

**THE TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
HISTORY**

Revised May, 2015

July 19, 1954 - a petition, following the endorsement of the Agriculture Workers Council, was signed by 51 landowners. D. S. Weaver, Chairman, State Soil Conservation Committee, issued a notice of a hearing at the Courthouse on October 7, 1954.

November 10, 1954 - A determination of the need for creating of District and the defining of boundaries was established. Notice of Referendum, D. S. Weaver, Chairman, SCS Committee.

January 15, 1955 – Election - referendum passed.

February 7, 1955 – notice of appointment of temporary supervisors, M. H. Shuford and C. C. Garren. They took office February 16, 1955.

March 1, 1955 - application was filed for charter with State Conservation Committee.

March 9, 1955 - first supervisor's meeting took place, drawing up a program and work plan.

April 1, 1955 - second meeting of supervisors, adoption of work plan, preparation of Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding with the Soil Conservation Service. Those present were: *E.B. Garret, Frank Doggett, M. H. Shuford, C.C. Garren and Julian Glazner.*

April 13, 1955 – Certificate of Charter by J. Frank Doggett, Secretary of State Soil Conservation Committee, was issued.

May 14, 1955 – acceptance of Memorandum of Understanding by the Secretary of Agriculture, and by the State Conservationist of Soil Conservation.

May 16, 1955 – acceptance of Memorandum of Understanding by State Conservationist of Soil Conservation.

August 1, 1956 - assignment of H. E. Newland as Work Unit Conservationist by the Soil Conservation Service who served until 1960.

1957 - M. H. Shuford was assigned in 1957 as Conservation Technician and served until retirement in 1981; returned as a Supervisor in 1982. The Soil Conservation Service's informational program was carried on with vigor. The Work Unit Conservationist participated in the already organized Farm and Home Radio Program – broadcasting (8) eight 15 minute programs over WPNF. On the first program in August, County Agent Julian Glazner interviewed the Conservationist and introduced him to the listeners.

December 19, 1957- the first French Broad River Watershed Program was discussed with various agencies. Since 1957, flood protection has been addressed at least 3 separate times due to the need for flood damage reduction. SCS prepared a Draft Flood Management Plan for Transylvania County. If approved this plan will address flood damage reduction to homes, buildings, and industries by elevating these structures above the 100 year floodwater elevation.

May 1970 - The District began its first Conservation Field Day in May of 1970. This is the longest running in the state and one of the highlights of the year for the District.

July 1987 - The North Carolina Agricultural Cost Share Program which is designed to reduce the delivery of agricultural non-point source pollution into the waterways of the state, began in Transylvania County.

October 1994- Transylvania SWCD receives the Watershed of the Year award from the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the Upper French Broad River watershed.

October 1996- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

January 1999- Randal J. Lyday, Transylvania SWCD Supervisor, was inducted into the NCASWCD Hall Of Fame.

October 2002- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Fall 2004- Hurricanes Francis and Ivan hit Transylvania County. The district receives grant funds for several stream bank repair projects.

October 2005- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

October 2007- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

July 2008- The district receives drought grant funds for damage done by the exceptional drought experienced in the county.

July 2008- The district receives its first Community Conservation Assistance Program (CCAP) funds.

October 2009- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

October 2011- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

May 2012- The district begins removing debris from a massive blockage in the French Broad River. Since this project, the district has removed several other debris jams from the river.

October 2013- Transylvania SWCD named Area 1 Outstanding District of the Year by the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

April 2014- The district receives Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program funds.

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS

M. H. Shuford	1955 - 1957
C. C. Garren	1955 – 1957
G. W. Whitmire	1955 - 1970
M. O. McCall	1957 - 1959
Edward Mackey	1957 -1961
Clarence Brown	1959 - 1962
Randall Kitchen	1959 - 1963
W. W. Brittain	1959 – 1982
Homer McCall	1962 - 1964
Harry Blake	1962 – 1967
John D. Smith	1964 – 1967
J. A. Whitmire	1964 – 1974
Jones Garren	1968 – 1987
N. B. Woody	1969 – 1974
Owen Lee	1974 – 1986
Randal J. Lyday	1970 – 1987
M. H. Shuford	1982 – 1994
Albert Plemmons	1987 – 1994
Thomas Mitchell	1987 – 1994
Steve Cochran	1974 – 1999
Harry Corbin	1987 – 1999
George Alexander	1995 – 2005
L. C. “Bud”Case	1995 – 1998
Michael Whitmire	1995 – 2014
Charles J. Bryson	1998 – 2014
Carroll Parker	1999 – 2000
David Cantrell	2000 – 2001
Donny Fisher	2000 – 2005
Dick Bragg	2001 – Present
Scott Galloway	2005-Present
Alan Johnson	2005-Present
Bob Twomey	2014- Present
Joffrey Merrill	2015- Present

DISTRICT EMPLOYEES:

Helen Cochran	1981 – 1998	District Secretary
Donald R. Fisher	1988 – 1997	District Resource Specialist
Bo McCall	1997 – 2000	District Resource Specialist
Jeffery Parker	2000 - Present	District Director
Helen Russell	1998 – 2008	District Secretary/Ed. Coordinator
Jo Ann McCall	2009 - Present	Education Coordinator

USDA, SCS, NRCS EMPLOYEES:

NAME	YEARS SERVED	TITLE
Harry E. Newland	1955 – 1960	Work Unit Conservationist
M. H. Shuford	1957 – 1981	Conservation Technician
Grover McPherson	1960 – 1965	Work Unit Conservationist
John Brown	1965 – 1968	Planner
John Smith	1965 – 1968	Planner
Bert Sutton	1968 – 1973	Work Unit Conservationist
John W. Andrews	1974 – 1978	Work Unit Conservationist
Robert Carter	1979 – 1984	District Conservationist
Sally Stokes	1982 – 1984	Soil Conservationist
Marilyn Stowell	1983 – 1985	Soil Conservationist
Bob Twomey	1984 – 2012	District Conservationist
Emily Pohlman	2013- Present	District Conservationist