining the entrances to the farm are not realistic and are dangerous for moving farm equipment in and out and has not been willing to work with the farm to resolve the issues. Harrison shared her concerns of what kind of precedent this will set for other easements that the land can be condemned with “ease” and without compensating properly. The Snelsons stated that they were unhappy with the offer from the USDA attorney and stated that there is a lot more lost than just the value of the property that was condemned and spoke against the USDA proposal. The Board stated their position is that the on going issues regarding drainage and how they are compensating need to be resolved before the case is closed.

## District Scholarship

Higgins reached out to Rachel Nygard with the Service Foundation to see if the scholarship could be processed through them or the Buncombe County School Scholarship Foundation and she is working on it. Frue stated going through the service Foundation to provide some separation from the Board would be feasible and would still allow the Board to set the criteria and be involved in the selection process.

## Conflict of Interest Policy

Higgins presented the Conflict of Interest Policy for Board approval, please exhibit C for full policy.

**David Snelson made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy as presented, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

## By-Laws and Rules of Procedure

Higgins presented the By-Laws and Rules of Procedure for Board approval, please exhibit D for full policy. Harrison asked if the public comment section could be moved to the beginning of the meeting to allow for greater participation by the public. There were



questions as to whether the virtual participation from the public would be allowed or not after the state of emergency for COVID-19 is over.

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the By-Laws and Rules of Procedure with changing the public comment section to the beginning in the meeting, remove the last sentence of the purpose, and remove the conflict of interest section and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

#### Directors Report

Harrison reported the seedling sale was very successful and raised over \$8,000 for educational programming. There was an issue with our supplier and we were not able to fill orders with many of the berry varieties. Orders that were not picked up were donated to stream rehabilitation programs. 44 Sites were approved for EWP totaling \$2.6 million and the sponsor portion is a little under \$700,000. Harrison reported the budget presentation went well. Harrison requested an additional soil conservationist and as of right now that position seems like it is going to be approved. There were 81 applications for the environmental education position and over 61 applicants were qualified. The list was then shortened to the top 10 who will be interested on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Area 1 Report

Cayle Aldridge thanks the staff for all their help on the Area 1 meeting. State Commission meeting will be on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. If any members would like to attend they can register online. The Annual Meeting will be in January 2023 in Cherokee at the Harris Cherokee Casino.

#### NCACSP and AgWRAP Report

Anthony Dowdle presented the NCACSP PY 22 Ranking, see exhibit E.

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the NCACSP PY 22 Ranking list as presented, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**David Snelson made a motion to enter closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 to discuss confidential NCACSP and AgWRAP contracts on 11:07am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Gary Higgins made a motion to exit closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the application for contract 11-2022-004-05 for \$2,003.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the contract 11-2022-004-05 for \$2,003.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the application 11-2022-007-05 for \$12,335.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**David Snelson made a motion to approve the contract 11-2022-007-05 fr \$12,335.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**





## NRCS Report

John Ottinger reported March 11th is the EQIP ranking deadline. There are 24 eligible applications totaling over \$100,000 in Buncombe. Higgins asked when the Local Work Group meeting should take place. Aldridge stated the April Board meeting would be a good month to host the meeting because it needs to be before May 6th.

## Farmland Preservation Report

Ariel Zijp presented the report for Farmland preservation.

### Easement Project Updates

- Board Approval Process - Berner and Clark easements
- Survey & Deed work
- McCurry Easement - Survey in progress
- Rosseter Easement - Survey in progress
- Sneddon Easement - Survey in progress
- Harvey/O'Doherty Easement - Starting Survey April
- SAHC Teague Property Easement - Starting survey April
- SAHC Jenkin's Creek Easement - postponed until stream easement
- Splendor Valley LLC Easement - fully funded - contracting with surveyors

### Closing Preparations

- Hart Easement - final deed and exhibits, budgets, reviews
- Currie Easement - final deed and exhibits, budgets, reviews

### Waiting on Grant Funding

- Sluder Easement - NCDA approved, waiting on USDA
- Ramsey Easement - NCDA approved, waiting on USDA
- Anthony Cole Farm - awaiting NCDA funding
- Gary Cole Farm - awaiting NCDA funding
- Jasperwood Phase 1 - awaiting NCDA funding
- Jasperwood Phase 2 - awaiting NCDA funding

Zijp is presenting at the March Commissioners Environmental Subcommittee and has presented at the January and February meeting as well. Zijp is updating the landscape records, projects, budgets, tasks with Avni Naik. Monitoring visits are planned for March and April.

## Announcements

With no further business Louise Scruggs motioned to adjourn at 12:01pm.

Secretary

Date

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# BUNCOMBE COUNTY **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT** APRIL 14, 2022 BOARD MEETING

## **49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806**

### Board Members Present

Gary Higgins, Chairman; David Snelson, Secretary; Louise Scruggs, Treasurer

### Others Present

Amanda Buchanan, NRCS; Avni Naik, Program Coordinator; and Jessica Hughes, Administrative Assistant.

### **The meeting was called to order at 10:07am.**

### Conflict of Interest Statement

Gary Higgins asked those in the meeting to review the conflict of interest statement, “In the interest of preserving public confidence in the actions of this Board, the chair reminds members of their duty to avoid any conflicts of interests and inquires as to whether any member knows of any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest with respect to matters to come before the Board.”

### Approval of Agenda

Please see exhibit A.

### **Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve the April 14, 2022 agenda, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

### Approval of Minutes

Please see exhibit B. David Snelson asked that the March meeting minutes be moved to the May meeting for approval to give staff appropriate time to see if there was a closed session during the NCDOT/Snelson discussion.

### Supervisory Reports

There were no supervisor reports at this time.

### Directors Report

Harrison was unable to attend the meeting do to an out of town conference. Her report was submitted for the record. Please see exhibit C.



## RCW Scholarship

Two applications were received for the Resource Conservation Workshop in June. Higgins stated typically the board pays for one student out of board funds and the second student is paid out of county funds from the education budget. Jessica Hughes said she would speak with Harrison regarding the county budget. Higgins stated typically registration and a per diem for each student for food is paid for. Higgins requested for the board to approve the applications and discuss the finances for payment at the May meeting.

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to approve two applications for the Resource Conservation Workshop with one student being paid from board funds and the second student to be paid from county funds, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

## NCACSP and AgWRAP Report

Anthony Dowdle was unable to attend the meeting but submitted one application and contract for Board approval.

**David Snelson made a motion to enter closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142 to discuss confidential NCACSP and AgWRAP contracts on 10:32am, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Louise Scruggs made a motion to exit closed session in pursuant to GS 139.8.2-142, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**Gary Higgins made a motion to approve the application for contract 11-2022-501 for \$50,000.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

**David Snelson made a motion to approve the contract 11-2022-501 for \$50,000.00, and the motion passed on the vote with all in favor.**

The Board discussed potential dates for the annual spot checks. Higgins stated he would be willing to attend a half day for the spot check if another board member could attend the other half day. May 17th or May 18th would work best for the Board.

## NRCS Report

Amanda Buchanan presented an update for NRCS, please exhibit D for full report.

## Farmland Preservation Report

Ariel Zijp was unable to attend the meeting but submitted a written report for the record. Please see exhibit E.

## Announcements

With no further business Louise Scruggs motioned to adjourn at 10:52am.

Secretary

Date

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**SWCD Board Funds**  
**July 1, 2021 - May 3, 2022**

**Beginning Balance July 1, 2021** **\$40,057.00**

Revenues:

**Revenues**

Seedling Revenue	\$	15,480.00
Equipment Rental Income	\$	482.00
Seedling Refunds	\$	1,075.00

**Total Revenues** **\$17,037.00**

Expenditures: **Expenses**

Camp WILD Rental Car & Gas Card July 2021	\$	856.48
NCASWCD Membership Fees	\$	150.00
Seedling Sale Supplies & Lunches	\$	975.95
Seedlings	\$	8,677.25
Flowers for the Hamilton Family	\$	180.00
NCDEA Membership	\$	50.00
Organic Growers School	\$	2,000.00
Seed Drill Equipment Repair	\$	2,282.20
Square Fees	\$	564.00
SWCD Scholarship	\$	1,000.00
SWCD Board Christmas Party	\$	179.69

**Total Expenditures** **\$16,915.57**

**Balance May 3, 2022** **\$40,178.43**

**NCACSP/AGWRAP/CCAP REPORT  
May 12, 2022**

**Contracts**

Applicant Gerald Strickland	Contract 11-2022-00-05 Livestock Exclusion Fencing \$3,874.00	Motion	Second	Approved
Mary Julian	11-2022-502-05 Stormwater wetland \$30,000.00			

**Request for Payment**

Applicant	Contract	Motion	Second	Approved
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**Cancellation**

Applicant	Contract	Motion	Second	Approved
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**Other Business**

**Strategy Plan Approval**

**Spot Check Tour outline for May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Impaired Impacted Survey Update**

## Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) Spot Checks

Supervisors shall be responsible for conducting annual spot checks to ensure program compliance for the following:

- a. 5% or more of all active contracts per program. Contracts should be randomly selected. Districts shall contact cooperators to learn of current biosecurity concerns prior to visiting any animal operations. Scheduling spot checks on these operations shall be coordinated with cooperators to follow protocols. Should a cooperator have a high risk biosecurity concern, the field visit portion of the spot check shall be deferred and completed after the biosecurity concern is lifted.
- b. All waste management systems for operations not permitted by the Division of Water Resources for five years following implementation. The mandatory waste management spot check cannot make up the total 5% random spot check. After selecting 5% of active contracts, any remaining waste management systems not randomly chosen must be added and reviewed for five years following implementation. The technical review should not be completed by the person who developed the plan.
- c. All agricultural ponds.
- d. 5% of all nutrient management best management practice (BMP) contracts. The technical review should not be completed by the person who developed the plan. e. Any ACSP contract, revision, supplement or repair completed under a Cost Share Program or other nonpoint source pollution cost-shared programs for lands owned or operated by a district, county, division or NRCS employee or district supervisor will be spot checked by representatives of the NRCS Area Office within one year after completion of a contract item (effective 12/13/90).

## Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) Spot Checks

Supervisors shall be responsible for conducting annual spot checks to ensure program compliance for the following:

- a. 5% or more of all active contracts per program. Contracts should be randomly selected.
- b. Any CCAP contract, revision, supplement or repair completed on lands owned or operated by a district, county, division employee or district supervisor will be spot checked by representatives of the division within one year after completion of a contract item. Please email your cost share specialist if you have a contract that needs to be spot checked.

## Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP) Spot Checks

Supervisors shall be responsible for conducting annual spot checks to ensure program compliance for the following:

- a. 5% or more of all active contracts per program. Contracts should be randomly selected. Districts shall contact cooperators to learn of current biosecurity concerns prior to visiting any animal operations. Scheduling spot checks on these operations shall be coordinated with cooperators to follow protocols. Should a cooperator have a high risk biosecurity concern, the field visit portion of the spot check shall be deferred and completed after the biosecurity concern is lifted.
- b. All agricultural ponds (agricultural water supply/reuse pond, agricultural pond repair/retrofit BMP).
- c. Any AgWRAP contract, revision, supplement or repair completed on lands owned or operated by a district, county, division, NRCS employee or district supervisor will be spot checked by representatives of the division within one year after completion of a contract item. Please email your cost share specialist if you have a contract that needs to be spot checked.

Supervisors:

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Technical Staff:

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Agreement Number 11-2012-002-05 Jamie Ager BMPs Livestock Exclusion System

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2014-002-05 Kevin Duckett BMPs Livestock Exclusion System

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2014-004-05 Scott Brown BMPs \_\_\_\_\_

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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SWCD District Chair Initials

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Date

Agreement Number 11-2018-002-05 Kevin Duckett BMPs Livestock Exclusion System

- In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2015-501 Leicester CC BMPs CCAP Stream Stabilization

- In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2019-801 Neil Woody BMPs AGWRAP Well

- In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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SWCD District Chair Initials

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Agreement Number 11-2012-801-05 Full Sun Farm BMPs New Pond

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2014-801-05 Janet Peterson BMPs Pond Repair

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2014-802-05 Flying Cloud BMPs Pond Repair

In Compliance       Out of Compliance       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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SWCD District Chair Initials

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Agreement Number 11-2014-803-05 Jerry Plemmons BMPs Pond Repair

In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number 11-2016-802 Lady Luck BMPs New Pond

In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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Agreement Number \_\_\_\_\_ BMPs \_\_\_\_\_

In Compliance                       Out of Compliance                       Maintenance Needed

Give complete comments regarding BMP function and condition. If maintenance is needed, provide recommendations and timeframe for follow-up. \_\_\_\_\_

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SWCD District Chair Initials

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# **Buncombe Soil and Water District**

## **NCACSP, AGWRAP & CCAP**

### **ANNUAL STRATEGY PLAN**

#### **PY23**

**Buncombe County SWCD  
49 Mount Carmel Rd Suite 101  
Asheville, NC 28806  
828-250-4785**

**Date of Board Approval: May 12, 2022**

### **III. Marketing Strategy**

Prior to July 1, 2022, the District will publicize the NCACSP, AGWRAP and CCAP by announcing that cost-share funds are available. Buncombe County has a local government access channel on cable television that we will be running a PowerPoint presentation during the sign up period. A County owned billboard is used to announce the sign-up annually, as well as the County website. Contacts will also be made with the reporters covering government and agricultural issues for the Asheville Citizen-Times and other local papers, to get articles published concerning the availability of cost-share funds. Other marketing strategies to be used, include: a) articles in the District Newsletter; b) radio spot announcements; c) distribution of flyers and brochures; d) television reports when available; e) personal contacts with farmers; and f) publication of articles in other agency newsletters when possible. The District will also cooperate with agency personnel from the USDA, NRCS, Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Services Agency, NCDA&CS and other agencies to publicize the program.

The Buncombe County Ag. Advisory Board and the Southern Appalachians Highlands Conservancy are working with the District to place Conservation Easements on farmland. Developing conservation

easements allows the District to interact with new contacts and cooperators by assisting them with addressing resource concerns on their property as a part of the easement process.

**Methods**

**Tools**

Local Media (T.V., radio, newspaper, newsletters)  
 Government Agencies  
 Agricultural Groups  
 Agribusinesses/ Lending Institutions  
 Internet sources  
 Local Government

Public Service Announcements  
 Newsletters, Brochures, Posters  
 Presentations, Brochures  
 Brochures, Posters  
 Websites  
 Community Bulletin Board / T.V.  
 Ag Breakfast

**IV. Overall Activities for 2023**

The primary goals and functions of the District are to use all available tools to address water quality, quantity and other natural resource concerns. The level and type of assistance offered varies from straightforward technical assistance to programs which target specific types of concerns while providing funding to help install any needed BMPs. We will continue to look for new opportunities to expand and meet the needs of the people we serve. Programs that address water quality, quantity, and natural resource concerns within the District are:

**Programs**

**Target Areas**

- Agriculture Cost Share Program
- Educational Programs
- Community Conservation Assistance Program
- Conservation Reserve Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Division of Water Resources Grants
- Farmland Preservation
- Ag Water Resource Assistance Program
- Stream Initiative Projects
- Ivy River 319 Project Funds
- Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Ag. BMPs/water quality  
 Adults and Children  
 Urban Erosion & Water Quality  
 Buffers & Ag. BMPs  
 Ag. Resource Concerns  
 Streambank Stabilization Ag/Urban  
 Farms in danger of development  
 Increase water efficiency, availability and storage  
 Long sections of unstable stream  
 Water quality BMPs  
 Repairing storm damage

**V. Non-point Source Pollution Problems**

**Agriculture**

The major sources of agricultural non-point source pollution are animal waste, cropland erosion, and livestock access to streams. There are approximately 14,200 head of cattle in the County and their main water source is streams. Cattle accessing streams results in erosion of stream banks, disturbance of

stream channels, and deposition of animal wastes in the streams. Poorly managed and overgrazed pastures are also a source of sediment to streams. The County has three dairies with approximately 800 milk cows and heifers that have calved. One dairy recently sold the milk cows and has switched over to beef, however they are keeping the waste system in place but plans to come off the permit list at this time. All four operations in the County are 0.200 certified with waste management systems populated with cattle at this time. We also have one operation that has a waste system not currently in use that has an active NCACSP contract to close the system.

The other major animal waste problem is from beef cattle farms. The County has approximately 7,500 head of beef cows and heifers that have calved, most of which are located in close proximity to perennial streams. Many of these farms feed cattle in the flood plain alongside the streams, which is the only available flat land. Many also allow the cattle to water from the streams. Stream protection systems including: livestock exclusion, alternative watering sources such as wells, spring developments, and stream pick-ups are all BMPs covered by our programs. Other BMPs such as feeding pads located as far away from streams as possible and stream crossings can also be funded.

The County still has some tobacco farms, vegetable operations, corn grain, and corn silage production associated with dairies. These crop fields can be located in flood plains or on steep slopes, with erosion rates easily exceeding 75-tons/acre/year. There is also significant streambank erosion in the County related to other farming activities. The District encourages no till and filter strips/field borders, cover crops and crop rotation, along with other BMPs to help reduce erosion. The District is considering implementing a District BMP using virtually impermeable film (VIF) bedded in the fall with a cover crop to reduce erosion and runoff and thus impacts on water quality from these operations.

The ending of the tobacco program has triggered an increase in the number of vegetable growers in the area. These are both niche market growers focused on locally grown and/or organic markets as well as some larger commercial growers focused more on traditional markets. The District is making an effort to engage these growers in our programming to reduce erosion associated with their row crop management techniques. Some of the more traditional growers have a need for agrichemical handling facilities to help with chemical loss and spill control associated with the number of pesticides needed with larger scale farming.

### **Suburban/Urban**

The suburban areas of the County are growing and increasing daily. Many of the urban streams have very poor water quality. The causes of water quality problems vary but include; erosion from cut slopes, fill slopes, stream banks and heavily trafficked areas, chemicals from lawns, landscaping, parking lots, nutrients, and bacteria from pet waste and other sources. All of these contributing factors lead to poor water quality in suburban/urban streams.

These streams are fed by runoff from large areas of impervious surfaces such as parking lots which allow petroleum and other chemicals to discharge into the streams. Many of the stream channels have been straightened, deepened or piped in the past and this has caused unstable channels which allow water quality to deteriorate further due to the stream bank erosion. This combined with unstable cut and

fill slopes, large pet populations, lawn fertilizer and chemicals contribute to the problems these streams face.

The abundance of impervious surfaces due to increased urbanization make appropriate management very difficult. Even if all the surfaces are clean when the water hits (as in the case with roof areas) impervious surfaces create a perfect scenario for erosion because the time of concentration is short and the volume and velocity of the water high. Our programs work to adapt local waterways to the post-development realities of increased water volume and velocity discharge and to educate and equip landowners to better manage water flow before it negatively impacts streams.

New construction falls under several enforcement agencies to handle erosion control and stormwater, however the District has a roll to play in this area as well. By teaching developers and contractors how to deal with stormwater on individual buildings or sites, and retaining it on site for treatment, we lessen the number and severity of new problems. There is also a host of existing problems that predate stormwater regulations. If funding was available, retrofits to improve conditions could be developed and implemented. This process will be long and difficult. Many of the new BMPs will need to be proven to developers, contractors, and homeowners alike. Education and interagency cooperation will be as important as the BMPs themselves in the success or failure of the CCAP program.

## **VI. Water Quantity Concerns**

The concerns over water availability seem to be increasing with the growing human population, and extreme weather events. Demands for limited water resources are stretched in many different directions leaving the District very concerned for all parties, most especially the farms who depend so heavily on streams during droughts for the survival of their crops and the farming operations. Contaminates, such as bacteria and sediment, can severely limit or prevent a stream from being used for irrigation, which makes an otherwise bold, flowing stream a nonviable water source. The combination of all these factors makes controlling the amount, storage, and quality of water available to Ag operations increasingly important.

The District is working with farmers to ensure the efficient use of available water. Use of drip and micro irrigation, no-till planting, and increasing the infiltration of precipitation into soils are highly effective ways to make better use of the water we do have. The more we can decrease the losses through run-off and evaporation the better use we can make of the precipitation we do get, even in the driest of times. Retaining as much water as possible through on farm storage is also a priority. Farm ponds, new or reclaimed, are the most obvious solution to having water with a known source available for use. Storing water on farm, whether in the soils or in a reservoir, is becoming far more important than in years past. This ties in very well with the District's mission to improve water quality, because no matter how much water you have, if the quality is too low for the intended use, then a water quantity problem continues to exist.

## **VII. Basin-wide Plan Information**

The French Broad River Basin-wide Plan (Plan updated June 2011) identifies Buncombe as one of two counties being expected to have the greatest population growth. Historically, Buncombe County has been fairly rural. The area around Asheville is expected to see some of the largest growth and will continue to be one of the largest urbanized areas in Sub-basin 04-03-02. Because of this change, agriculture will be only one of many sources of point and non-point source pollution. Additionally, problems with agricultural operations will likely increase due to competition for land. Farmers will be pushed to use marginal lands as they compete with development and other land uses. Increased population and development will result in continued increases in stormwater runoff, erosion from construction sites, treated sewage discharge, etc.

The Plan provides limited information on portions of these streams/creeks:

- Flat Creek (near Swannanoa)
- **Ross Creek (I)**
- **Hominy Creek (main branch & South) (I)**
- **Newfound Creek (I)**
- **Swannanoa River (I)**
- **Flat Creek (NW Buncombe County)**
- **Sandymush Creek**
- **Turkey Creek (South and North)**
- **Little Ivy Creek**
- **Cane Creek (I)**
- Beaverdam Creek
- Grassy Branch
- Christian Creek (Davis Lake)
- Bill Moore Creek (Enka Lake)
- Bee Tree Creek and North Fork of the Swannanoa (feeding reservoirs)
- Haw Creek
- Stony Fork
- Bent Creek
- Canie Creek
- Webb Branch
- Pole Creek
- Sweeten Creek
- Moore Creek
- Reems Creek
- Paint Fork

*(I) are considered impaired for aquatic life by NCDENR-DWQ*

***Bold** are priority streams as identified by the District*

The Plan proposes that Hominy Creek be taken off the 303(d) list of impaired waters, due to evidence of water quality improvement. District staff have discussed this possible change with our Supervisors. We continue to monitor this area and feel that keeping it at a moderate to high priority is important, due to the presence of bank erosion, concentrated livestock feeding/lounging areas and livestock still watering in the creek.

Some of the Plan's applicable recommendations are:

- Pursue NCEEP restoration projects on impaired streams
- Install agricultural BMPs
- Seek alternative funding to address both agricultural and urban problems
- Design, engineer and complete stream restorations
- Vegetate areas adjacent to creeks

Our efforts support the Plan's recommendations, by supporting the implementation of practices to reduce habitat degradation, improve riparian zones, minimize erosion/sedimentation in streams, and impacts to water quality from agricultural non-point sources and NPDES discharges/point sources from larger animal operations, through the installation of agricultural BMPs. Priority streams are our emphasis, with attention given to other streams (according to the District's prioritization process).

We look forward to DWQ expanding sampling in the future, so more complete data will be provided in the Basin-wide plan which will assist us in selecting priority streams.

### **VIII. District Priority Watersheds and Best Management Practices**

**There are several watersheds that vary greatly in water quality problems. The County has all or part of several streams listed on the State's 303d list of impaired waterways. They include: South Hominy Creek, Hominy Creek (2 sections), Ross Creek, Newfound Creek (3 sections) Little Ivy Creek, Cane Creek, and the Swannanoa River. Of these Newfound Creek is the highest priority followed by Cane Creek, and Hominy. Other watersheds the District has chosen to make priorities are: Sandymush, North and South Turkey Creek, Flat Creek, and the Ivy River. The applicant prioritization process will give greater weight to applications from these areas.**

The District has a special NPS control project in the Newfound Creek Watershed involving funding from the N.C. Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Pigeon River Fund, and EPA 319 federal funding. This funding has ended with little hope of additional future funding becoming available given the current statewide budget constraints. The District will continue to look for ways to fund this project in the future.

The District is currently exploring the possibility of a nine element watershed plan or the possible substitute Watershed Action Plan (WAP) for Cane Creek. There has been extensive interest by several groups in the area, this combined with NRCS programs related to Hellbenders, and the possibility of fecal coliform being added to the benthic reason for Cane Creek being on the 303d list.

Animal operations, including both dairy and beef cattle, have also been identified as priorities and will receive greater weight in the prioritization process. The District has also identified several greater priority BMPs such as cropland conversion, stream protection systems, conservation tillage, filter strips, streambank stabilization, critical area treatment, sod-based rotations, agrichemical handling facilities, animal waste/feed structures and riparian buffers. Streambank stabilization has become more difficult to do in recent years due to requirements of the FEMA flood insurance program permitting process. However, the District continues to work with engineering staff and the local flood plain administrator to help as many people as possible to correct problems. The new stream initiative project is helping to address the backlog of some of these problems. In addition the County has allocated some funding in the Soil and Water budget to hire private engineering firms to help with designs and no rise studies for stream projects in the FEMA mapped flood zones.

With the CCAP (Community Conservation Assistance Program) coming into play we feel it is important to concentrate these efforts in the more urbanized watersheds such as Hominy Creek, Ross Creek, and the Swannanoa River. We have prioritized public areas such as parks, schools and other educational sites. This gives the most “bang for the buck” and helps raise awareness of not only the program but the importance of water quality. Several good projects have been installed, however there is no funding available at the District level. All funding is in regional pools, this allows for larger projects but makes funding much harder to get being far more competitive. The program is very popular and the District



sees a great need in the community. The 2022 program year seen an incredible one time increase in funding and allowed for several projects to be funded. The Buncombe District would like to see these increases in funding continue into the future as the need is great.

### **IX. Outreach to District Priority Watersheds**

Priority watersheds have always been areas where the District has made attempts to concentrate community meeting events. In the past we have utilized door hangers, mailings, and other special contact attempts to conduct outreach, however, we have found the best outreach is word of mouth. A few good contacts and projects in priority watersheds usually brings in additional cooperators. Newsletter articles with the new projects and announcing the availability of special funding in these areas are the outreach of choice at this time.

### **X. Local Policies**

The Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors have chosen Gary Higgins as the person delegated to sign program request for payment between Board Meetings if the need arises. Every effort will be made to minimize the use of this power. However, it is within the Soil and Water Conservation Commission's policy to appoint someone for this duty and the District Board as a whole recognizes this as a need that would better serve our cooperators.

The District Board has also chosen to place a local cap of \$6,500.00 on all wells cost shares at the 75% rate and \$7,800.00 on all wells cost-shared at the 90% rate regardless of program. This is the limit on the well alone and does not include the pump which is limited by the average cost list at \$2,000 for 75% rate and \$2,400 for 90% contracts at the time of this plan. Farms must be both new and limited resource to receive 90% cost share on BMPs. Farms that participate in EVAD, are also eligible for the 90% cost share.

### **District Secured Additional Funding**

#### **FY 2022**

#### **FY 2021**

\$7,012.00 Town of Weaverville (DWR Grant Match Ivy River)

\$20,488.00 DWR Grant (Match EWP Ivy River)

\$99,000.00 USDA NRCS EWP (Ivy River site)

\$10,000.00 Pigeon River Fund (Envirothon and Camp WILD)

\$4,250.00 Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (Visit NC Farms app)

\$3,250.00 Farm Bureau Insurance (Visit NC Farms app)

\$800.00 Buncombe Farm Bureau Foundation (Visit NC Farms app)

\$1,000.00 Donation (Farm Heritage Trail)

\$120,000.00 Buncombe County (Conservation Easements)

\$60,500 from USDA ACEP ALE for William Hart Easement(Conservation Easements)

\$63,000 from USDA ACEP ALE for Carole Currie Easement (Conservation Easements)

**Total: \$385,400**

**FY 2020**

\$10,360.00 Pigeon River Fund - total award was \$25,000.00 (Camp WILD & Envirothon)

\$15,000.00 Emerging Funds Grant (Septic Repair Leicester Community Center)

When we were awarded these grant funds (not when the easements were closed)

\$178,745 – NCDA William Hart (awarded grant but haven't closed easement)

\$84,560 – NCDA Carole Currie (awarded grant but haven't closed easement)

Still waiting to hear back from USDA on these

**Total: \$263,305**

**FY 2019**

\$10,055.00 Pigeon River Fund - total award was \$28,500.00

\$3,725.00 NC Foundation for Soil & Water (OELC & Educational Supplies)

When we were awarded these grand funds (not when the easements were closed)

\$8,218 – Soil and Water Foundation Transaction costs

\$72,000 – NCDA Tony and Celia Nesbitt

\$108,000 - USDA Tony and Celia Nesbitt

\$8,218 – NC Soil and Water Foundation Transaction costs

\$189,500 – NCDA Aubrey and Rieta Wells

\$268,950 – NCDA Charles Brown and Sarah Benson

**Total: \$646,668**

**FY 2018**

Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (Seed Drill) \$16,061.45

Pigeon River Fund \$10,055.00 (Camp Wild and Envirothon)

Buncombe County \$115,000.00 (Conservation Easements)

USDA \$200,000.00 (Conservation Easements)

**FY 2017**

Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (Waste Closure) \$123,975.00

**FY 2016**

Pigeon River Fund \$5,417.00, Division of Water Resources \$16,500.00 (Stream repair)

**FY 2015**

Foundation Agreement number OELC-13-01 (\$2,405.97 for Pisgah Wetland)

**FY 2014**

None

**FY 2013** DWR (\$1,375 for Swannanoa 4-H project); Foundation Agreement number EEGP-10-010 (\$29,372.30 for 4M Acres)

### **Written Application Prioritization Process**

The prioritization process will take place following advertisement of the NCACSP, AGWRAP, and CCAP fund availability and the sign-up period. This year's District sign-up will be from July 1 to July 31, 2022. When all the applications for assistance have been received, they will be combined with the applications already on file from the previous year (if any). The prioritization sheet (copy attached) will be completed using data gathered from the landowner, soils maps, aerial photos, topographical maps, other data in the office, and the technician's general knowledge of the County. Once compiled, applicants will be prioritized based on the total points they received on the prioritization sheet. The highest score gets highest priority and receives assistance and cost-share money first. In the event of a points tie, ties will be broken based on, stream length protected, livestock numbers, and acres, with one point being given for a single unit of each respectively. Repairs of existing BMPs will automatically receive the highest priority. All applications are ranked at each batching period, so even if someone has been on the list for several cycles and a higher priority problem comes in then, the higher priority is the applicant to get funded.

An additional ranking sheet will be used to rank applicants who are interested in installing an animal waste feed structure. The top two scoring ranking sheets for the structures will receive 5 points in section 7 on their overall-ranking sheet.

The CCAP program will be advertised at the same time as NCACSP. Applications for NCACSP, AGWRAP and CCAP will be handled in the same fashion and prioritized using a form designed specifically for each program.

Funds allocated will be spent based on the prioritization of applicants until no funds remain. All mid-year applications regardless of program will be held until March at which time they will be ranked and added to the list if there is a March allocation to the District, or there are remaining funds from an earlier allocation. Any applications received after that time will be added to the next sign-up period. Two exceptions will be made: 1) if all the needs have been met and funds remain and 2) if an extreme water quality problem becomes evident that is time sensitive. If extra funds remain, all applications received since the last batching will be ranked and then will start at the top of the list following normal procedure as before. In the case of time sensitive issues, the District Board will address them on a case by case basis.

### **IX. Funding Request Summary**

The Districts top priorities for NCACSP funding this year are the following BMPs:

- Critical Area Treatment
- Cropland Conversion (to grass or trees)
- Stream Protection Systems

- Animal Waste Systems

**NC ACSP**

BMP Categories	2023 BMP Needs	Dollars Requested
Agrichemical Pollution	Agrichemical Handling Fac.	\$27,500
Erosion/nutrient management	Cropland Conversion	\$13,500
Erosion/nutrient management	Critical Area Treatment	\$3,000
Erosion/nutrient management	Conservation Tillage	\$1,000
Stream Protection	Watering Tanks	\$30,000
Stream Protection	Livestock Exclusion	\$25,000
Agrichemical Pollution	Chem. / Fert. Backflow Prev.	\$1,500
Erosion/nutrient management	Sod-Based Rotation	\$500
Sediment/nutrient management	Streambank Stabilization	\$10,000
Sediment/nutrient management	Riparian Buffers	\$2,000
Sediment/nutrient management	Filter Strips	\$1,000
Sediment/nutrient management	Grassed Waterways	\$2,000
Sediment/nutrient management	Field Borders	\$1,000
Erosion/nutrient management	Diversions	\$1,000
Stream Protection	Stream Crossings	\$10,000
Stream Protection	Stock Trails	\$15,000
Stream Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection	\$10,000
Waste management	Animal Waste Closure	\$60,000
	All Other BMPs	\$3,000
	Total Regular Funds	\$217,000
	*All Animal Waste Needs	\$100,000
	Total Cost Share Request	\$317,000

\*Animal waste needs include: closure of one system, land application of animal wastes, and land application equipment, as well as, repairs to existing AWMSs and possible up-grades as needed.

**NC ACSP Impaired and Impacted**

BMP Categories	2023 BMP Needs	Dollars Requested
Agrichemical Pollution	Agrichemical Handling Fac.	\$27,500
Stream Protection	Watering Tanks	\$10,000
Stream Protection	Livestock Exclusion	\$15,000
Stream Protection	Stream Crossings	\$5,000
Stream Protection	Stock Trails	\$5,000
Stream Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection	\$2,000

<b>Total Cost Share Request</b>	<b>\$64,500</b>
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**CCAP**

Community Conservation Assistance Program Request

*Include funding needs for best management practices (by practice), administrative and technical assistance, and education and outreach.*

*Top priority for CCAP funding is Stormwater retention, Stream Stabilization, and Critical Area Treatment.*

<b>PRACTICE OR TYPE OF ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>YEAR 2023 NEEDS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Abandoned well closure	1 closure	\$1,500
Backyard rain garden	2	\$3,000
Backyard wetland	1	\$1,500
Cistern	1	\$2,000
Critical area planting	2 acres	\$7,000
Diversion	400 linear feet	\$1,500
Grassed swale	200 linear feet	\$1,000
Pet waste receptacle	5	\$2,400
Stream restoration	500 linear feet	\$26,000
Streambank and shoreline protection	500 linear feet	\$4,000
Bioretention areas	1,000 sq. feet	\$5,000
Stormwater wetlands	800 sq. feet	\$5,000
Riparian Buffer	.5ac	\$5,000
Structural stormwater conveyance	1	\$44,000
Administrative & technical assistance		\$10,000
Education & outreach		\$3,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$121,900</b>

**Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program Request**

Practice	2023 BMP Needs	Dollars Requested
Ag Ponds	1	\$25,000.00
Ag Pond Engineering	1	\$7,500.00
Ag Pond Repair/Retrofit	1	\$25,000.00
Ag Pond Repair Engineering	1	\$7,500.00
Ag Pond Sediment Removal	1	\$5,000.00
Wells with Supporting practice	1	\$15,000.00
Micro Irrigation System	1	\$5,000.00
Base Flow interceptor	1	\$5,000.00
Ag Water Collection/Reuse	1	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Cost Share Request</b>		<b>\$100,000.00</b>

**X. District BMP Certification Form**

*See Attached Form*

**XI. Technical Assistance Budget Request Summary**

The numbers for the Technical Assistance Budget Request are given below. The District has one full time Soil Conservationist, for NCACSP and AGWRAP is the equivalent of 1.0 position, which are cost shared with NCDA&CS Division of Soil and Water. All costs associated with this position are included in the request.

**REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS - 2023 PROGRAM YEAR  
BUNCOMBE COUNTY SWCD**

SOIL CONSERVATIONIST: Anthony Dowdle 100% NCACSP, AGWRAP

Item	Amount	50%
Salary	\$55,328.00	\$27,664.00
Longevity (6%)	\$3320.00	\$1,660.00
Social Security (7.65%)	\$4,487.00	\$2,243.50
Retirement	\$7,096.00	\$3,548.00
LGERS Stabil	\$393.00	\$196.50
Health Insurance	\$17,402.00	\$8,701.00
Life Insurance	\$56.00	\$28.00
401K (8.00%)	\$4426.00	\$2,213.00
Unemployment Ins.	\$21.00	\$10.50
Workers Comp. Ins.	\$296.00	\$148.00
 Equipment		
Office - Copier Rental	\$1,238.00	\$619.00
Field	\$100.00	\$50.00
Office Supplies	\$1,050.00	\$525.00
Travel & Training	\$1,000.00	\$500.00
Telephone	\$600.00	\$300.00
Postage	\$288.00	\$144.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$97,101.00</b>	<b>\$ 48,550.50</b>

**Technical Assistance Request Summary**

<b>Salary and Benefits.....</b>	<b>\$46,412.50</b>
<b>Operating.....</b>	<b>\$ 2,138.00</b>
<b>Total Request for position.....</b>	<b>\$ 48,550.50</b>

**Staff Development for District Program Implementation**

The District's staff has most of the necessary job approval authority for the priority BMPs in the NCACSP. However some additional JAA may be needed to meet the needs in the AGWRAP and CCAP programs. The District will continue to work toward increasing the JAA of District staff.

New Ponds, Pond Repair/Retrofit are BMPs that need a Division or NRCS engineer to approve. However the District staff would be interested in getting JAA for Ag Pond Sediment Removal. Until that JAA is obtained, the District intends to enlist the help of Division Engineers, Surveyors and Soil

Scientists for AgWrap BMPs such as ponds and any other BMPs where District's staff doesn't have the necessary JAA.

District's staff is developing a training plan that has been updated within the last two years. Part of that plan is to regain access to the NRCS computer system in order to begin the Certified Conservation Planner process. Most of the new training needed is to cover BMPs in the new AgWrap and CCAP programs. Any Division or NRCS offered training in the area should be attended by District staff in order to gain additional JAA. The needed JAA for nearly all priority BMPs under the NCACSP has been obtained. The assistance of a Division or NRCS engineer will be needed from time to time on BMPs that are done less frequently or require a higher degree of engineering like animal waste, ag chemical buildings, and ponds.

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District Board Chairman

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Date



## Buncombe SWCD NCACSP Ranking Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Stream: \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |   |             |     |
|---|---|-------------|-----|
| 1 | Impaired Watershed<br>Hominy Creek, Newfound Creek, Cane Creek, Swannanoa | 10 pts.     | ___ |
| 2 | Higher Quality Waters   | 6 pts.      | ___ |
| 3 | Water Supply Watershed  |             |     |
|   | 1/2 mile and draining to  | 6 pts.      | ___ |
|   | Past 1/2 mile   | 3 pts.      | ___ |
| 4 | Other Priority Watersheds<br>Flat Creek, Sandymush, N & S Turkey          | 3 pts.      | ___ |
| 5 | Distance - problem area to stream   |             |     |
|   | 0-25 feet   | 10 pts.     | ___ |
|   | 26-100 feet   | 8 pts.      | ___ |
|   | 101-500 feet  | 6 pts.      | ___ |
|   | Over 500 feet   | 4 pts.      | ___ |
| 6 | Conservation Plan   | 6 pts.      | ___ |
| 7 | High Value BMPs   | 15 pts./ea. | ___ |

Agrichemical Containment and Mixing Facility, Agrichemical Handling Facility, , Critical Area Planting, Cropland Conversion, Grassed Waterway, Heavy Use Area Protection, Livestock Exclusion, Long Term No-Till, Pasture Renovation, Riparian Buffer, Rock Lined Waterway or Outlet, Stock Trail and Walkway, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Stream Protection System, Stream Restoration, Waste Management System

8 Medium Value BMPs 10 pts./ea. \_\_\_

Diversion, Field Border, Filter Strip, Grade Stabilization Structure, Livestock Feeding Area, Nutrient Management, Portable Agrichemical Mixing Station, Precision Agrichemical Application, Precision Nutrient Management, Prescribed Grazing, Sediment Control Basin, Sod-Based Rotation, Stripcropping, Terrace, Wetlands Restoration System, 3-year Conservation Tillage System

9 Low Value BMP's 5 pts./ea. \_\_\_

Abandoned Tree Removal, Backflow Prevention System, Conservation Cover, Cover Crops, Land Smoothing, Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop, Rooftop Runoff Management System

10 Confined Animal Operation 5pts \_\_\_

11 Protected Lands Permanent Easement 3 pts. \_\_\_

EVAD 2pts \_\_\_

VAD 1pt \_\_\_

12 BMPs are part of a phased project 5 pts. \_\_\_

13 Project/BMPs on farms with AgWRAP or Stream Initiative Project 6 pts. \_\_\_

14 Limiting Factors

a. Applicant has had a contract expire (-) 10 pts. \_\_\_

b. Contract not completed (-) 10 pts. \_\_\_

15 Tie Breaker, acres affected, In ft. stream protected

ac —  
In ft. —

Total Ranking Score

**N.C. Agriculture Cost Share Evaluation Form  
 Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District  
 AgWRAP Evaluation Form**

**Buncombe County Soil & Water Conservation**

<b>Name</b> _____	<b>Soil Types</b> _____
<b>Address</b> _____ _____	<b>HU#</b> _____
<b>Phone</b> _____	<b>Community</b> _____
	<b>Affected Acres</b> _____

**AgWRAP BMPs**

Pond Repair/ Retrofit	25	_____
Agricultural Pond	20	_____
Agricultural Pond Sediment Removal	15	_____
Well	10	_____
Conservation Irrigation Conversion	6	_____
Base Flow Interceptor	12	_____
Ag Water Collection and Reuse System	4	_____
Micro Irrigation System	8	_____
Producer's Water Supply Options are Limited	10	_____
Increases Efficiency over existing System	15	_____
Supports Local Markets/Local Foods	7	_____
Increases Production and/or yield	10	_____
Pond in danger of draining	5	_____
<b>Total</b>		_____

# Buncombe County SWCD

## CCAP Evaluation/Prioritization

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Evaluation By: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner Name: \_\_\_\_\_ PIN: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe the water quality issues. Identify pollutant(s), and the severity of the problem.

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Sub-Basin: \_\_\_\_\_ HUC: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Prioritization/Scoring

1. Public and/or community benefit 20 pts. \_\_\_\_\_

2. Impaired or impacted waters 20 pts. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Water supply watershed:

A. Within 0.5 miles of the intake 20 pts. \_\_\_\_\_

B. Greater than 0.5 miles from the intake	10 pts.	_____
4. Distance to stream or stormwater drain: (From lowest point of drainage to stream or drain)		
A. 100 feet or less	20 pts.	_____
B. 100 to 500 feet	10 pts.	_____
C. Over 500 feet	5 pts.	_____
5. Direct access to groundwater (well closure)	40 pts.	_____
6. Impervious surface treated:		
A. More than 0.5 acre	20 pts.	_____
B. Less than 0.5 acre	10 pts.	_____
7. Soil loss rate:		
A. Eroding at > 2T	20 pts.	_____
B. Eroding at T to 2T	10 pts.	_____
C. Eroding at less than T	5 pts.	_____
8. BMP decreases nitrogen and phosphorous loading	(yes) 20 pts.	_____
9. Project implementation schedule:		
A. Construction start within 6 months	20 pts.	_____
B. Construction start in 6 to 12 months	10 pts.	_____
C. Construction start in more than 1 year	5 pts.	_____
10. Landowner willing to correct other water quality problems	20 pts.	_____
11. Limiting factors:		
A. Applicant has had a contract expire	(-) 20 pts.	_____
B. Active contract not completed	(-) 20 pts.	_____
12. Educational potential (landowner must agree to participate)		
A. High potential	20 pts	_____

B. Medium potential 10 pts. \_\_\_\_\_

C. Low potential 5 pts. \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's comments on priority ratings:

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# Buncombe Soil and Water District Board Meeting

*May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

NRCS Update:

## **Emergency Watershed Protection Program:**

Buncombe County has returned their signed agreement to NRCS. Initial meeting between NC NRCS SO officials and Buncombe County is forthcoming to discuss timeframe and next steps.

## **Programs Update**

### **EQIP:**

For Program Year 2022, Buncombe has a total of 25 eligible applications. These applications include pasture, crops, stream restoration and forestry practices.

	<b>EQIP</b>	<b>CSP Classic</b>		<b>CSP Renewal</b>
Application Deadline	October 29, 2021	March 11, 2022		April 15, 2022
Eligibility Determination	January 14, 2022	April 15, 2022		
Screening/Priority Deadline	January 21, 2022			
Assessment Deadline	March 11, 2022	July 1, 2022		November 12, 2021
Ranking Deadline	March 11, 2022	July 1, 2022		November 12, 2021
National & State Fund Pool Obligation Deadline	March 25, 2022			
Obligation Deadline	May 6, 2022	September 9, 2022		December 17, 2021

To date, 7 applications for funding have been preapproved for EQIP. 6 have proceed forward with contracting.

We currently have 41 active federal contracts in Buncombe County.

### **CSP:**

For FY22 program year 3 applications have been received for CSP Classic signup period.

### ***Other:***

All agency and Staff Offices have fully returned to work in the office as of May 2, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Amanda Buchanan***

***Soil Conservationist***