

# **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

BETWEEN

**The North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission**

AND

**Lincoln County**

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT is entered into between the **North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission** (hereinafter, "Commission") and Lincoln County (hereinafter, "**Local Government**," collectively, "Parties") for the purpose of clarifying their roles in the enforcement of the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973, N.C. Gen. Stat. Ch. 113A Art. 4 and any rules adopted pursuant to the Act (hereinafter collectively, "SPCA.")

## **Part I. Local Program Creation.**

### **A. Model Ordinance**

The Parties agree that the Commission shall do the following:

1. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113A-54 (d) (1), provide a model erosion and sedimentation control ordinance (hereinafter, "model ordinance") for adoption by local governments who wish to operate a delegated local erosion and sedimentation control program (hereinafter, "local program.")
2. Update its model ordinance upon changes in the SPCA.

### **B. Proposed Ordinance Review**

The Parties agree that:

1. Local governments who choose to create and operate a local program may do so by ordinance (hereinafter, "local program ordinance".) However, the local government must submit the proposed local program ordinance to the Commission for review prior to adoption.
2. North Carolina General Statute § 113A-60(b) requires the Commission to review, approve, approve as modified, or disapprove proposed local program ordinances based upon the minimum requirements of the SPCA.
3. The Commission shall review a local program ordinance submitted and, within 90 days of receipt thereof, shall notify the local government submitting the program that it has been approved, approved with modifications, or disapproved.
4. The local program's erosion and sedimentation control standards must equal or exceed those of the SPCA.
5. The Local Government has an existing local program and an ordinance approved by the Sedimentation Control Commission.

## **Part II. Responsibilities and Expectations of the Commission.**

### **A. Local Program Review**

The Parties agree that the Commission shall do the following:

1. Review periodically approved local programs for compliance with the SPCA. The results of the reviews shall be presented at the next quarterly meeting of the Commission.
2. If the Commission determines that any local government is failing to administer or enforce an approved erosion and sedimentation control program, it shall notify the local government in writing and shall specify the deficiencies of administration and enforcement.
3. If the local government has not taken corrective action within 30 days of receipt of notification from the Commission, the Commission shall assume administration and enforcement of the program until such time as the local government indicates its willingness and ability to resume administration and enforcement of the program.

### **B. Training and Education for Local Programs**

The Parties agree that the Commission shall provide the following:

1. Educational programs in erosion and sedimentation control directed toward persons engaged in land-disturbing activities, general educational materials on erosion and sedimentation control, and instructional materials for persons involved in the enforcement of the SPCA and erosion and sedimentation control rules, ordinances, regulations, and plans.
2. Manuals and publications to assist in the design, construction and inspection of erosion and sedimentation control measures.
3. Periodic reviews of local erosion and sedimentation control programs and through the reviews provide recommendations to improve program administration.
4. Technical assistance in review of draft erosion and sedimentation control plans for complex activities.

### **C. Concurrent Jurisdiction**

The Parties agree that the Commission shall maintain concurrent jurisdiction with the local government for land-disturbing activities and may take appropriate compliance action if the Commission determines that the local government has failed to take appropriate compliance action.

### **D. Exclusive Jurisdiction**

The Parties agree that the Commission shall maintain exclusive jurisdiction to administer the SPCA for all land disturbing activities that:

1. Are outlined in North Carolina General Statute § 113A-56; or

2. Relate to oil and gas exploration and development on the well pad site.

### **Part III. Responsibilities and Expectations of the Local Government.**

#### **A. Enforcement**

The Parties agree that the local government shall administer its own local program ordinances, through the following:

1. Enforce the provisions of the SPCA.
2. Administer the SPCA for all land-disturbing activity within its jurisdiction, including existing sites at the time the local government received program delegation. The Commission may continue to administer the SPCA over specific projects under enforcement action upon mutual agreement with the local government. The local program is not responsible for activities over which the Commission has exclusive jurisdiction.
3. Employ a sufficient number of qualified personnel. Qualified personnel shall be competent to review sedimentation and erosion control plans and conduct inspections of land-disturbing activities.
4. Provide adequate resources for plan review and compliance inspections.

#### **B. Reporting**

The Parties agree that the local government shall provide the following reports/information:

1. Monthly activity reports to the Commission.
2. Notification to the appropriate regional office of DEMLR of issuance of Notices of Violation at the time the violator is notified.
3. Current contact information for their local program to the Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources.

#### **C. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans for Land-Disturbing Activity Review**

The Parties agree that the local government shall review erosion and sedimentation control plans for land-disturbing activity (hereinafter, "plans") submitted to its local program under the following standards:

1. Review plans within 30 days of receipt of a new plan and within 15 days of a revised plan.
2. Approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove draft plans in conformance with the basic control objectives contained in 15A NCAC 04B .0106.
3. Notify in writing the person submitting the plan that it has been approved, approved with modifications, or disapproved within 30 days of receipt of a new plan and within 15 days of a revised plan.
4. Include in written notifications of plan approval the following:

- a. reference to NPDES General Stormwater Permit NCG 010000,
  - b. expiration date of the approval,
  - c. the right of periodic inspection, and
  - d. condition the approval upon the applicant's compliance with federal and State water quality laws, regulations, and rules.
5. Enclose with all written permit notifications the Certificate of Approval for posting at the site of the land-disturbing activity.

D. Inspection

The Parties agree that the local government shall inspect all sites undergoing land-disturbing activity under the following standards:

1. Periodically and regularly inspect sites undergoing land-disturbing activity within its jurisdiction. Periodically and regularly means with sufficient frequency to effectively monitor compliance with the SPCA and rules adopted pursuant to the SPCA and the local erosion and sedimentation control ordinance.
2. Document all inspections in writing, including electronic documents.
3. Inspection reports shall include, at a minimum, all information in the model sedimentation inspection report developed by the Commission.
4. Maintain inspection records for active projects in accordance with State and local record retention policies.

E. Enforcement

The Parties agree that the local government shall enforce its local program ordinance under the following standards:

1. Issue Notices of Violation (hereinafter, "NOV") for any significant violation of the SPCA, rules adopted pursuant to the SPCA, or the local erosion and sedimentation control ordinance documented in an inspection report. An NOV shall be issued to the persons responsible for the violations, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113A-61.1.
2. The NOV shall specify the following:
  - a. describe the violation with reasonable particularity
  - b. request that all illegal activity cease
  - c. the actions that need to be taken to comply with the SPCA and the local ordinance
  - d. a date by which the person must comply with the SPCA and the local ordinance
  - e. inform the violator that any person who fails to comply within the time specified

is subject to additional civil and criminal penalties for a continuing violation as provided in G.S. 113A-64 and the local ordinance

3. Undertake appropriate enforcement actions, including injunctive relief, or assessment of civil penalties for an initial penalty or a daily penalty for continuing violations.
4. Require a person who engaged in a land-disturbing activity and failed to retain sediment generated by the activity, as required by G.S. 113A-57(3), to restore the waters and land affected by the failure so as to minimize the detrimental effects of the resulting pollution by sedimentation.

F. Termination of Local Program

1. Should a Local Government decide to end their local program, or portions thereof, and return jurisdiction to the Commission, the Local Government shall provide 120 days written notice of their intent to the Commission and to the Department of Environmental Quality (hereinafter "Department") to end the local program and transfer existing projects to the Commission, by and through the Department.
2. To terminate all or part of their local program, a Local Government must comply with the following:
  - a. The notice of intent must include a list of all open projects that are anticipated to be transferred.
  - b. Any legal action or existing litigation undertaken by the Local Government under the local program must stay with the Local Government and cannot be transferred to the Department. This does not prevent the Department from taking new actions against violators for new or continuing violations of the SPCA.
  - c. Local Government shall make a good faith effort to resolve any Notices of Violation prior to transferring projects to the Department provided doing such would not adversely affect any enforcement actions or possible litigation.
  - d. At least 90 days prior to the transfer of all or part of their local program, the Local Government shall provide the Department copies of all its local program project files including all applications, inspection reports, and if applicable, enforcement documentation. Staff from the Local Government shall make themselves available to the Department staff to conduct any necessary joint site visits or coordinate joint inspections.
  - e. At least 60 days prior to the transfer, the Local Government shall notify the responsible parties of all open projects that the local program is ending and shall provide contact information for the Department.
  - f. At least 30 days prior to the transfer of all or part of the local program, Local Government must notify DEMLR upon the termination or expiration of any inter-local agreements.
  - g. At least 30 days prior to the transfer of all or part of their local program, the Local Government shall no longer accept applications for new or revised land-disturbing activities within the

jurisdiction they are transferring to the Department and shall redirect such applications to the Department. Written notification of when new or revised applications can no longer be submitted to the Local Government shall be made public at least 60 days prior to the date of transfer to the Department.

- h. Within 14 days prior to the transfer of the local program, Local Government shall provide a written update to the Department of all open projects to be transferred to the Department; including contact information for each project, copies of relevant permits, available photos of the project, descriptions of any enforcement actions taken, and the status of each project.
  - i. Local Government shall demonstrate to the Commission that the Local Government has removed provisions in their local ordinance pertaining to the local program or local jurisdiction for the SPCA.
3. This section only applies to local governments who choose to terminate their local programs or portions of them. In an instance where a local program fails to comply with the terms of this Agreement or fails to satisfactorily administer or enforce the terms of the SPCA as determined under Part II Section A above, the Commission shall establish a schedule for the transfer of the local program to the Department.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Parties enter into this Memorandum of Agreement, this the 12th  
day of January 2026

**SEDIMENTATION CONTROL COMMISSION**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Susan N. White

Commission Chair

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Jamie Lineberger

Title: Chair, Lincoln County BOC

Dated: 1.12.26



**Approved as to Form**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Zambon

Counsel to the Commission

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved as to Form**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Megan H. Gilbert

Title: County Attorney

Dated: 01/12/2026