

SEDIMENTS

Newsletter of the North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission

About Sediments

SEDIMENTS is a newsletter published by the State of North Carolina's Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resources and the North Carolina Sedimentation Control Commission to provide information and assistance to the regulated community and to facilitate communication among personnel of state and local erosion and sedimentation control programs.

Sediments is available in electronic form at:

<https://deq.nc.gov/SEDIMENTS>

And via the WRRI Sediments listserv. To subscribe follow the directions at:

<https://wrri.ncsu.edu/contact-us/listservs/>

Send comments to the [Sediment Education Specialist](#).



2025 Local E&SC Programs Workshop & Awards Program

Presented by: NC DEQ - Land Quality Section

In partnership with: Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina System

This year the annual Local Programs Workshop and Awards Program was presented via a hybrid format on April 23-24, 2025, at the Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center in Pittsboro, NC. This annual workshop brought together delegates from a majority of the 54 local programs throughout the state. Approximately 85 people attended both days in person, and approximately 100-107 people attended the virtual workshop on both days. The workshop was focused on regulatory updates, local program operations, and best management practices.

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2025 Local E&SC Programs Workshop & Awards Program

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This year's award categories and nominees for each category included:

- **Best All Around Program:** Previously known as "Outstanding Local Program Award", now combined for all program sizes. Programs can self-nominate or be nominated by regional office staff, or contractors.
 - Chatham County
 - Orange County
- **Overcoming Challenges Program:** A program award for those who have shown great improvement or overcome significant challenges. Programs can self-nominate or be nominated by regional office staff, or contractors.
 - City of Asheville
 - Haywood County
 - Town of Boone
 - Watauga County
- **Most Valuable Person (MVP) in Erosion and Sediment Control:** An individual award for exceptional contributions, local program staff can be nominated by coworkers, regional office staff, or contractors.
 - Charles Pender of Johnston County
 - Cody Schmoyer of Durham County



From left to right: Kenny Owens & Steve Kaltenbach of Orange County, Dr. Susan White of SCC & WRRI.

2025 Best All Around Program Winner

The 2025 Best All Around Program Award was given to Orange County. They last won a local program award in 2014 and prior to that in 1998. Orange County's Erosion Control & Stormwater Division serves over 150,000 residents across nearly 400 square miles, overseeing erosion control for both county lands and all four municipalities within the county. The team includes 4 Erosion Control Officers, 1 Permit Technician, and 1 Manager, handling permits, inspections, stream IDs, buffer and floodplain permits, and enforcement actions.

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2025 Local E&SC Programs Workshop & Awards Program

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In the past year, Orange County issued or maintained 176 permits, conducted 1,042 site inspections, processed 33 surface water identifications, issued 11 buffer authorization certificates, and 5 floodplain development permits. They also support various committees and prioritize education and collaboration through brochures, events, and direct engagement. Their enforcement philosophy focuses on education before penalties, guided by their Erosion Control Enforcement Plan. Orange County's standards exceed state minimums, regulating disturbances starting at 20,000 square feet and enforcing strict rules in sensitive areas. They use tools like drones, satellite images, and Bluebeam Revu software for digital reviews, and collaborate with various agencies and communities. In summary, Orange County's Erosion Control program is education-focused, technologically integrated, and known for its high regulatory standards and intergovernmental coordination.

More information on Orange County's Erosion Control & Stormwater Division can be found at: <https://www.orangecountync.gov/3054/Erosion-Control-and-Stormwater-Managemen>



From left to right: Dr. Susan White of the SCC & WRRI and Brandon Wise of the Town of Boone

2025 Overcoming Challenges Winner

The 2025 Overcoming Challenges Program Award was given to the Town of Boone's erosion control team, led by Deputy Director Brandon Wise. They last won a local program award in 2006. This year, all the programs nominated for the Overcoming Challenges Award were recognized for their responses to Hurricane Helene. Hurricane Helene struck North Carolina on September 27, causing historic rainfall, powerful winds, and multiple tornadoes. It resulted in over 100 deaths in North Carolina alone. The physical and financial impact was immense with estimated damages exceeding \$59.6 billion statewide. Over the past year, Boone's team has navigated significant change from reorganizing staff to adding new positions all while working in close partnership with Watauga County to provide consistent, effective regulation for

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2025 Local E&SC Programs Workshop & Awards Program

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the community they serve. Even under normal circumstances, this work requires careful balance between supporting development and protecting the environment. But with the impacts of Hurricane Helene, 2024 was far from normal. And in the aftermath, this program became the go-to resource for everyone—from their public works department to contractors and everyday residents. Despite the challenges, they stepped up—expediting flood repair reviews, and waiving up to \$3,000 in permit fees for storm damage repairs. This program has done, and is continuing to do, everything possible to support recovery for homeowners and business owners alike.

More information on the Town of Boone's Planning & Inspections Department can be found at: <https://www.townofboone.net/192/Planning-Inspections>



From left to right: Cody Schmoyer of Durham County and Dr. Susan White of the SCC & WRI

County's toughest sites, Cody sets high expectations and offers actionable guidance. His proactive approach and clear, respectful communication earn him praise from developers, contractors, and coworkers alike.

Congratulations to all the winners and nominees, it was a close race in all of the categories and all the nominees deserve recognition. And thank you again to all those who took the time to submit a nomination.

2025 Most Valuable Person in E&SC

The 2025 Most Valuable Person (MVP) in Erosion & Sediment Control (E&SC) Individual Award was given to Cody Schmoyer of Durham County. In just 2.5 years, Cody has become essential to Durham's erosion control team by consistently exceeding expectations. Cody applies his local government training and certifications in E&SC to help the development community. He excels in reviewing plans, conducting inspections, and consulting, always prioritizing code compliance and best practices. Since March 2024, Cody has conducted 924 site inspections over 21,000 acres, providing detailed reports and resolving 21 Notices of Violation without escalation through effective communication and collaboration. Assigned to Durham

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Save the Dates

Workshops presented by NCDEQ - Land Quality Section

December 4, 2025 - NC E&SC Workshop

Formerly known as the NC Erosion and Sediment Control Design Workshop. This workshop is meant to educate and familiarize design professionals, contractors, and developers with new erosion and sediment control requirements and practices, and also fulfills professional development hours. This workshop is presented by NC DEQ – Land Quality Section in partnership with the Southeast Chapter of the International Erosion Control Association ([SE-IECA](#)) and [NCSU Department of Crop & Soil Sciences](#).

Registration and agenda information will be posted to the [workshop's event page](#) as it becomes available.

Spring 2026 - Local Program Workshop

The Local Program Workshop is an annual event presented by NC DEQ – Land Quality Section in partnership with the NC Water Resources Research Institute to educate and train local erosion and sediment control programs' staff. The workshop also provides an opportunity for Local Programs to connect, learn from each other, and share challenges, strategies and successes of managing erosion and sediment throughout the state. As this event is specifically for the local governments that have delegated E&SC programs registration and workshop information will be sent directly to these programs.

Want to present at one of these workshops?

Relevant topic proposals can be emailed to NC DEQ's [Sediment Education Specialist](#). Presentations advertising specific products/companies are not accepted.

Other Related Workshops

March 1-4, 2026 IECA Annual Conference & Expo, Fort Worth, Texas

Join professionals from across the globe at the forefront of erosion and sediment control and stormwater management. Registration and agenda information will be posted to the [conference's page](#) as it becomes available.

March 25-26, 2026 WRRRI's Annual Conference, Raleigh, NC

Join professionals from all sectors and disciplines of water resources from across North Carolina. Registration and agenda information will be posted to the [conference's page](#) as it becomes available.



Annual Hurricane Weather Advisory for Construction Sites

Act Now to Reinforce your BMPs to Prepare for Multiple Impacts

By Julie Coco, PE

Originally Published in the Sediment Newsletter, Volume 24 No 1: 5-6

As we once again enter hurricane season, there exists the possibility that sites in development will be adversely impacted, regardless of the measures that are in place to control stormwater and sediment runoff. However, proper planning can minimize damage and the work effort to restore the site to pre-storm conditions. Below are some suggestions for pre-storm preparation, and conditions under which land-disturbing activities may be necessary.

Suggested Actions Prior to the Storm Include:

- Cease any new grading or land disturbances that will not be paved or otherwise structurally stabilized. The freshly exposed bare soil will not have time to stabilize prior to the storm.
- Secure any construction materials that may become airborne during the storm.
- Haul away waste materials.
- Seal and secure or otherwise protect containers holding equipment fluids, liquid building material waste, flocculants, herbicides, pesticides, rodenticides, or other hazardous or toxic wastes from leaks or spills. Hazardous materials should be removed from the site if they cannot be contained in an enclosed building and stored away from windows.
- Dewater sediment basins in a manner permitted by your E&SC Plan Authority.
- Ensure emergency spillways on basins and traps are fully functional. Secure any loose filter fabric, rock, or liners.
- Clean out culverts, outfalls, inlets, ditches, or other conveyances as needed to prevent clogging. Ensure outfalls are stabilized per your approved plan.
- Catch basins or curb inlets with inserts used to filter sediment from the storm drain system can be temporarily removed to prevent street flooding.
- Complete, as time permits, any restoration efforts underway in streams, buffers, wetlands, etc.
- Secure or temporarily remove document boxes and their contents.

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Annual Hurricane Weather Advisory for Construction Sites

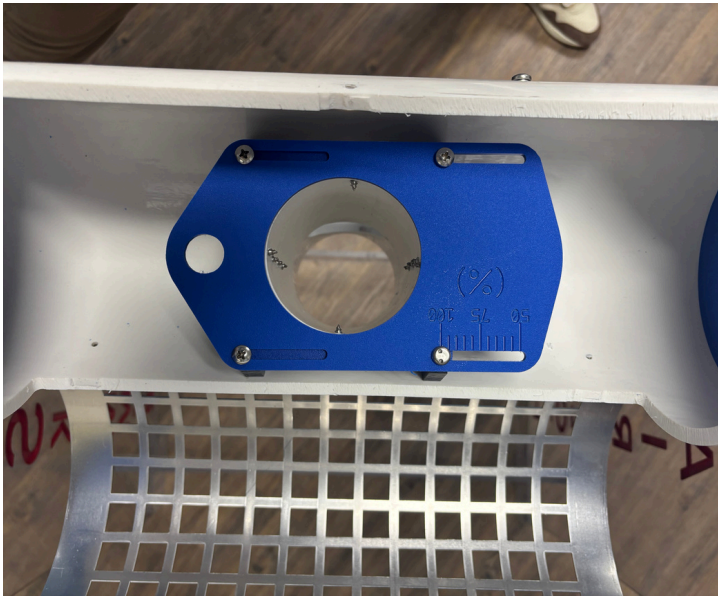
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After the Storm:

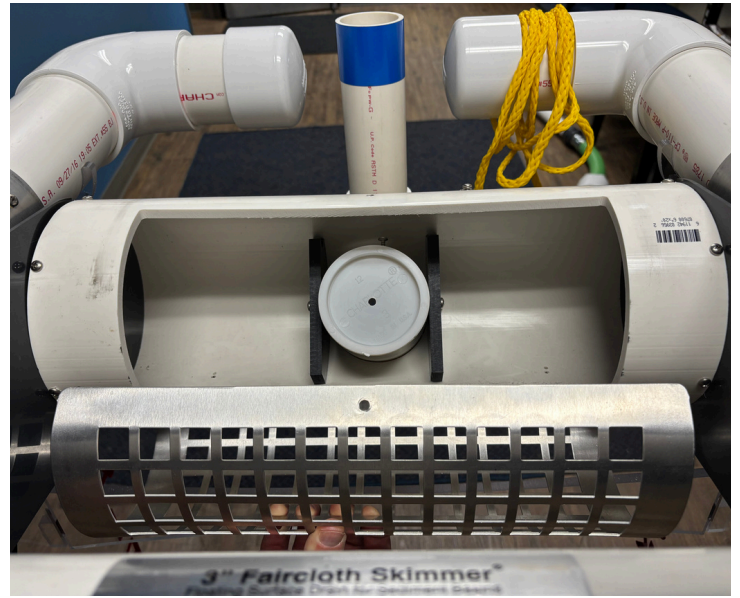
- Do not touch any downed powerlines or equipment in contact with powerlines.
- Avoid driving or working in flooded areas or non-workable soils. Be on the lookout for washed-out or undermined roads. Avoid bodily contact with floodwaters.
- Check and record rain gauges. If the gauge has been damaged, document the reasoning for it and why you are unable to obtain an accurate reading from this source. Precipitation estimates for your region may be found online.
- Report any spills, sediment releases into jurisdictional waters, unanticipated bypasses to stormwater devices, upsets, or non-compliance issues that may endanger health or the environment to the appropriate DEQ Regional Office within 24 hours of discovery.
- Repair or replace damaged waste or fluid containers.
- Clean and reinstall any catch basin or curb inlet inserts removed prior to the storm.
- Clean up off-site sedimentation immediately (excluding that released into riparian buffers or jurisdictional waters needing a restoration plan).
- Reinstall the document box, if removed prior to the storm.
- Remove debris from culverts, outfalls, inlets, ditches, or other conveyances on the project, and evaluate for stability. Make necessary repairs.
- Repair any damaged erosion and sediment control measures to restore their full functionality in accordance with the plan.

Emergencies:

Repairs made to protect human life, and which involve land-disturbing activities are considered emergency repairs. Such repairs may be made without prior approval. In accordance with 15A NCAC 04B.0130, you shall notify the DEQ Director of the Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, or his/her designee, of such repairs as soon as reasonably possible, but in no event later than five (5) working days after the emergency ends. Additionally, you shall take all measures necessary to protect all public and private property from damage caused by your repair as soon as possible, but no later than fifteen (15) working days after the emergency ends. Under emergency conditions, approval without a permit may be given on a case-by-case basis to discharge pumped stormwater to surface waters in an effort to minimize flooding. The definition of “Emergency Conditions” is water on streets at a depth of 14 inches that restricts emergency vehicles from responding to the needs of the public. Contact the DEQ office in your region for assistance.



Left: Old skimmer orifice design.



Right: New skimmer orifice design.

Updates to the Faircloth Skimmer Orifice

By Michael Brewer, CEO Faircloth Skimmer

We've recently made changes to the Faircloth Skimmer orifice design. All eight skimmer sizes are now being manufactured with our new Adjustable Orifice Gate. This eliminates the need to cut the orifice plug in the field. Instead, users simply adjust the orifice gate to the specified % opening and tighten the screws. Updated installation instructions can be found on our [website](#).

To support projects still using legacy specifications (based on orifice diameter), we're including a conversion chart with every skimmer. For example, if a plan calls for a 4" skimmer with a 3.4" orifice, users can reference the chart to find the matching % opening on the new gate design. This chart, and a checklist for inspectors, are currently available on our [website](#).

As more engineers begin to specify skimmers using our updated calculator and % opening system, we will gradually phase out the chart. In the meantime, we'll continue to support both approaches to ensure a smooth transition.

The NC Sedimentation Control Commission

The Sedimentation Control Commission (SCC) was created to administer the Sedimentation Control Program pursuant to the NC Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (SPCA). It is charged with adopting rules, setting standards, and providing guidance for the implementation of the Act. The composition of the Commission is set by statute to encompass a broad range of perspectives and expertise in areas related to construction, industry, government, and natural resource conservation and quality. All members are appointed by the Governor and serve three-year terms, except for the Director of the Water Resources Research Institute of the University of North Carolina, who serves as long as they remain Director. The chairman of the SCC is named by the Governor.



NC SCC: February Actions

At its hybrid meeting on February 6, 2025, the NC Sedimentation Control Commission (SCC) took the following actions:

- Voted to **approve funds** for a contract with the WRRI to assist with the planning and execution of the 2026 & 2027 Annual Local Program Workshops. Dr. White recused herself from this action item.
- Voted to **approve** staff's recommendation of the initial determination of "**Necessary**" for all twenty-nine ruled under Title 15A NCAC Chapter 04 and for the report to be submitted for public comment.

NC SCC: May Actions

At its hybrid meeting on May 23, 2024, the NC Sedimentation Control Commission (SCC) took the following actions:

Delegated Local Programs

- Buncombe County: Voted to **continue** their review period with a follow up report at the 2025 Q3 meeting.

Upcoming SCC Meetings

Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

2026 Dates TBD

All meetings are at 10:00 am

Ground Floor Hearing Room

Archdale Building

512 N. Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC

and via WebEx

Meeting materials can be found at the [SCC Website](#)

Schedule and location of meetings is subject to change. Public notice of any changes will be given pursuant to NCGS 143-318.12



Announcements & Updates from DEMLR

AccessDEQ - More Permits Now Available Online

Applications for the Erosion and Sediment Control (E&SC) Program AND the Construction Stormwater Permits (NCG01/NCG25) are now all available online through the Department of Environmental Quality's [AccessDEQ digital hub](#).

Permit Fees - 2025 Updates

In accordance with [General Statute 143B-279.19](#), the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has adjusted certain fees and rates for its programs to support the delivery of services and issuance of environmental permits. This is effective as of July 1, 2025. The standard sediment application fee is now \$119/acre. The express application fee is now \$264/acre with a maximum of \$2112 (8 acres) plus the standard fee. All 2025 updated fees can be found on the [NCDEQ website](#).

Updates to DEMLR Leadership

DEQ Secretary - Reid Wilson was appointed by Gov. Josh Stein in January and confirmed by the State Senate on June 26, 2025.

DEMLR Director - Toby Vinson transitioned from the Interim to the full Director spot in September 2024.

DEMLR Deputy Director - Adam Parr accepted the Deputy Director position in March 2025.

State Sedimentation Engineer - Graham Parrish accepted the State Sediment Engineer position in April 2025. Graham was the Assistant State Sedimentation Engineer for several years then went to Raleigh Regional as the Express Engineer; returning to the Central Office after several months as the State Sedimentation Engineer.



WE ARE HIRING

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- Culture: Value of collaboration, creativity, innovation, diversity, and teamwork.
- Competitive Benefits: Options that will enhance your quality of life, health, wellness, and future.

Check out our job postings here: <https://lnkd.in/g2UXSVqd>

LQS Regional Offices' Contact Information

Personnel of the Land Quality Section (LQS) of the NC Department of Environmental Quality provide information and assistance for the implementation of the NC Erosion and Sedimentation Control Program. For assistance, please contact the appropriate Regional Office or the Raleigh Central Office listed below:

Asheville Regional Office

Phone: (828) 296-4500

Regional Engineer:

Stanley Aiken

Raleigh Regional Office

Phone: (919) 791-4200

Regional Engineer:

Bill Denton

Winston-Salem Regional Office

Phone: (336) 776-9800

Regional Engineer:

Tamera Eplin

Fayetteville Regional Office

Phone: (910) 433-3300

Regional Engineer:

Tim LaBounty

Washington Regional Office

Phone: (252) 946-6481

Regional Engineer:

Samir Dumpor

Raleigh Central Office

Archdale Building

Phone: (919) 707-9220

Mooresville Regional Office

Phone: (704) 235-2100

Regional Engineer:

Jerry Eplin

Wilmington Regional Office

Phone: (910) 796-7215

Regional Engineer:

Christine Hall

Who Do I Call?

If you have questions or concerns related to erosion and sedimentation control or off-site sedimentation from construction in NC, contact the appropriate local program, LQS regional office, LQS central office or the toll-free hotline.



Local program information:

<https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/energy-mineral-and-land-resources/erosion-and-sediment-control/local-erosion-and-sediment-control-programs>

Toll-Free Hotline:

1-866-STOPMUD