

Soil & Water Conservation Awareness Month



US - 1920's & 30's

- Dust Bowl – Midwest & Gully erosion - Southeast



Early Initiatives

- Best Management Practice Demonstrations
- Terracing Programs
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)





Hugh Hammond Bennett

- Native of Anson County, North Carolina
- Helped form the Soil Erosion Service (1933)
- And the Soil Conservation Service (1935)
- Both federal agencies

Soil & Conservation Districts

- Led by local Board and Staff (Locally-Led Conservation)
- A bridge between Federal programs and local citizens
- Small manageable areas (counties)
- Private and public lands
- Voluntary Incentive-based



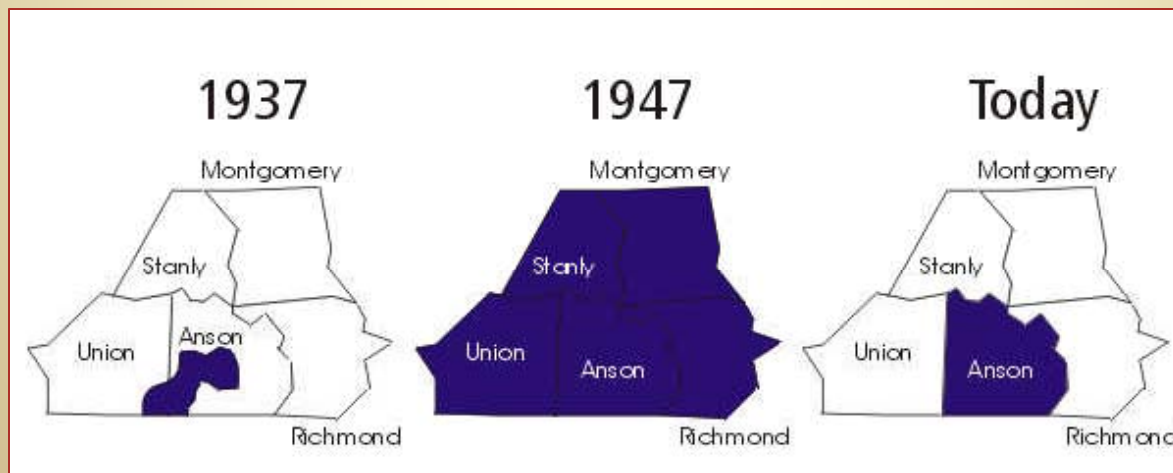
Enabling Legislation

- Standard law developed in 1937
- States adopted enabling legislation over a period of years
- North Carolina – General Statute 139



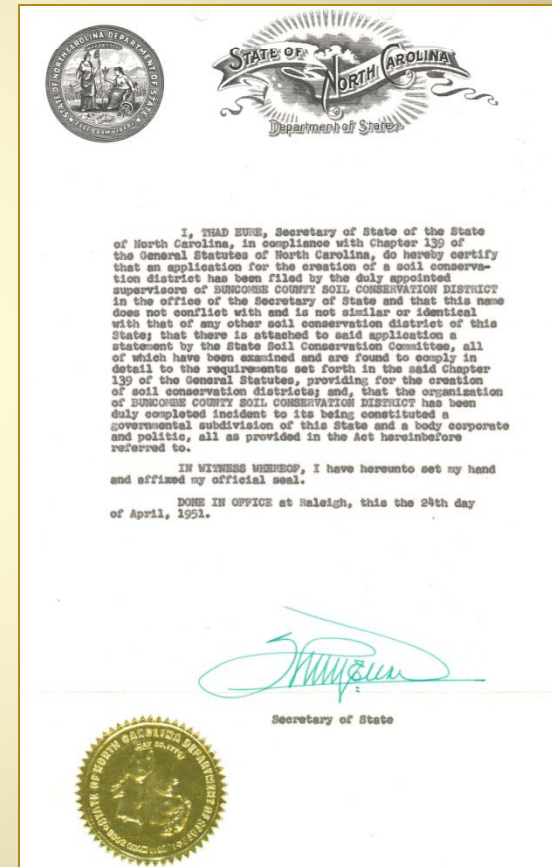
August 4, 1937

- Brown Creek Soil and Water Conservation District
- Boundary changes



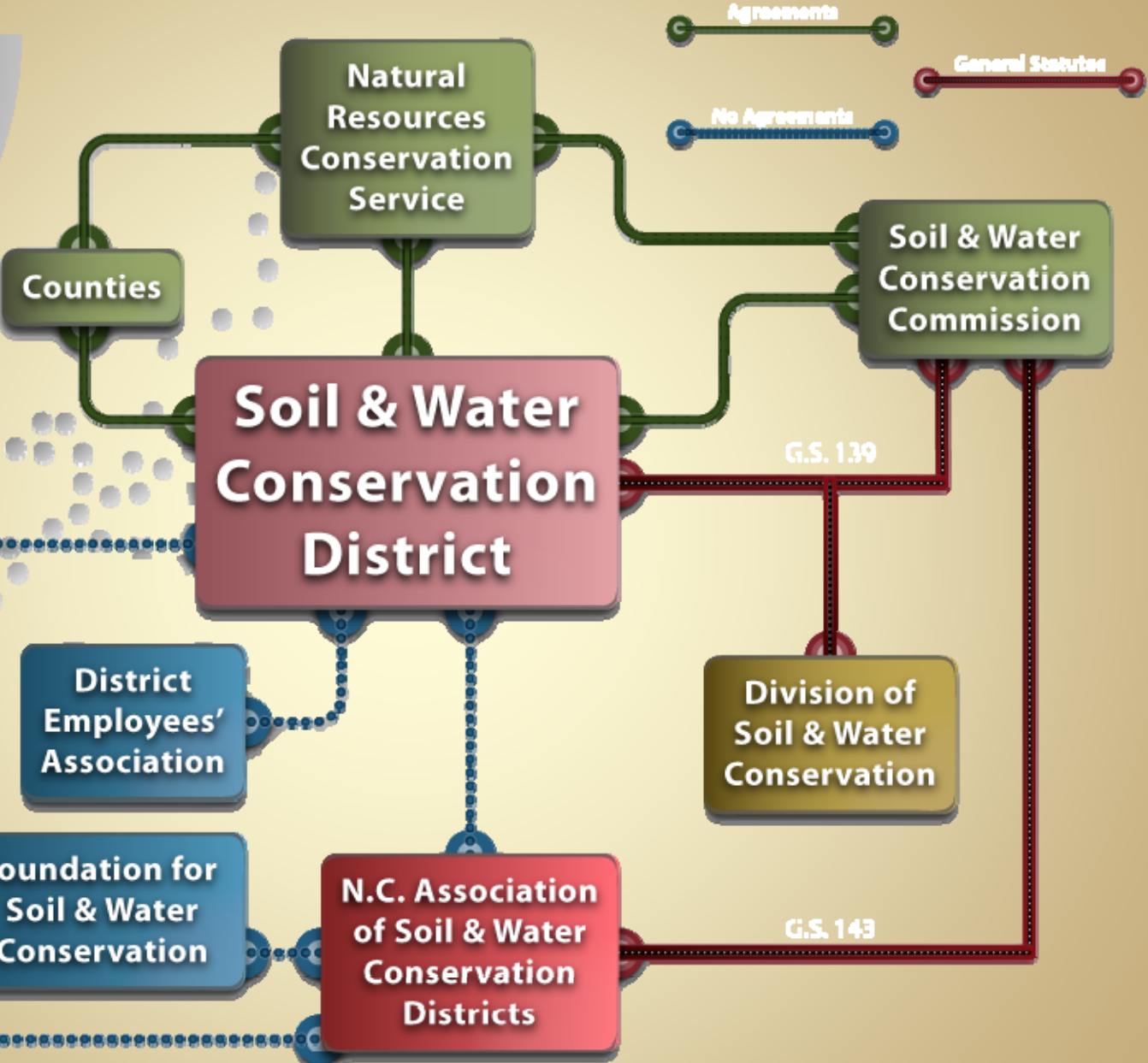
Buncombe SWCD

- Charter – April 1951
- Priorities have evolved
- Urban conservation in addition to agriculture



Partners

- Farm Bureau
- Grange
- Land Trusts
- NCCES
- etc.



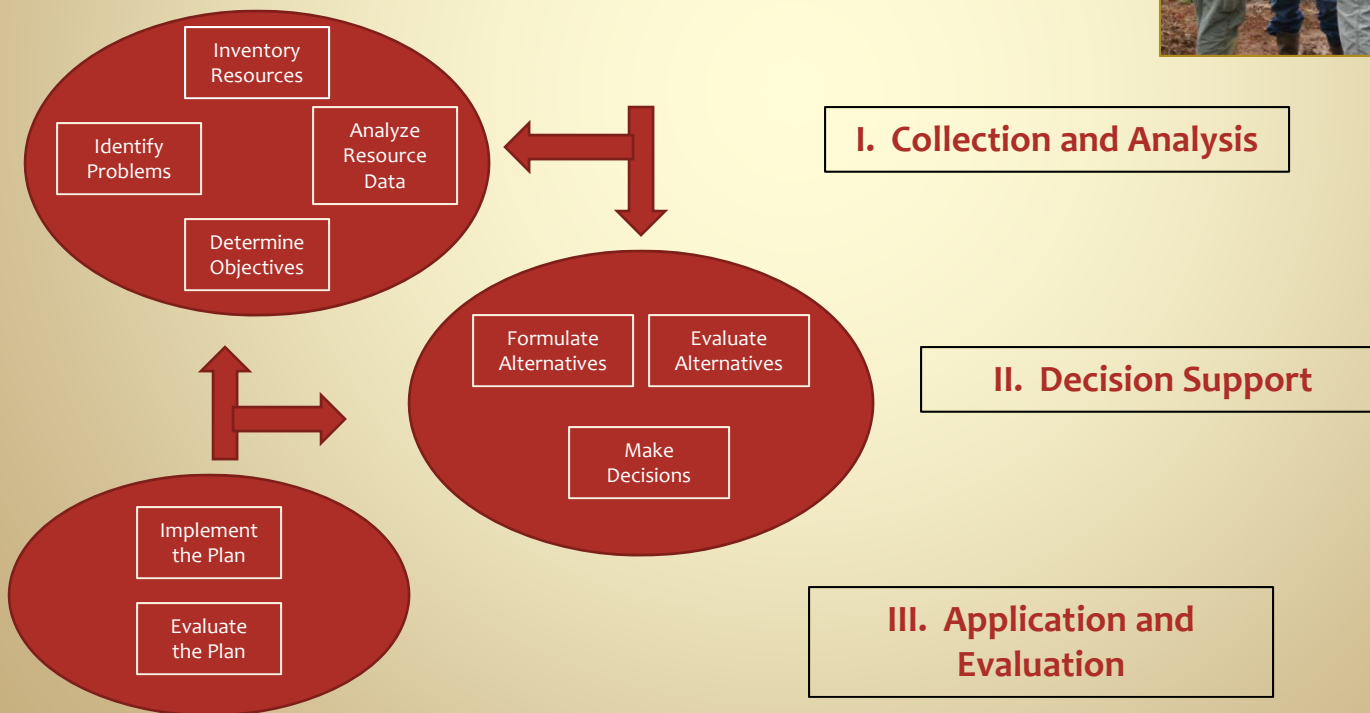
Buncombe SWCD Board

- Jim Coman – Chair
- Chase Hubbard – Vice Chair
- Lynn Bonham – Secretary
- Elise Israel – Treasurer
- David Snelson - Member



Conservation Planning

- Based on land capability
- Utilizes available resource data
- Science based solutions



Technical Assistance

- Consultations (soil erosion, water quality)
- Conservation Plans
- Engineering Surveys and Designs
- Partnership engineers, agronomists, foresters, etc.



Environmental Education

- Schools
- Envirothon competition
- Conservation Contests
- Environmental Education Field Days
- Events (Mountain State Fair, etc.)
- Internet and local media
- Project tours



Cost Sharing

- N. C. Agricultural Cost Share Program
- Community Conservation Assistance Program
- Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program
- Grants (individual projects)



Farmland Preservation

- Assist Agricultural Advisory Board
- Voluntary Agricultural Districts
- Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts
- Workshops/education/outreach to citizens



Conservation Easements

- 6 conservation easement projects
- 4 are 100% donations/2 are partial payments
- Total acres = 983
- Value of conservation easements = 5.5 million
- Estimated County cost = \$278,190
- Grants = \$1,085,000
- Value of donations = \$4.1 million



Storm Damages

- Floods (1977, 1982, 2004)
- 2004 – 230 sites evaluated, 190 repaired
- Total project costs 7.1 million



2007-2008 Drought

- Cost Share Funds (\$47,000)
- Pasture Renovation, pond repair, new ponds
- Drill new wells
- Administered hay deliveries from Texas and eastern North Carolina (in cooperation with Cooperative Extension Service)

Stover – 220 tons

Hay – 240 tons



Regulatory Support

- Erosion Control Plans
- Storm Water Management Plans
- Environmental Impact Reviews
- Confined Animal Operations
- Violations



- Seedling Sale
- No-till seed drill
- Fabric Filter Cloth

