

Exhibit D

Soil and Water Conservation Districts-September 2017 Monthly Report Examples

Statewide Projects

DNR staff participated in the Annual Meeting of the **National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA)**. Marc Cribb serves as NASCA President and Chris Workman made presentations at the field staff sessions on 2 unique projects in South Carolina. This meeting was held in conjunction with the **National Watershed Coalition** and was attended by state conservation agency managers and watershed managers from around the country. Staff met with the SC Association of Conservation Districts Executive Committee. Staff participated in the East Piedmont Area Conservation Districts meeting, hosted by the **Lancaster District**. The meeting was held at the Haile Gold Mine and featured a tour of the mine. DNR's Lorianne Riggins spoke on DNR's mitigation and protection of threatened and endangered species. Staff participated in the Edisto-Savannah Valley Area Conservation Districts meeting, hosted by the **Aiken District** and the Pee Dee Area hosted by the **Horry District**. Staff participated on the Annual State Meeting of the SC District Employees' Association.

Technical

DNR staff completed highly erodible land determinations in **Aiken, Greenville, Spartanburg, Edgefield, and Cherokee Districts**; provided assistance on multiple Farm Bill contracts in **Greenville District**. Provided a new **Saluda District** landowner with assistance and information on Farm Bill programs and the application process. Contacted and scheduled producers for on Farm Energy Assessments and performed Energy Audits in **Orangeburg District**. Staff performed easement inspections in **Abbeville, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Fairfield, Georgetown, and Sumter Districts**. Staff participated in the Annual Exotic Pest Plant Council meeting. Staff certified Best Management Practices in **Aiken and Lexington Districts** and performed a spot check on a Wetlands Reserve Program site in **Orangeburg District**. Staff continue to work on high tunnel housing in **Dorchester, Hampton, Orangeburg and Clarendon Districts**. Staff assisted NRCS and met with producers to discuss invasive weed control efforts on their land. Prepared sod samples for the rainfall simulator demonstration at the **Greenville District's** exhibit for goat and sheep workshop and prepared root boxes with winter cover crops for future rainfall simulator demonstrations.

Outreach

DNR staff participated in events in the **Aiken, Lancaster, Greenville, and Horry Districts**.

Conservation Districts

Aiken District hosted the Edisto-Savannah Valley Area Conservation Districts Meeting. Representatives and staff from six Edisto-Savannah Valley Area districts, NRCS partners, and SCACD representatives toured Walther Farms in Windsor, SC and learned of SCACD and NACD updates. The Aiken Board of Commissioners presented Jeremy Walther and his team with an award to recognize their outstanding commitment to soil and water conservation during

the meeting. District staff and SCDNR staff made a presentation about soil health and quality to 50 college students at Piedmont Technical College. District staff along with Greenville District staff coordinated the SC Conservation District Employee Association Annual training in Greenville. The district employees learned of several free and low-cost educational resources available to conservation district employees. Attendees also enjoyed an eco-tour at Lake Jocassee and received updates from our partners at the partnership dinner. District staff assisted in the processing of EQIP Farm Bill applications and scheduled field visits. Staff also assisted in the processing of payments, mailing out customer folders, and mailing out annual letters.

Bamberg District hosted its annual Local Work Group Meeting to set local resource priorities for USDA Farm Bill programs. There were some great suggestions brought to the table.

Beaufort District worked with Jasper District to host the Local Work Group Meeting to set the Farm Bill resource concerns and priorities for the counties. The meeting was held at the Blue Heron Nature Center. Trail coordinators and staff have been working with several partners to apply for a SCPRT grant to build a kayak launch at the Whale Branch Fishing Pier. This is the fourth kayak trail for Beaufort Blueways. It has been mapped with GPS coordinates and helpful hints are posted on line at <http://beaufortblueways.info/WhaleBranch.html>. Educators are meeting with teachers and arranging programming for the school year and presented 4 soil tunnel programs.

Berkeley District is working with County officials to compose a draft of Community Wildfire Protection Plan. District is working with NRCS and County officials in fulfilling an Emergency Watershed Program contract to help with damage from the 2015 flooding in several areas of the county. Staff and Commissioners seeking to further a habitat restoration project by looking for partners and funding through grants. Monthly **berkeleybees** meeting was held with the subject of “robbing behaviors in honeybees.” Staff conducted two community education programs on honeybees and pollination. Staff and Commissioners working on application for one of our Blueways paddling trails to be listed on the National Trail Designation. Associate Commissioner attended several festivals, along with other outreach events to promote the Berkeley Blueways Paddling Trails. Staff attended a Healthy Pond Seminar hosted by Clemson Extension. The district’s Feral Hog Project in conjunction with APHIS and Farm Bureau has started and we have 4 landowners currently on the list for service for trapping of hogs on their property. Berkeley District hosted the Local Work Group meeting with NRCS for local farmers, landowners and stakeholders to voice their needs from the District and NRCS and Farm Bill for financial and technical assistance. Staff working on fall newsletter.

Charleston District is planning a Soil Health Day Workshop. The district will partner this event with Clemson Extension and the Beginning Farmer Program. The district is also planning outreach programs for Arbor Day to be held in December. The District has sponsored 3 Pet Waste Dispensers to promote and support “Keep Charleston Beautiful.”

Cherokee District has been busy getting rental equipment ready for the planting season. Thorough maintenance and parts replacement has been completed on the equipment. The District, in conjunction with Thicketty Creek Watershed District has been working to identify the inundation areas and completing emergency action plans for the 6 watershed dams in

the county. DHEC completed inspections on the dams in early September. Chairman Sarratt, Commissioner Gettys, Commissioner Jane Waters, District Coordinator Allen, and District Conservationist Barrington attended the East Piedmont Area Meeting. Karen Allen attended the SCCDEA meeting in Greenville.

Chesterfield District, cooperating with the Sandhill's Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership, received confirmation of their fifth grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to assist landowners establish and maintain longleaf pines. Since 2010, the District has assisted NRCS and the Sandhill's Longleaf Pine Conservation Partnership establish over 15,000 acres of longleaf on private lands. The program is supported with Farm Bill funding. The District and Partnership are now focusing on education and promoting the use of prescribed fire as a management tool for landowners. The District has made prescribed fire possible for many landowners by its purchase of equipment needed to safely apply fire. This equipment is made available to landowners who wish to burn their own property.

Clarendon District staff visited all the schools in Clarendon County to promote the education programs for this school year (contests, Envirothon, Youth Commissioners, scholarships). The District has assisted NRCS with obligating 2017 Farm Bill program contracts. The District also inspected the Pocotaligo Channel to ensure proper maintenance. District staff attended the SCCDEA training. The district employees and Commissioner Richburg attended the Pee Dee area meeting. The District has partnered with NRCS in conducting a 3 year study on the effects of cover crop and soil biology. Clarendon County Council signed a Prescribe Burning Resolution.

Colleton District printed fliers for the Annual Conservation Poster and Essay Contests. The topic for both contest is "Watersheds - Our Water, Our Home". Rev. Gerald Mabry attended the Edisto/Savannah Area Meeting at Walther Farms. Commissioner I.M. Benton attended a Cattleman's Meeting and a Young Farmers Meeting.

Darlington District is currently organizing a Project Wet Training Class. The training will be for Darlington County Teachers so they can earn Continuing Education Credits. . The class will be held at Ka.mia Gardens with Duke Progress Energy funding the costs of the training manuals. The District will provide funds for the teaching tools/goodie bags for the attendees. District staff continues to provide Farm Bill program assistance.

Dorchester District held a Local Work Group meeting held annually to discuss Farm Bill resource concerns within the county. The District held its monthly regular business meeting right after the local work group. Clemson agent Jacqueline Forsyth with the Forestry and Clemson agent Parker Johnson attended the meeting along with Clemson row crop agent Jonathan Croft. The District has kicked off its yearly photo contest with all letters and info being mailed to the public and private schools in our county.

Edgefield and Aiken Districts are working with the City of Aiken and other partners on a water quality grant to address non-point source pollution in the Shaw's Creek watershed. This grant will be addressing water quality and agricultural runoff in the 54,297 acre watershed that encompasses portions of Edgefield and Aiken Counties. Shaw's Creek is the primary source

water for one of the City of Aiken's water treatment plant. Edgefield District staff have assisted with Farm Bill programs measuring firebreaks, water bars, and field status reviews.

Fairfield District's NACD dues for 2017-18 have been paid. Information and reminders sent out to local schools regarding the Annual Photo Contest which runs from April 2017-April 2018. No-till drill has been in great demand the last few weeks. Continue to partner with NRCS regarding sign-ups for the Farm Bill conservation programs. NRCS personnel is meeting with landowners in the district office providing technical assistance.

Georgetown District met with the new FFA teacher, Cody Floyd, at Georgetown High School and provided him with educational material. The District sponsored Andrews High School student, Lane Phillips, to attend the Aim-At-Ag Competition at the Back Woods Quail Club. The District also sponsored ten FFA students from Carver's Bay High School to attend a Chapter Officer Workshop at the Florence Recreation Center. Commissioners and staff attended the Pee Dee Area Meeting and tour of the L. W. Paul Living History Farm in Conway. Staff provided Farm Bill assistance to landowners.

Greenville District taught at two Project WET workshops in September. One was at Sandhill for all state 4H coordinators and 32 attended and the other was at Winthrop University. The Greenville District delivered books and introduced them to the program with a few activities. Staff continues to work on the Reedy River Water Quality Group (RRWQG) Public Outreach Committee, updating the RRWQG website and Facebook, meeting with the Public Outreach committee and interfacing with the other committees and the public. Greenville staff helped host the South Carolina Conservation District Employees Association meeting. There was a Partnership meeting during the conference attended by Kenny Mullis, President of SCACD, Marc Cribb and Chris Workman of DNR. Staff attended the South Carolina Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition Board meeting in Blackville. Staff also ran the rainfall simulator and spoke about cover crops to the Southeast Goat and Sheep Symposium. The District Engineer worked on survey and design of a trout habitat project with NRCS in the Middle Saluda River. Staff continues to provide technical support on stormwater problems to County residents.

Horry District held a meeting to publicly announce the Little Pee Dee - Chinners Creek 319 grant that will help improve water quality along the Little Pee Dee River watershed. This meeting was well attended by local septic tank installers, DHEC personnel, and the local media. For more information read the article found in the local paper the Horry Independent https://www.myhorrynews.com/news/new-grant-helps-landowners-improve-water-quality/article_d4789fa4-9fe0-11e7-870d-5b2c7de59c9a.html. The Horry County Local Workgroup meeting was held to discuss the natural resources issues in our county and to determine Farm Bill program priorities. Horry District hosted the Pee Dee Area Meeting and the meeting started with a tour of the LW Paul Living History Farm in Conway. The tour moved to the Johnny Shelley Agricultural Facility where State Representative Jeff Johnson updated the group on farm issues, SCACD President Mullins updated on SCACD, ending with DNR and NRCS representatives giving updates from the field. The District also is working to extend their USDA-NRCS grant for Cover Crop education and demonstrations and the USDA-NRCS contribution agreement to provide Farm Bill assistance. Planning is underway for the 40th Horry County Awards Banquet, 2018 Essay Contest, as well as assist in county storm water projects and customer service to land users around our county.

At the Blue Heron Nature Center, the **Jasper District** hosted a meeting of the Jasper County Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee Public Meeting with 47 attendees. This meeting was for the public to express their concerns /suggestions for the growth of Jasper County. The public expressed their concerns of our natural resources and land use. The Local Work Group of Beaufort/Jasper Conservation Districts annual meeting focused on significant factors of determining how Farm Bill funds will be distributed to applicants in the Salkehatchie Watershed. The Jasper Farm Bureau held their annual meeting at the Nature Center. The Jasper County Chamber of Commerce awarded our Director, Lyn Tindal and the Jasper District with the Business Education Partner of the Year award. Tindal also partnered with Jasper County Schools for the District as a Stakeholder for the District to offer in class programs, field trips and recycling programs.

Lee District helped install a high tunnel greenhouse for a local farmer. The district completed the annual budget and during the board meeting, discussed ways to pursue more funding, as well as what other district employees received in ways of benefits. District employee Megan Skinner will attend the Soil Health Field Day in Richland. The district continues to work closely with NRCS on contracting and ongoing projects.

Lexington District Manager Oxner met with teachers and maintenance personnel to spot the location of the Observation Bee Hive to be placed at Irmo High School. Oxner conducted a rain barrel workshop for the community, there were ten participants at Gibson Park in Lexington. Commissioners Nates and Padgett, Manager Oxner and Administrative Assistant Blum attended the East Piedmont Area meeting and toured the OceanaGold/Haile Operation in Kershaw. Lexington Commissioners discussed the SC Conservation Bank and its future funding. The district supports the Bank and its role in land protection around the state. NRCS District Conservationist Rafael Mendez presented the 2018 Farm Bill Local Work Group Resource Concerns for animal waste, cropland, forestland, and pastureland. Oxner attended the State Beekeepers Association Meeting, SC Fertilizer and AgChem meeting, DHEC meeting for the Western Capacity Water Area, and weekly Lexington County Department Head meetings.

McCormick District is working on an appreciation dinner to be held October 5 and is also working with Clemson Extension on Farm City Day to be held October 10 for 3rd grade students and it will be held at John DelaHowe School.

Oconee District closed on another conservation easement of 95 acres protecting prime and statewide soils within a natural belt of some of the best soils in the state. This project continues to encourage landowners to preserve our best working soils in the county. The District donated two rain barrels to the Oconee Cultivation Project, a soil to table educational program teaching high school students seed to harvest farming techniques and self-sustainability. The district manager presented a series called Environment and Health to 9th grade health classes. The intent was to link environment and health and show how one's health can be improved by a healthy environment and the steps necessary to implement a clean environmental mindset. District personnel have helped Clemson Extension prepare for the upcoming South Carolina Heritage Fair. This fair intends to be the classic event with farm and live animal displays and judging; food contests, and agricultural education.

Richland District conducted ten forestry and soil science class presentations for 181 students at four schools and hosted a conservation education exhibit at the Summer Celebration of Water. The District partnered with USDA-NRCS to host a Farm Bill Local Work Group meeting. One livestock farmer committed to participate in the Twenty-five Mile Creek Watershed 319 program by installing stream exclusion fencing, alternate water sources, and cross fencing for rotational grazing. Staff and commissioners participated in the SCACD East Piedmont Regional Meeting, SCCDEA Employee Workshop, SC Forage and Grazing Lands Coalition board meeting, Environmental Education Association of SC board meeting, and SC Green Steps Schools Training. Staff provided technical assistance for an erosion issue at one school.

Spartanburg District staff completed the fall issue of the *Conservation Chronicle* Newsletter. Landowners are renting the district's no-till drill for fall planting. The district supplied plants and soil for a butterfly and pollinator garden at Campobello Gramling School. Under the EQIP Farm Bill Program, 469 acres are under contract in 2017 to address forestry, cropland, and pastureland conservation. Eleven Farm Bill Conservation Stewardship Program contracts have been completed by NRCS. DNR's Drew Williams is assisting with Highly Erodible Land determinations.

York District Commissioners Senn, Copeland and Palmer attended the East Piedmont tour and dinner and Coordinator O'Connell attended the SCCDEA conference in Greenville. Senn, Palmer and O'Connell attended meetings of the Agri-Tourism committee investigating the possibility of establishing a facility in York County. Coordinator O'Connell conducted the September lesson in the school garden series for 18 classes of first graders. Preparations have begun for the District's annual legislative dinner held in partnership with York County Farm Bureau, scheduled for October 12.