

Regular Minutes of the State Committee (STC) meeting held on January 10, 2012, in the STO, Raleigh, NC. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

**STATE COMMITTEE:** T. Pender Sharp III, Chairman, and John E. Ashe, Jr.

**STAFF:** Aaron A. Martin, State Executive Director, Cindy Kernodle, Mike Eaves, Kathy Barker, Eddie Woodhouse, Alicia Bridges, Mike Huskey, Victor Youngblood, Tim Jones, Susan Woodall

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### Approval of Minutes

The STC reviewed and approved the Regular Session minutes for December 13, 2011.

### Review FSA-958's, Work Schedule Log

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved FSA-958's, Work Schedule Log for PP 01 for the STC.

The SED reviewed and approved FSA-958, Work Schedule Log for PP 01 for the STC Chairperson.

### Review Travel Authorizations and Vouchers

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved Travel Vouchers for the STC Members for December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

The SED reviewed and approved the Travel Voucher for the STC Chairperson for December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>.

### Confidential Financial Disclosure Report

Mike Eaves, Administrative Officer, reviewed with the STC the requirements for completing OGE Form 450 in accordance with Notice PM-2845. A copy of this form will be mailed to Mr. Thomas O. Gilmore along with instructions for completion.

### Review of COC Elections

The STC approved the 2011 COC elections in accordance with 15-AO, paragraph 157.

### Ethics Training

STC members were provided Ethics training information according to Notice PM-2847. Each member will complete the training prior to next month's meeting.

## **Public Affairs and Outreach**

### **OUTREACH:**

- 1) Outreach informed us that it has "postponed the Hispanic Women Claims Process (HWCP) project for the time being." So, at least for now, CEDs have been instructed to pull back on this specific outreach.
- 2) State Office will have a presence at outreach partner event, Operation Spring Plant (OSP) Friday/Saturday - January 13-14 annual conference in Cary. OSP provides technical assistance to minority producers and limited resource farmers. Aaron provides greetings to the conference, I will attend all sessions and set up display, and FSA staff will facilitate workshops. Joe Austin presents Youth Loan information.
- 3) Southeast Outreach Directors conference call was postponed.

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS:**

- 1) Successful publishing of FSA news and information continues in North Carolina newspapers.
- 2) CEDs instructed to write a brief release on their new/ existing COC Members resulting from COC elections. And an Advisor, if applicable. They will take pictures, submit to local media, and send me a copy of the published results.
- 3) Continue to urge CEDs to identify success stories.
- 4) County Offices instructed to alert STO concerning Congressional inquiries and visits. (handout)
- 5) Aaron and I are meeting on how to properly address County Office closings media requests. All media (includes local weekly papers) to be handled by Washington, attention Office of External Affairs Director Tony Jackson. National (CNN, Chicago Tribune, Washington Post, etc.) media calls referred to Office of Communication. Kent Politsch is our contact. In addition, we'll need to acquire the language necessary for response to Congressional inquiries.

### **Emergency Response Plan**

Each County Office is responsible for preparing and submitting a County Emergency Operations Plan. (Handout). I am updating "calling tree."

**General Updates on Farm Loan Issues**

General update on FLP issues as follows:

Funding:

<u>Direct</u>	<u>As of 01/06/2012</u>	<u>As of 12/07/11</u>
OL	49 loans \$4,573,430	14 loans \$1,382,680
FO	3 loans \$ 480,000	3 loans \$ 480,000
EM	4 loan \$ 338,300	2 loans \$ 88,940
CL	0	
TOTALS	56 loans \$5,391,730	19 loans \$1,951,620
<u>Guaranteed</u>		
OL	11 loans \$ 1,843,520	8 loans \$1,221,880
FO	<u>20 loans \$10,313,511</u>	<u>8 loans \$5,000,640</u>
TOTALS	31 loans \$12,157,031	16 loans \$6,222,520

Current backlog:

<u>Type</u>	<u># of Loans</u>	<u>Total \$</u>
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(There are no loans on the backlog list currently.)

Funding is available for all loan types & categories.

Goals for 2012 are as follows:

	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Currently</u>
1. First Year Delinquency	10.8%	14.8%
2. Average Processing Times for Direct Loans	30 days	23.2 days
3. Average Processing Times for Guaranteed Loans	10 days	10.49 days
4. Lending to Beginning Farmers & Ranchers	40.4%	25.3%
5. Lending to Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers	17.4%	?
6. Direct Loan Delinquency Rate	10.3%	11.1%
7. Guaranteed Loan Delinquency Rate	2.00%	2.35%
8. Special Servicing Processing Times	60%	64%

**2011 NAP Grazing Losses – Randolph County**

The STC approved Randolph County’s request to set its 2011 NAP grazing losses at 55 percent.

**Request to Waive Late Reporting Fees for SURE Purposes**

The STC reviewed a request from Rockingham County to waive the required fee for late filed crop reports for the 2010 crop year for SURE purpose. The STC deferred making a decision until additional information can be obtained from other county offices. A decision on the request will be made at a future meeting.

**Request to Waive the 20 Percent Water Cover Limitation on CRP Practice CP40 – Bertie County**

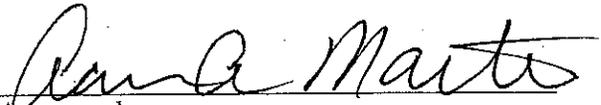
The STC concurred with the Bertie County COC request to waive the 20 percent water limitation on CRP practice CP40. The request for the waiver has concurrence from NRCS at the local and state level. This request will be forwarded to WDC for consideration.

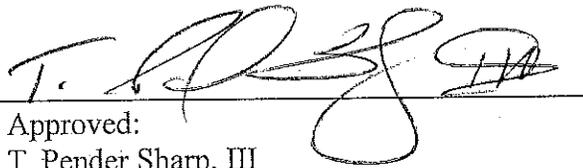
**ECP Update**

The STC was provided an update to ECP funding for the April tornadoes and Hurricane Irene. Funding is expected to be received from WDC within the next few days. We have been told to expect approximately 60 percent of our request.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm on January 10, 2012.

The next scheduled meeting of the FSA STC will be on February 14, 2012.

  
Approved:  
Aaron A. Martin  
Secretary

  
Approved:  
T. Pender Sharp, III  
Chairperson, FSA State Committee