

2020 Friends of the District Membership Meeting

December 10, 2020 7pm
Virtual meeting



Welcome!

- Board of Supervisors
- Friends Members
- Guests

Mission of the Friends of Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District:

The Friends of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District is a volunteer non-profit group of local citizens who support and champion the work of the District. The Friends join the District in its mission to protect the natural resources of Wake County.



Before



After

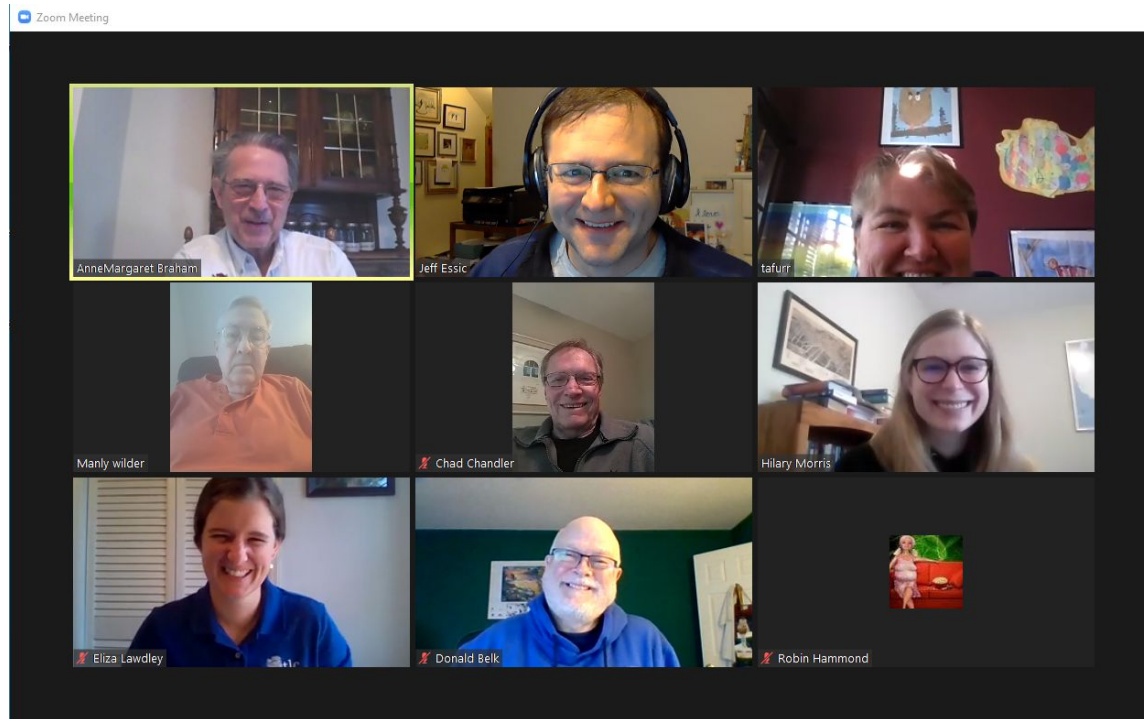
Agenda

- Introduce Friends board members and officers
- 2020 Financial Report
- This year in review - the Friends' 2020 activities and accomplishments
- Report from District staff
- Special recognitions
- Update on the 2020 Annual Conservation Awards
- Wrap up and thanks
- Adjourn



Friends Board

<https://friendsofwakesoil.org/about/people/>



Friends of Wake SWCD 2020 Financial Report



Friends of the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District

Treasurer's Report

Starting Balance 1/1/20		\$3,869.01
Income		
	Donations	\$648.80
	Memberships	\$65.00
Total Income		\$713.80
Expenses		
	FOD New Website	\$149.98
	PO Box Renewal Payment	\$168.00
Total Expenses		\$317.98
Net Income		\$395.82
	Add starting balance	\$3,869.01
Ending Balance 12/10/2020		\$4,264.83
Current Available Balance		\$4,264.83

2020 Board Activities

- Focus on growing our organization
- Updated membership contact list, coordinating with District
- Three new board members!
- By-laws updated (available on website)
- New Co-Chairs
- Website updated: <https://friendsofwakesoil.org/>
- Continued advocacy in support of District
- Sponsored Keeping the Farm
- Looking ahead to 2021 - Please Join Us!



2020 Keeping the Farm Workshop

Report from SWCD Staff



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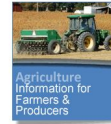
swcd@wakegov.com



www.wakegov.com/swcd

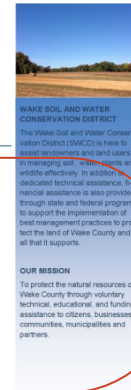


Notice: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our department has implemented new operations for the Wake SWCD Field Office. Please see this [Memo](#) for details on how our office is continuing work efforts during the State of Emergency issued by Wake County and North Carolina and amid stay-at-home proclamations.



Did you know?

- Cost Share funds are available for conservation practices that improve water quality through State and Federal sources, only available through the District.
- Wake Soil and Water Conservation District holds conservation easements to help families conserve farm and forest lands for their legacy.
- Volunteer opportunities are available through the District office.



Want more information about your Soil and Water Conservation District?

Annual Reports

[Read the 2019 Annual Report!](#)

[Read the 2018 Annual Report!](#)

Newsletters

[Summer 2020](#)

[Fall 2020](#)

WAKE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
The Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is here to assist landowners and land users in managing soil, water, and water quality more effectively. In addition, dedicated technical assistance, financial assistance is also provided through state and federal programs to support the implementation of best management practices to protect the land of Wake County and all that it supports.

OUR MISSION
To protect the natural resources of Wake County through voluntary technical, educational, and funding assistance to citizens, businesses, communities, municipalities and partners.

District Staff

Teresa Furr, District Director



As the District Director with the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Teresa Furr has over 24 years of experience in natural resource management with both State and County government. She served as a Natural Resource Conservationist with the Wake SWCD for 13 years before being promoted to District Director in March 2020. Prior to coming to Wake County, Teresa served as Environmental Program Supervisor for the NC. Agriculture Cost Share Program with the N.C. Division of Soil and Water Conservation. Teresa enjoys working with private landowners and farmers in Wake County to preserve and protect the county's vital natural resources. In her free time, she enjoys the outdoors and spending time with family, including her chocolate lab Lily.

District Staff

John Beck, Conservationist



John Beck has served as a Natural Resource Conservationist with the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District in Raleigh, NC since 2017. Prior to joining the Wake District, he was Horticulture Associate with the NC A&T State University Cooperative Extension Program and the Horticulture Unit Coordinator at the NC A&T University Farm from 2013-2017. John earned a Masters of Crop Science focusing in Agroecology from NC State University in 2012. John lives in Holly Springs with his wife and two sons.

District Staff

Abby Haselton, Conservationist



Abby Haselton has been with the Wake SWCD since January 2019. She started her conservation journey with Wake SWCD as a Conservation Specialist and is now a Natural Resource Conservationist. Abby grew up in Raleigh and is a proud NC State graduate with a BS in Plant and Soil Sciences, a minor in Horticulture, and a MS in Soil Science. One of her favorite things about working for the district is how every workday is different as the office staff works to serve the diverse community of Wake County.

District Staff

Sheila Jones, Environmental Educator



Sheila Jones directs the Wake SWCD Environmental Education program to advance environmental literacy and encourage environmental stewardship of school children, teachers, and families in Wake County, NC. As Wake County Big Sweep Coordinator, Sheila partners with a dedicated team of Zone Captains to engage Big Sweep volunteers of all ages in removing litter to improve watersheds across the county. Sheila is a 32-year veteran of Wake County, a NC certified environmental educator, Past President of Environmental Educators of NC and a life member of the North American Association for Environmental Education. She lives in Youngsville with her husband Adrian and two persnickety parakeets. Sheila enjoys taking her blender for a whirl to make green smoothies and digging in the soil to make new discoveries.

District Staff

Diana Irizarry, Supervisory Soil Conservationist



Diana Irizarry is the Supervisory Soil Conservationist for NRCS in Wake, Durham, Johnston, and Chatham Counties. Diana grew up on a small coffee farm in Lares, Puerto Rico. She received her bachelor's degree in Agronomy and Soils at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez Campus in December 2007. In January 2008, Diana started her full-time job as Soil Conservationist with NRCS in North Dakota. She worked with NRCS in Michigan, and before moving to the Raleigh Field Office, she worked in Pitt and Bladen Counties. She is looking forward to working with the great people in Wake County.

District Staff

Mikayla Renn Conservation Specialist



Mikayla Renn is the newest staff member with Wake SWCD. She started with the District in February 2020 by filling the Conservation Specialist position. Prior to coming to Wake County, Mikayla served as a Conservation Biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. She is a NC State graduate with a BS in Conservation, Wildlife and Fisheries Biology.

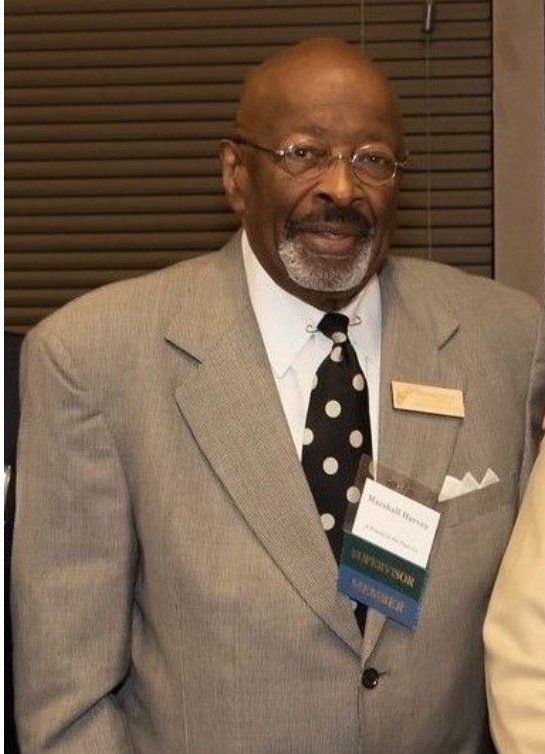
District Staff

Caleb Lippard Conservationist

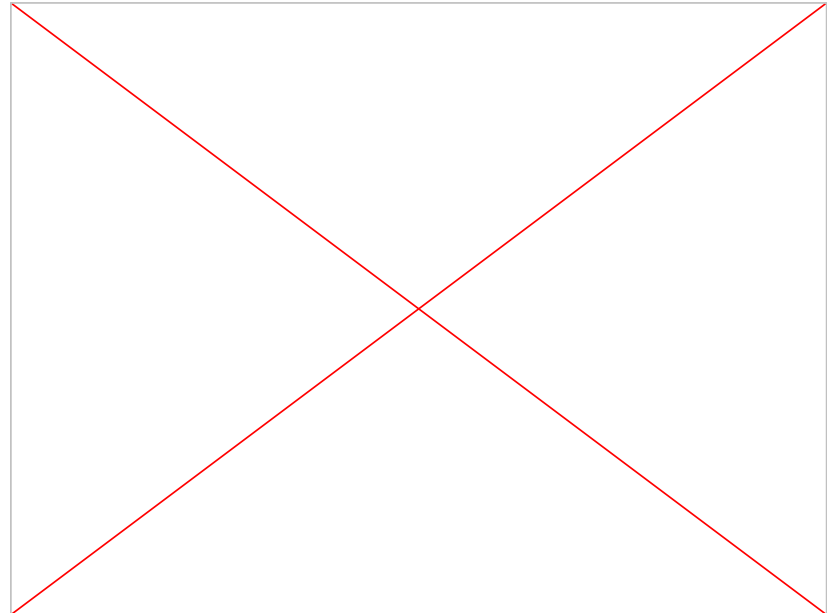


Caleb Lippard will join the Wake Soil and Water Conservation District office on January 4, 2021. Caleb grew up in Rowan County near Salisbury NC. Caleb is a NC State graduate with a BS in Environmental Technology with a minor in Wildlife Sciences and is pursuing a Masters of Environmental Assessment also from NC State. Prior to joining the Wake District Caleb worked for the City of Greensboro and the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. Caleb enjoys hunting, fishing and being outdoors.

Special Recognitions



Marshall Harvey, outgoing Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor



2020 Annual Conservation Awards

The 2020 Conservation Awards Banquet was cancelled this year.

2021 “We All Live In A Watershed” Conservation Poster Contest still occurred.

- Top 10 Poster Finalists and Top 3 Poster Winners have been selected
- Winners will be recognized in the Wake SWCD Winter Newsletter and on Wake County Public School System’s Facebook



Poster by: Sanvi Garcha, Fuller Elementary School, 5th Grade

Plans for 2021

- Continue building Friends membership
- Restart regular email communications about District accomplishments, events, and opportunities
- Continue reminding elected officials of the value of the District
- Recruiting new board members
- Helping District update Farmland Protection Plan through upcoming Workgroup meetings
- Partner with NRCS and the District on stream restoration
- Sponsor Keeping the Farm
- Sponsor Resource Conservation Workshop scholarship
- Host next Annual Conservation Awards banquet



THANK YOU and Get in touch!

Send us your thoughts by
emailing fodwake@gmail.com.

