

Regular Minutes of the State Committee (STC) meeting held on June 12, 2012, in the STO, Raleigh, NC. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.

STATE COMMITTEE: T. Pender Sharp III, Chairman, Thomas O. Gilmore, Sr., John E. Ashe, Jr., and Nancy E. Fish

STAFF: Aaron A. Martin, State Executive Director, Cindy Kernodle, Executive Officer, Mike Eaves, Kathy Barker, Eddie Woodhouse, Mike Huskey, Victor Youngblood, Tommy McLamb, Tim Jones and Susan Woodall

Approval of Minutes

The STC reviewed and approved the Regular Session minutes for May 15, 2012.

Review FSA-958's, Work Schedule Log

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved FSA-958's, Work Schedule Log for PP 9 for Nancy E. Fish and Thomas O. Gilmore, Sr. for the trip to NoCASCOE Convention General Session held on May 3, 2012 in Asheville, North Carolina. The STC Chairperson also reviewed and approved FSA-958's, Work Schedule Log for PP 12 for the STC.

The SED reviewed and approved FSA-958, Work Schedule Log for PP 12 for the STC Chairperson.

Review Travel Authorizations and Vouchers

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved the amended Local Travel Authorizations for STC Members due to mileage rate changes effective April 17, 2012 according to Notice FI-3094. The SED reviewed and approved the amended Local Travel Authorization for the STC Chairperson due to mileage rate changes effective April 17, 2012 according to Notice FI-3094.

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved the Local Travel Voucher for Nancy E. Fish for the trip to NoCASCOE Convention General Session held on May 3, 2012 in Asheville, North Carolina.

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved the Travel Voucher for STC Member for John E. Ashe, Jr. for June 11th and 12th. Nancy E. Fish will be staying another night; therefore, her Travel Voucher for June 11th through 13th will have to be reviewed during the next meeting. The Travel Voucher for Thomas O. Gilmore, Sr. for June 11th and 12th could not be processed by the end of the meeting therefore it will have to be reviewed during the next meeting.

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved the Travel Voucher for Nancy E. Fish for May 14th through 16th, 2012.

The STC Chairperson reviewed and approved the Travel Voucher for Thomas O. Gilmore, Sr. for trip to NoCASCOE Convention General Session held on May 3rd in Asheville, North Carolina.

The SED reviewed and approved the Travel Voucher for the STC Chairperson for June 11th and 12th.

Meet with County Operations Trainees (COT's)

The STC met with the COT's for the first time as a Group. They are all beginning their formal training at the STO this week.

CRP – General Signup 43 Update

General Signup 43 offers with an EBI score of 209 or greater were determined acceptable. Although a state report is not available, it appears the majority of the NC offers were accepted. County Offices are in the process of notifying producers of accepted and rejected offers. Conservation plans will be developed for those that wish to continue with the offer to participate. Contracts will become effective October 1, 2012.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP) – Request for Extension – Burke-Caldwell-McDowell County – Caldwell County Nursery (Bryan Hollar)

Mr. Hollar previously requested and was approved an extension of four months ending May 30, 2012. Reference STC General Session Minutes dated December 13, 2011, and approval memo dated January 18, 2012, from Juan M. Garcia, Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs.

On April 13, 2012, Mr. Hollar delivered cost receipts totaling \$22,761 and requested payment on that portion so that he could purchase the remaining trees to complete the TAP practice. Due to payment software problems that prevented payment to Mr. Hollar and with only two weeks left before the May 30, 2012, deadline, Mr. Hollar requested an additional eight months extension to complete the TAP practice.

FSA policy allows for a 12 month extension for TAP practices. The STC determined the four month extension plus an additional eight months does not exceed the allowable 12 months; therefore, the STC will recommend an extension of time to January 19, 2013, to DAFP.

NAP – Review RMA Proposed T-Yields for 2013 Winter Wheat

The STC concurred with the Raleigh Regional Office proposed Transitional Yields (T-Yields) for Winter Wheat for the 2013 Crop Year. (See attachment 1)

SURE – Review COC Established Maximum Average Loss Levels Based on Other County Losses for 2010 SURE – Randolph and Forsyth Counties

The STC concurred with the recommended COC Established Maximum Average Loss Levels for 2010 SURE in Randolph County and Forsyth County. (See attachment 2)

MIDAS – General Update

Victor Youngblood, MIDAS Change Agent, informed the STC of upcoming training and timetable for implementation of the MIDAS project.

Public Affairs and Outreach

Public Affairs and Outreach Director, Eddie Woodhouse, provided this report to the State Committee:

OUTREACH:

- COC Nomination Period opens this week (June 15-August 1). Eddie is preparing news release centered around comments from Chairman Pender Sharp.
- FSA staff is supporting Minority Landowner Magazine's Turnaround Team. After a questionnaire is distributed to producers, FSA will create a Team that provides financial management technical assistance to producers.
- North Carolina Food and Ag Councils (FACS) will be guided by the National FAC on providing outreach to Hispanic and Women farmers about the claims process. Outreach activities by FSA are expected to resume around July 1. (A Claims administrator and adjudicator have been announced.)
- On May 24th, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the appointment of members to the Council for Native American Farming and Ranching. The Council includes Mary Thompson, a North Carolina Farmer. The committee was created to advise Secretary Vilsack on ways to eliminate barriers to participation for Native American farmers and ranchers. The Council is being appointed as part of the Keepseagle settlement.
- **USDA, in collaboration with North Carolina Central University (NCCU), hosted Initiative on Small Business Contracting**, an event to provide small businesses with a series of educational workshops and networking sessions on how to successfully do business with USDA and other federal agencies. SED Aaron Martin represented FSA.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) is conducting a study of FSA and SBA disaster assistance, particularly regarding aquaculture and nursery producers. Interviews with several state FSA offices were conducted about the extent to which aquaculture and nursery producers are accessing FSA disaster assistance. Follow up begins with each of these state offices about disaster assistance outreach to aquaculture and nursery producers.

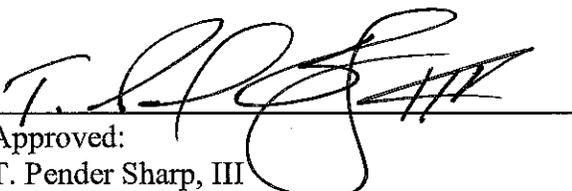
PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

- Copies of the June 12 SED Weekly Report were distributed.
- Statewide articles concerning SED Martin's salute to USDA's 150th anniversary, crop deadlines, and FSA office closings, provided to STC.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm on June 12, 2012.

The next scheduled meeting of the FSA STC will be on July 10, 2012.


Approved:
Aaron A. Martin
Secretary


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

