

**MINUTES**  
**of the**  
**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION**  
**of**  
**SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

January 5, 6, and 7, 2003  
Pinehurst, NC

The NCASWCD met for its 60<sup>th</sup> annual meeting at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Raleigh, NC, on January 4-6, 2004.

*"Partnership: The Cornerstone of Conservation Program Greatness"*

**Sunday, January 5, 2003**

*Memorial Service: 7:00 p. m.*

The convention began with a memorial service for deceased District Supervisors, led by Chaplain Willis Overby. Nineteen deceased Supervisors were recognized: Marie Smith, Burke; Troy Cook, Cabarrus; Scott Miller, Cleveland; Walter H. O'Neal, Edgecombe; Hugh Randall, Henderson; John Balfour, Hoke; Bill Griffin, Jones; Mack Gilliam, Lee; Eugene Robinson, Sr., Martin; George Blevins, Mitchell; Jean Vanhook, Nash; Paul Foster, New Hanover; J. C. Long, Northampton; Quentin Patterson, Orange; Billy Phillips, Pitt; Kay Tyson, Pitt; O. W. Weldon, Vance; Barbara Moody, Vance; Frank Jeter, Wake.

The invocation and meditation was by Chaplain Willis Overby and the memorial testimony was by President Albert Troutman. Inspirational music was provided by choir members from Page Memorial Methodist Church. Chaplain Willis Overby closed with a benediction.

**Monday, January 6, 2003**

*Supervisor's Breakfast: 7:00 a. m.*

The Supervisor's breakfast was held at 7:00 a. m. on Monday, January 6, with Second Vice President Grover McPherson as moderator. Grover McPherson introduced guests present, and Billy Wilson of the NACD spoke on the conservation movement. Area Chairs who were present were sworn in by President Troutman. The breakfast adjourned at 8:10 a. m.

*First General Session: 8:45 a. m – 11:30 p. m.*

The first General Session began at 8:45 a. m. Monday morning with President Albert Troutman as moderator. The colors were presented by members of the Pine Crest High School Junior Air Force ROTC. Following the National Anthem and pledge to the flag,

Moore County Commissioner Michael Holden welcomed the Association to Moore County. Chaplain Willis Overby delivered the invocation.

Billy Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the NASWCDs commented on the strong conservation partnership in North Carolina. He then spoke on the implications of the new Farm Bill for Conservation Districts and said that it represented the largest commitment that the citizens of this country ever made for conservation.

Meg Scott Phipps, Commissioner, NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, spoke on the threat of terrorism to NC animal agriculture. She then spoke on the on-going drought and drew parallels with the challenges of the 1930s. She also said that agriculture will increasingly have to compete with urban users for available water.

Bill Ross, Secretary of the Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, spoke on the effectiveness of the District system and expressed thanks from the Department and from Governor Easley. He spoke on fragmentation of open space, runoff as a pollution source, and the initiative "One North Carolina Naturally." He concluded his remarks by encouraging more partnerships and by quoting H. H. Bennett and Theodore Roosevelt on land conservation.

After a short break, Richard Morgan, Representative from Moore County, welcomed the Association and spoke on the quality of life in Moore County and the diversity between urban and rural areas.

Larry Wooten, President of the NC Farm Bureau, spoke on the cooperative relationship between SWCDs and the Farm Bureau, and said that the continued success of Districts is vital to the citizens of North Carolina. He also spoke on the need to be politically active and the continuing importance of agriculture to the state's economy.

Bill Holman, Executive Director, Clean Water Management Trust Fund, introduced Trust Fund Trustees and staff present complimented Districts for being effective and getting things done. He reviewed accomplishments of the CWMTF such as CREP, lagoon buyouts, buyout of trout operations, the ag sediment initiative, and grants to Districts. He looked forward to CREP on more watersheds, Farm Bill opportunities, farmland preservation, and long term contracts for conservation easements.

Mary Combs, State Conservationist, NRCS, USDA, and David Vogel, Director, DSWC, DEHNR, combined to present special recognitions to Larry Wooten, Farm Bureau, Congressman David Price, and Don Thompson, Montgomery County SWCD for their efforts before Congress to obtain earmarked money for nutrient management. Larry Wooten expressed thanks, and Chester Lowder accepted on behalf of Don Thompson who was not present. Congressman Price was unable to be present.

The morning session adjourned at 11:30 a.m. to officially open the District Expo. and Innovative Technology Fair.

Committee Meetings: 1:45 – 4:00 p. m.

The eight standing committees of the Association met in concurrent sessions Monday afternoon. The results of those committee meetings are contained in the Association Action Items.

President's Reception: 5:00 – 6:00 p. m.

Hosted by President Albert Troutman

General Assembly and Awards Program; Auxiliary Auction: 7:00 p. m.

The traditional Auxiliary Auction to raise funds for the Auxiliary Scholarship Fund was held at 7:00 p. m. with Bryan Evans as auctioneer.

The Awards Program was moderated by President Albert Troutman. Awards were presented as follows:

- (1) Length of Service Awards:
- (2) District Administrative Employee of the Year: Pamela Howard, Jones SWCD
- (3) NRCS Employee of the Year: John I. Timmons, Rockingham SWCD
- (4) Environmental Educator of the Year: Sheila Jones, Wake SWCD
- (5) NCASWCD/NRCS Earth Team Award: Caldwell SWCD
- (6) NACD-Sungenta Ag Products Conservation Education Awards:
  - District: Robeson SWCD
  - K-6: Susie Miller, Alleghany SWCD
  - 7-12: Denise Coulter, Catawba SWCD
- (7) DEA Professional Employee Award Program: (Awards presented earlier at the DEA luncheon)
  - Standard: Michael S. Ferguson
  - Associate Standard: Michael S. Ferguson
  - Professional: Michael S. Ferguson
  - Master I: Carolyn Y. Tetterton, Johnsie W. Hayes, Michael S. Ferguson
  - Master II: Jeanie P. Murdock, Barbara L. Sprouse
  - Master III: Jeanie P. Murdock, Barbara L. Sprouse

Evening Entertainment:

DJs: Robbie and Lori Farrell

**Tuesday, January 7, 2003**

General Session: 8:30 a. m.

President Albert Troutman presided. Charles Snipes gave the invocation. Cecil Settle, NCFSWCD, stated that 243 District Supervisors had participated in the first round of Supervisor training, and introduced Mitch Owens, NCSU who reported on the training. Dr.

Owens stated that about half of the participating Supervisors appeared to be extroverts and half introverts. He said that Supervisors were a very good group to work with, and that Supervisors need to spend time considering how to deal with change and to seek out innovative ways to conduct conservation programs. Cecil Settle said that the training had been well rated, and that more training is planned. He also spoke on water quality projects and the automation outreach project. Karen Kerry with the tobacco settlement program talked about the automation outreach program funded by the Tobacco Trust Fund. The purpose is to supply computers and training to Districts most impacted by nutrient management requirements.

Bill Davis, NCFSWCD, then came forward to lead the Association in recognizing and honoring Governor and Mrs. Bob Scott for their work on behalf of the Foundation and Districts. Gov. and Mrs. Scott were given a standing ovation, then Bill Davis read a resolution honoring them from the Foundation Board of Directors, and recognizing Gov. Scott as Director Emeritus.

Gov. Scott spoke of his commitment to conservation and his recovery from illness. He spoke of past accomplishments of people such as Hugh Hammond Bennett and the many changes that have taken place. He concluded his remarks by complimenting Supervisors for their dedication and thanking the Association and Foundation for their recognition.

Bruce Miller, Rowan SWCD, spoke on the achievements of the Envirothon, and thanked Steve Bennett, Sandra Weitzel, and others for their work. He presented a program on past Envirothons.

Rudy Langley, past Chairman, spoke on the accomplishments of Envirothon teams and stated that the NC program was one of the top five in the US.

The Alexander SWCD presented a resolution for a State Conservation Song. The song, "We Love Conservation", has been adopted by Area 2 and they suggested that the song be adopted statewide. The song was performed during the morning break.

Following the break, Jim Hollifield, Immediate Past President, presented the report of the Nominating Committee as follows:

Commission Seat: William Pickett, Coastal Plain, Duplin County. It was moved by Bill Craig and seconded by Sam Davis that William Pickett be elected by acclamation. The motion passed.

Slate of Officers:

President: James Mason

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Grover McPherson

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Tom Davidson

Secretary: Paul Lilly

Treasurer: Bruce Whitfield

Assistant Treasurer: C. A. Buckner

Chaplin: Willis Overby  
Assistant Chaplin: Charles Snipes

A motion was made by Claude Shew, Jr. and seconded by John Etchinson that the slate be accepted by acclamation. The motion passed.

President Albert Troutman reported on the activities of the Association. He mentioned legislative activities led by Don Thompson, the Envirothon, David O'Neal's work on the State Fair exhibit, outreach led by Jim Hollifield, 318 funding and Community Conservation, and the need for the Association to be on a sound financial footing.

James Ferguson, Chairman of the NCSWCC, spoke on change. He reviewed the accomplishments of the Commission and the need for Supervisor accountability. He spoke of changes in state leadership and less inherent sympathy for conservation by legislators. He noted the death of Bill Griffin and the retirement of Wade Carrigan, and spoke of the need to replace lost leaders. He said that "change is here and we must embrace it", and recognized an Oversight Committee (James Mason, Jim Hollifield, and Craig Frazer) charged with finding ways to return more responsibility to Districts.

David Vogel, Director, NCDSWC, spoke on the budget challenges, and work by Don Thompson and others with the legislature. Don Thompson was recognized, and thanked Supervisors, staff, and the Farm Bureau for their help in the work with legislators. David Vogel then reviewed good things happening within the Division, including innovative partnerships, help from the CWMTF, Federal earmarked funds, grants, the NCFSWCD, NACD work on the Farm Bill, Community Conservation, "One North Carolina Naturally" bond issue, and training for Supervisors.

Mary Combs, State Conservationist, NRCS-USDA, recognized NRCS employees and spoke on opportunities offered by the Farm Bill. She reviewed the purposes of the Bill and spoke of the need for Districts to be prepared to manage the provisions of the Bill. She then spoke about the P-loss prediction tool and nutrient management and concluded by thanking various members of the partnership.

Jon Ort, Director of the Cooperative Extension Service, spoke of the need to continue to build partnerships and of Extension's commitment to helping producers achieve long-term economic and environmental stability. He referred to the Multi-Agency Conservation Team and the need to address conservation issues cooperatively. As an example he cited work in Cleveland County. He closed by emphasizing economic viability, teamwork, and the inevitability of change.

John Stevenson, President of the NC District Employees Association, reviewed the activities of the Association and also emphasized working together for common goals. He mentioned that the NCDEA is now 12 years old, and has 243 members, many of whom are associate members. Accomplishments of the Association such as scholarships, outreach, and tours were reviewed, and District Staff were recognized.

Darryl Harrington, President of the SWCS, reported on the activities of the North Carolina Chapter which was chartered May 5, 1950 and renamed the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter in 2000. Activities cited included the Resource Conservation Workshop, the Sedimentation Conference, the Prime and Important Farmland Conference, scholarships, and care of the Bennett home-place in Anson County. He encouraged Supervisors and others to consider membership in the Society. The Society is still trying to establish the H. H. Bennett Center for Conservation at the State Fairgrounds. He concluded by reporting on the work done on the Expo. and the grant received from Progress Energy.

Ed Regan, Deputy Director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, was introduced by David Vogel. Mr. Regan spoke on the state budget crisis, fundamental changes in the North Carolina economy, the effects of the drought, Community Conservation, sedimentation and erosion control, storm water management, and the need for improved private land stewardship.

The morning session adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

General Session-Business Meeting: 1:45 – 4:00 p. m.

Association Vice President James Mason presided. The first report was by Wade Carrigan, retiring NACD Board Member. He spoke about the influence of the NACD and the need for the state Association to support it. He said that the drought was a wake up call concerning water use issues, and that Districts will increasingly need to rely on urban support for programs and money. He stated that it had been a pleasure for him to serve on the Board. Vice President James Mason expressed the thanks of the Association for Mr. Carrigan's service.

Betty Mathews, President of the Auxiliary, reported on the National Convention and that two grants of \$500 each had been made for 2003. She thanked those who donated items for the auction and reported that the auction raised \$810.00.

Bill Davis, Chairman, reported for the Hall of Fame Committee. He encouraged Districts to submit nominees, and reminded us that the deadline was June 3. Two nominees were selected to be inducted this year. New criteria and procedures are in place.

The rest of the General Session was devoted to reviewing the reports of the standing committees. The results of this session are reported in the Association's Program Objectives.

Banquet and Awards Program: 6:00 p. m.

President Albert Troutman presided and introduced guests at the head table. Chaplain Willis Overby gave the invocation. President Troutman then recognized guests in the audience. After dinner President Troutman presented a plaque to Wade Carrigan for Distinguished Service as Board Member from North Carolina to the NASWCD. Commission Chairman James Ferguson then presented Mr. Carrigan with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on behalf of Governor Easley. The audience honored Mr. Carrigan with a standing ovation.

Wade Carrigan then expressed thanks to the Association and to his wife, and wished the Association well.

Conservation Farm Families were recognized, with the A. H. Lee Farm, Bay River SWCD, from the Coastal Plain; Christmas Place Farm, Granville SWCD, from the Piedmont; and Buffalo Creek Dairy, Forsyth SWCD, from the Mountains. Buffalo Creek Dairy was the state winner.

Bill Davis, Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee, recognized the Committee and announced the two Supervisors inducted into the Hall of Fame this year. They were Maurice K. Berry, Sr., Elizabeth City, and Charles Pinckney Frances, Waynesville.

The evening speaker was Charles Adams, SE Regional Conservationist, NRCS-USDA. He told of his childhood and the sacrifices of his parents and stated that we were at a pivotal point in our Nation's history. He spoke of the conservation movement, 9-11, and the need for prayer. He concluded by saying that dealing with the Farm Bill will be challenging and a "defining moment" for him and for Districts.

Outgoing President Albert Troutman described the accomplishments of the Association for 2002, and thanked all who had helped him. He was honored with a standing ovation.

Outgoing President Troutman then presented the President's Award to Chester Lowder and thanked him for all his support.

Judge Jayrene Maness administered the Oath of Office to James Mason as In-coming President. Other officers had been sworn in by Judge Maness prior to the banquet.

Incoming President James Mason first recognized the accomplishments of Outgoing President Troutman and thanked him for his service. He then recognized Ginger O'Neal and Rodney Johnson for their work in making the Expo. a success, and thanked his fellow Supervisors. President Mason then spoke on the impact of politics and environmental regulation on agriculture. He spoke on locally led conservation, legislative initiatives, strengthening the partnerships, and called on Supervisors to be visionaries. He concluded by saying, "the Association needs to be in the lead in conservation in making North Carolina a better place to live."

Betty Matthews announced that the winner of the quilt drawing was Pat Martin, and the NCDEA announced the winners of their raffle.

The meeting was adjourned by President James Mason

Minutes by Paul Lilly, Secretary