

CHATHAM COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWSLETTER FALL 2019

District Supervisors:

J. Lynn Mann, Chairman
Johnny Glosson, Vice-Chairman
Richard Hayes, Secretary/Treasurer
Keith Stanley, Member
R. Edward McLaurin, Member
Mike Sturdivant, Associate Member

District Staff:

Susannah Goldston, Environmental Specialist; DH
Brenda Williams, District Administrator, Education
Kyle Watkins, Soil Conservation Specialist
Janine Loyd, Conservation Technician
Themis Stone, NRCS Soil Conservationist
Diana R. Irizarry, NRCS Supervisor Soil Conservationist



More New Faces

Susannah Goldston (left) has been promoted to Environmental Specialist and Department Head.

We welcome Kyle Watkins (right) to our team as Soil Conservation Specialist.

Congratulations to both of these talented folks.

Janine Loyd, is working part time paid by a grant through the State SWCD as a Conservation Technician.

We are located in the new Ag & Conference Center at 1192 US 64 West Business in Pittsboro on west side entrance.

Phone number is 919-542-8240



2019 SWCD Accomplishments, Highlights, Honors and Awards

Staff highlights include the retirement of Department Head / Environmental Specialist Henry Outz at the end of 2018. Henry had over 30 years with Chatham Soil & Water Conservation Specialist.



Soil Conservation Specialist Susannah Goldston was promoted to Department Head / Environmental Specialist and Kyle Watkins joined the department as Soil Conservation Specialist from Lincoln SWCD.



Technical and program assistance to agricultural operations included assisting eleven Chatham County Animal Feeding Operations under NC DEQ General Permits to renew their 5-year permits this spring. Additionally, there were eight applications to the NC Agricultural Cost Share Program (ACSP) in program year 2019 and \$210,271 encumbered to contracts in active program years.



There was one applications to the NC Agricultural Water Resources Assistance (AgWRAP) in program year 2019 and \$58,571 encumbered to contracts in active program years. There were nine federal USDA NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contracts written and \$180,860 of funding for installed BMPs on Chatham agricultural operations

SWCD staff assisted agricultural operations affected by Hurricane Florence and Michael. Assistance was provided to farmers making claims of crop losses to the NCDA. Agricultural operations in Chatham have so far received \$380,795.60 in crop loss recovery assistance. Additionally, through the NC Division of Soil & Water, \$69,229 in NC Disaster Recovery funds were allocated to Chatham SWCD for Pasture Renovation and Agricultural Road Repairs. Ten applications were made to our office for that assistance.



Partnerships with Loves Creek Watershed Stewards, the Town of Siler City and Piedmont Conservation, included providing technical assistance on the Boling Lane Park Restoration project that was completed whereby two stormwater wetland areas were constructed and riparian buffer planted to reduce the water quality impacts of urban stormwater runoff into the Loves Creek tributary. Over \$45,000 in grant funding targeting water quality improvements was put on the ground last year. Partners applied for additional grant funding of over \$300,000 to address water quality restoration projects to impaired/impacted Loves Creek Tributary to Rocky River.



Before picture of park.



Park before, erosion with each rain..



Park showing controlled wetland after implementation.



Green lush after water control structures with erosion halted.

Ashley Allushuski's Essay for Resource Conservation Workshop Recipient

Ashley Allushuski, "My love for the environment began with my backyard. I take long walks through the forested areas behind my house, captivated by nature's beauties and wonders. This love for the natural world compelled me to volunteer in my community by taking part in the pollinator garden at my school as well as in activities such as the Haw River Clean Up and Follow That Drop summer program through UNC. I have also actively participated in my schools Envirothon Club for the last five years. In May, my team placed second at the State Envirothon competition. Over the last four years, my team has placed in the top three teams for this event. These programs not only deepened my appreciation for the natural world, but also taught me what steps I can take to preserve and conserve the earth. In this Resource Conservation Workshop, I hope to broaden my knowledge of the environmental sciences and expand my understanding for the management of our resources on a small and larger scale."

IN THE NEWS

- ∞ We are currently taking applications for Best Management Practices on your farm. Inquire to see if you qualify.
- ∞ The No till drill is available for rent and has been revamped to almost new. Call to get on the calendar today.
- ∞ Educational Contest are now open for grades 3-8. See our webpage for details or contact Brenda Williams at brenda.williams@chathamnc.org or call the office at 919-545-8440



The Natural Resource Conservation Service and Chatham Soil and Water Conservation District policy is to treat all customers and employees equitably regardless of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and expression), religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status, parental status, and protected genetic information. It is also our policy that customers and employees be free from reprisal or harassment in the pursuit of fairness and equal employment opportunities.