



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD)
2020 Hampton Street, Room 3063A
Columbia, SC 29204
(803) 576-2080 - Fax (803) 576-2088
www.richlandcountysc.gov/rswcd • soilandwater@richlandcountysc.gov

June 13, 2022 • 6pm
 American Legion Post 6 • 200 Pickens St. • Columbia, SC 29205

Commissioners Present

Kenny Mullis, Chair
 Jeff Laney, Vice Chair
 Jim Rhodes, Secretary/Treasurer
 Mary Burts

Associate Commissioners Present

Mary Frances Hendrix
 Charles Weber

Others Present

Tyler Brown
 Chanda Cooper
 Aric Jensen
 Mary Hannah Lindsay
 John McKenzie
 Robert Reese

Welcome and Call to Order: Mullis called the meeting to order at 6:02pm and gave the invocation.

Approve Agenda and Minutes: Rhodes moved to approve the agenda as presented; Laney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Rhodes moved to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2022 meeting as presented; Laney seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Financial Report: Rhodes reported the following:

Operating Account (5/31/22 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$46,482.71 (5/1/22)
- Deposits and Credits: \$0.00
- Expenses and Debits: \$3,640.37
- Ending Balance: 42,842.34 (5/31/22)

Credit Card (6/5/22 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$507.73 (5/5/22)
- Payments: \$507.73
- Purchases: \$3,989.97

- Ending Balance: \$3,989.97 (6/5/22) <paid in full 6/13/22

Easement Stewardship Account (5/31/22 Statement)

- Starting Account Value: \$53,603.21 (5/1/22)
- Ending Account Value: \$54,143.01 (5/31/22)

SCACD Contribution Agreement Account (5/31/22 Statement)

- Starting Balance: \$252.51 (5/1/22)
- Ending Balance: \$252.51 (5/31/22)

PayPal Account (6/13/22 Statement)

- Current Balance: \$0.00 (6/13/22)

Friends of RSWCD Report: Laney reported no new Friends have joined since the last RSWCD board meeting on May 9. There are 36 current Friends.

Pinewood Lake Park Pollinator Garden: The Park was an Ag & Art Tour site; attendance was fairly low. Quinton Epps helped set up the irrigation system.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS): No report was available.

SC Department of Natural Resources (DNR):

- Brown announced Mullis has been selected to the Southeastern National Association of Conservation Districts (SENACD) Hall of Fame and will be recognized during the SENACD conference in Puerto Rico in July.
- The State Senate has recommended fully funding the conservation districts budget request, which will add two staff positions to SCDNR to provide regional support for conservation districts and will increase each county's conservation district funding from \$15K to \$25K/year. The General Assembly will take up the issue on Wednesday and is not expected to make any changes. The Governor could still issue a line item veto.

Richland County Conservation Commission (RCCC): Weber reported the RCCC's current grant cycle is closing and the new grant cycle is kicking off. Richland County Council has approved its FY23 budget.

Education:

- Pop-Up Seed Sanctuary events were provided at Lake Carolina Elementary Upper School and Blythewood Middle School during the weeks of May 16 and 23. The PTO president of these schools sent a thank-you note to Friend of RSWCD Charter Next Generation for their support of RSWCD programming in the Blythewood area.
- Pop-Up events were also provided at Fox Hideaway Farm in Eastover (Armed Forces Appreciation Day) and Doko Farm in Blythewood (Ag & Art Tour). The Seed Sanctuary is now between seasons and will resume later this summer.
- RSWCD received more than 100 poster contest entries and recognized 20 winners at nine schools. The 2023 poster contest theme is "One Water."
- RSWCD's Mailchimp e-newsletter subscribers has jumped to 3,450 due to sign-ups at Seed Sanctuary events.

- The following branded marketing materials are now available: t-shirts for volunteers, pencils, rain gauges, vegetable peelers/scrubbers, cutlery sets, and reusable bags. Staff would like to order hats in FY23 and requested feedback on whether commissioners would prefer trucker hats or cloth hats. Commissioners requested both in the color khaki, and Hendrix and McKenzie provided local embroiderer recommendations.
- RSWCD partnered with the Carolina Farm Stewardship Association to host a Farmer Resources Workshop in Hopkins; 34 people attended. The workshop is being replicated across the state.
- Staff have mentored Green Steps Schools projects at two schools in the past month.
- Staff helped host an SC Conservation District Employees Association Training on grant-writing.
- Staff hosted the quarterly Midlands Local Food Collaborative (MLFC) meeting; MLFC is still considering a merger with Growing Local SC and/or Sustainable Midlands.
- RSWCD's Adopt-A-Stream kit is being used by three community volunteers each month.
- Fifteen people participated in the Richland County Local Work Group Meeting on June 2.
- Cooper co-chaired the 2022 Environmental Education Association of SC's 2022 conference in Aiken, SC; more than 70 educators attended the event. EEASC has hired a part-time executive director, Keith Willoughby. EEASC raised \$9,021 (well above its goal of \$7K) in its spring fundraiser. EEASC also received a grant from SEEA for \$6,500 to implement recommendations from the Landscape Analysis.
- Cooper was recognized as 2022 Environmental Educator of the Year.

Advocacy: RSWCD commissioners have assisted with promoting the SCDNR state budget request.

SCACD Policy/Position Statements: The group reviewed the SCACD's 2021 Envirothon Committee; Forestry, Wildlife and Recreation Committee; and Land Use, Water Quality and Research Committee Policy/Position Statements for three reasons: (1) to increase familiarity with the state recommendations; (2) to note anything RSWCD should add or improve in its work plan; and (3) to note anything RSWCD would like to recommend to SCACD.

Weber recommended RSWCD incentivize Envirothon coaches by providing an honorarium or stipend, possibly in the amount of \$500/each. Cooper will add this to the proposed FY23 budget for consideration. Cooper will also confirm with the state steering committee whether teams can be created by non-school entities such as 4H clubs, scout groups, or community programs.

RCCC will revisit its forest management plan.

Laney requested additional information on feral swine trap lease programs, which SCACD recommends soil and water conservation districts develop. Cooper will seek recommendations or a guest presentation from other districts who have successful programs. She will also request an update on feral swine control at Congaree National Park. Several questions arose about use of the meat and disposal of carcasses.

Local Work Group Meeting Report: Rhodes moved to approve the Richland County Local Work Group Meeting Report (Attachment A) and Priority Concerns (Attachment B) from the June 2, 2022 Local Work Group Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Burts and was unanimously approved. The approved reports will be provided to SCDNR and NRCS.

Public Input: NA

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held one week early, on August 1, 2022, at 6pm. Rhodes moved to return to the Lizard's Thicket on Forest Drive as a permanent meeting location and to hold a November/December holiday meeting at Travinia's Wine Room. The meeting was seconded by Laney and was unanimously approved.

RSWCD plans to co-host a Holiday Drop-In with the RCCC.

The RSWCD Finance Committee will meet on July 11, 2022 at 2pm.

Adjournment: Rhodes moved to adjourn the meeting at at 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenny Mullis, Chair

Chanda L. Cooper, Conservation Education Analyst

Attachment A: 2022 Richland County Local Work Group Final Report



Richland Soil and Water Conservation District

(803) 576-2084 - Fax (803) 576-2088

soilandwater@richlandcountysc.gov

2022 Richland County Local Work Group Meeting Report
June 2, 2022 • Clemson Sandhill Research and Education Center

Attendees: Kenny Mullis, Quinton Epps, Chanda Cooper, Mary Hannah Lindsay, Emily Bonilla-Gonzalez, Mary Dixon, Cassandra Fralix, Madison Graham, Charly Greenthaler, W Cory Heaton, Gabriel Kenne, Dan Peeples, Beau Sorenson, Chenille Williams, Otha Dillihay

Mullis welcomed attendees and facilitated introductions. He explained the purpose of the meeting was to prioritize local natural resource concerns in each of four land use categories (forestland, cropland, pastureland, and agricultural waste) for FY2023 Farm Bill Programs. Meeting participants identified and prioritized the following resource concerns:

Forestland

Ranking	Score	Resource Concern
1	19	#41 – Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
2	18	#1 – Sheet and rill erosion
3	12	#5 – Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels
4	10	#10 – Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
5	10	#42 – Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
6	4	#38 – Plant structure and composition
7	4	#40 – Wildfire hazard
8	1	#30 – Sediment transported to surface water
9	1	#37 – Plant productivity and health
10	0	#11 – Aggregate instability
11	0	#12 – Ponding and flooding
12	0	#20 – Nutrients transported to surface water
13	0	#22 – Pesticides transported to surface water
14	0	#28 – Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
15	0	#33 – Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)

Participants requested information about the number of trees harvested vs. planted in Richland County.

Cropland

Ranking	Score	Resource Concern
----------------	--------------	-------------------------

1	23	#8 – Organic matter depletion
2	23	#1 – Sheet and rill erosion
3	13	#41 – Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
4	8	#22 – Pesticides transported to surface water
5	7	#37 – Plant productivity and health
6	4	#7 – Compaction
7	4	#10 – Soil organism habitat loss
8	2	#47 – Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations
9	0	#33 – Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)
10	0	#19 – Inefficient irrigation water use
11	0	#20 – Nutrients transported to surface water
12	0	#24 – Pathogens transported to surface water
13	0	#42 – Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
14	0	#46 – Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities

Participants also discussed concerns related to farmer mental health, farm profitability and sustainability, farm livelihoods, and farmer retention.

Pastureland

Ranking	Score	Resource Concern
1	22	#8 – Organic matter depletion
2	12	#41 – Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
3	12	#4 – Classic gully erosion
4	10	#43 – Feed and forage imbalance
5	9	#5 – Bank erosion from streams, shrelines, or water conveyance channels
6	5	#7 – Compaction
7	5	#45 – Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution
8	4	#20 – Nutrients transported to surface water
9	3	#24 – Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water
10	3	#38 – Plant structure and composition
11	1	#42 – Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
12	0	#22 – Pesticides transported to surface water
13	0	#30 – Sediment transported to surface water
14	0	#37 – Plant productivity and health
15	0	#39 – Plant pest pressure
16	0	#44 – Inadequate livestock shelter

Agricultural Waste

Ranking	Score	Resource Concern
1	27	#20 – Nutrients transported to surface water
2	18	#24 – Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water
3	11	#7 – Compaction

4	11	#35 – Objectionable odors
5	6	#32 – Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
6	4	#46 – Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
7	3	#25 – Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater
8	2	#47 – Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations
9	2	#42 – Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms

A preliminary report of these priorities will be presented to the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District (RSWCD) board at its June 13, 2022 meeting. The meeting will be held at 6pm at American Legion Post 6, 200 Pickens St., Columbia, SC and is open to the public. Once approved by the RSWCD board, the preliminary report will be submitted to the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and the US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service. SCDNR will compile the reports of the 46 counties into a single statewide report, which will be provided to state leadership and distributed back to local SWCDs by the end of November.

Attachment B: 2022 Richland County Local Work Group Priority Concerns

2021 LOCAL WORK GROUP - Review the list of available NRCS resource concerns and choose your top 3 for each landuse at the bottom of page two.

Categories	NRCS Resource Concerns
Soil	1. Sheet and rill erosion
	2. Wind erosion
	3. Ephemeral gully erosion
	4. Classic gully erosion
	5. Bank erosion from streams, shorelines, or water conveyance channels
	6. Subsidence
	7. Compaction
	8. Organic matter depletion
	9. Concentration of salts or other chemicals
	10. Soil organism habitat loss or degradation
	11. Aggregate instability
Water	12. Ponding and flooding
	13. Seasonal high water table
	14. Seeps
	15. Drifted snow
	16. Surface water depletion
	17. Groundwater depletion
	18. Naturally available moisture use
	19. Inefficient irrigation water use
	20. Nutrients transported to surface water
	21. Nutrients transported to groundwater
	22. Pesticides transported to surface water
	23. Pesticides transported to groundwater
	24. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to surface water
	25. Pathogens and chemicals from manure, biosolids, or compost applications transported to groundwater
	26. Salts transported to surface water
	27. Salts transported to groundwater

Water (cont'd)	28. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to surface water
	29. Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to groundwater
	30. Sediment transported to surface water
	31. Elevated water temperature
Air	32. Emissions of particulate matter (PM) and PM precursors
	33. Emissions of greenhouse gasses (GHGs)
	34. Emissions of ozone precursors
	35. Objectionable odors
	36. Emissions of airborne reactive nitrogen
Plants	37. Plant productivity and health
	38. Plant structure and composition
	39. Plant pest pressure
	40. Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation
Animals	41. Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
	42. Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
	43. Feed and forage imbalance
	44. Inadequate livestock shelter
	45. Inadequate livestock water quantity, quality, and distribution
Energy	46. Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities
	47. Energy efficiency of farming/ranching practices and field operations

From the list above, select the top 3 natural resource concerns (RC) you feel need to be addressed. Number 1 being the most important issue. Only enter the number of the RC (1-47).

Ranking	Forest	Crop	Pasture	Ag Waste
1st	41	8	8	20
2nd	1	1	41	24
3rd	5	41	4	7

Select County:

Richland