

MINUTES
NORTH CAROLINA SEDIMENTATION CONTROL COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 6, 2025
GROUND FLOOR HEARING ROOM, ARCHDALE BUILDING
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

The North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission met on February 6, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in person in the Ground Floor Hearing Room of DEQ's Archdale Building located at 512 N Salisbury Street, Raleigh, and remotely. The following persons were in attendance (either in-person or remotely) for all or part of the meeting.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Dr. Susan White (Chair)
Mr. Benjamin Brown (Vice Chair)
Mr. Michael Taylor
Mr. James Lamb
Dr. Richard McLaughlin
Ms. Emily Sutton
Ms. Marion Deerhake (absent)
Mr. Ryan Carter
Mr. Steven Wilson
Mr. Michael Holder

OTHERS

Brad Cole, Regional Operations Chief, DEMLR
Julie Coco, State Sedimentation Program Engineer, DEMLR
Rebecca Coppa, State Sedimentation Education Engineer, DEMLR
Jennifer Everett, Rulemaking Coordinator, DEQ
Sarah Zambon, Commission Counsel, NCDOJ

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

Dr. White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Dr. White read Executive Order No. 1 regarding avoidance of conflict of interest. She asked if anyone has a known conflict of interest or potential conflicts.

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Dr. White asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 2024 meeting. Mr. Holder moved to approve the minutes. Ms. Emily Sutton made a second. The motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

2026-2027 Local Program Workshops

The Chair recused herself from the discussion and from voting due to her involvement with the Water Resources Research Institute (WRI), the organization DEMLR is contracting with. Ms. Coppa solicited approval of DEMLR funds for a contract with WRI to assist DEMLR in the planning and execution of the 2026 and 2027 annual workshop and awards banquets. The Vice-Chair asked for a motion and made roll call as to the members' vote. Mr. Holder moved to approve the use of these funds; Ms. Sutton made a second. Dr. White abstained from voting. The motion passed.

Administrative Code ("Rules") Review and Classification

Ms. Everett presented on the Periodic Review and Expiration of Existing Rules. This included rules under Title 15A NCAC Chapter 04 pertinent to the commission that would need to be deemed necessary or unnecessary in an initial determination. Mr. Cole followed with a presentation to outline the process and timeline, and then recommended an initial determination of "Necessary" for all twenty-nine rules under this chapter and for the report to be submitted for public comment. Counsel recommended that both items be combined into one motion. Mr. Carter moved to approve staff's recommendation; Mr. Michael Taylor made a second. The motion passed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Commission Membership Update

Chair White mentioned that six member terms will expire at the end of June, two of which cannot be re-appointed to serve a second term. Ms. Coco confirmed the total and mentioned that those who are eligible for a second term but are not replaced before their term has expired may continue to serve until such time as they are replaced.

NCDOT Report

Ms. Coco stated that no trout buffer waivers have been issued by the DEMLR to the DOT this quarter, nor have any Immediate Corrective Actions (ICAs) been issued by the NCDOT on their projects.

Commission Technical Committee Update

Ms. Coco provided an update as to when the first practice standards would be presented before the commission and recommended that they be presented as an information item. The Chair commended Ms. Coco for that update and would review with DEMLR as to how they would be presented at next quarter's scheduled meeting.

Land Quality Section Active Sediment Cases and Enforcement

Ms. Coco presented on the number of active enforcement cases and mentioned that most were now closed. The Chair stated that she will be asking to replace members of the Civil Penalty Remissions Committee whose terms will be expiring.

Education Program Status Report

Ms. Coppa presented on her activities related to education and outreach. She mentioned her success with the Planning & Design Workshop in December and her planning of the Local Programs Workshop & Awards Banquet scheduled for April of 2025. Ms. Coppa mentioned that new categories for Local Program awards were being considered.

Sediment Program Status Report

Ms. Coco presented data to the members on the activities of the regional offices. Data was current through the end of the year.

Land Quality Section Report

Ms. Coco presented on the number of vacancies within DEMLR. She mentioned that there will likely be a reduction in the number of program reviews listed as action items on the agenda until the Assistant State Sedimentation Specialist position is filled.

CONCLUSION

Remarks by DEMLR Director – Mr. Cole, substituting for the Director, stated that the long-time Regional Engineer in the Wilmington Office will be retiring.

Remarks by Commission Members – Ms. Sutton mentioned that all members need to file their statements of economic interests so that they can be evaluated.

Remarks by Chairman – The Chair requested to be made aware of any new legislation coming out of this session that affects the Sedimentation Control Commission or the Erosion & Sedimentation Control Program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Graham Parrish, State Sedimentation Engineer
Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources

Brad Cole, Chief of Regional Operations
Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources

Dr. Susan White, Chair
Sedimentation Control Commission