

Soil & Water Conservation

Organization: 320050

	2013/14 Actual	2014/15 Current	2015/16 Requested	2015/16 Approved	Percent Change
Revenues					
State	\$36,179	\$179,695	\$30,475	\$30,475	-83.0%
Local	\$0	\$299	\$0	\$0	0%
General Fund	109,015	105,995	104,926	108,693	2.5%
Total	\$145,194	\$285,989	\$135,401	\$139,168	-51.3%
Expenses					
Personal Services	\$130,166	\$127,394	\$128,106	\$131,873	3.5%
Supplies & Operations	15,028	158,595	7,295	7,295	-95.4%
Capital	0	0	0	0	0%
Total	\$145,194	\$285,989	\$135,401	\$139,168	-51.3%
Employees					
Permanent	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	0%
Hourly	0.00	0.28	0.00	0.00	0%
Total	2.50	2.78	2.50	2.50	-10.1%

Budget Highlights

In Fiscal Year 2015/16, the Soil and Water Conservation District's budget decreased 51 percent (\$146,821). This decrease is due to a pass through grant (\$149,220) from North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) administered in Fiscal Year 2014/15, which funded Phase II of the Shuford Dam removal project.

Performance Measurement

Fiscal Year 2015/16

In Fiscal Year 2015/16 Soil and Water Conservation's outcomes will focus on ensuring clean water and soil, properly managing forest and wildlife, and securing the economic and cultural viability of the agricultural community. The department's outcomes include promoting and assisting with the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program, assisting residents and landowners with erosion and stormwater issues, overseeing the County's cost share programs, and increasing grade school students' and community members' environmental literacy through educational programs and community outreach.

Fiscal Year 2014/15

At mid-year, Soil and Water was on target to achieve or had already achieved 100 percent (5 of 5) of its Fiscal Year 2014/15 outcomes. The district promoted the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program by processing 100 percent of all qualified applications and creating or reviewing a conservation plan for the applicant within 10 days. Soil and Water provided timely customer service by conducting all initial site visits to County residents and landowners requiring technical assistance with erosion and stormwater-related issues within 5 days of the request. Soil and Water collaborated with Cooperative Extension to offer two presentations to civic groups, school groups, and the general public at County farmers markets and reached 600 people.

Fiscal Year 2013/14

The Soil and Water Conservation District promoted and assisted in the implementation of the County's Voluntary Agricultural District program, creating conservation plans for qualifying properties within ten business days. The Conservation District effectively installed all identified best management practices on cost-share contracts before their expiration and conducted at least two quality spot-checks of previously installed best management practices. The district promoted stewardship and awareness of soil and water conservation through various educational initiatives, including contests, presentations, and the Environmental Field Days at South Side Park for fourteen 5th grade classes.

Soil & Water Conservation

Statement of Purpose

To ensure a quality urban and rural environment with clean water, protected soil resources, properly managed forest and wildlife, and an environmentally, economically, and culturally viable agricultural community.

Outcomes

1. To promote and assist in the implementation of the County's Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) program. 100 percent of qualifying properties that request to become a part of the VAD, and have land that is considered "Highly Erodible" will have a conservation plan created (or reviewed if one already exists) to meet the VAD and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) standards with a turnaround time of ten business days.
2. To increase environmental literacy of soil and water conservation in Catawba County through various educational initiatives, including, but not limited to educational contests, presentations, professional development and civic involvement such as the Environmental Field Days where fourteen 5th grade classes are hosted at South Side Park over a two day event. This increase will be measured based on evaluations submitted by participants and teachers.
3. To provide timely customer service to Catawba County residents and landowners by providing them with technical assistance concerning erosion and stormwater related issues. 90 percent of initial site visits will occur within five business days of request.
4. To promote the importance of local agriculture for the County's environmental and community health, Soil and Water will provide community outreach at three community events (i.e., farmers markets, Bandys Ag. Day, etc.) and reach at least 150 people.
5. To effectively implement the North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program (NCACSP) and the Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) in Catawba County. Soil and Water will
 - a. Oversee the installation of all identified best management practices (BMPs) on cost share contracts before their expiration, unless the contract is cancelled by the landowner.
 - b. Conduct quality spot checks on 5 percent of the previously installed BMPs that are within the ten year maintenance period.
 - c. Promote the use of the programs through local media and internet outlets.