# NC1190 Annual Meeting June 25, 2025

**Attendees:** Landon Yoder, Sarah Church, Tonya Haigh, Mae Davenport, Adam Zwickle, J Arbuckle, Mark Burbach, Aaron Thompson, Chloe Wardropper, Steven Wallander, Doug Jackson-Smith, Stephen Gasteyer, Jeff Peterson, Elsie Assan

# Highlights and Action Items

## Related Research and Activities

Participants gave brief updates on research and projects, see [below](#_rcbudcxzkdq).

## Proposal Renewal

Last year, our focus was on diversifying and NC1190 identity. This year, primary focus was on beginning to set shared objectives for the next proposal. This project expires Sept 30 2026 but the entire year before is application for continuation, first deadline is September 2025. See Jeff Peterson’s overview of the process and timeline with important links [below](#_gvaxzbqvdxtc).

Meeting participants discussed the following points:

* The new proposal should be an extension/evolution of past work, not a brand-new proposal. Jeff indicated that the expectation is that projects evolve over time, so it is ok if our focus changes slightly.
* Because there are not a lot of extra resources for carrying out Hatch activities, preference is for a focus that leverages projects our members are already doing, while providing a place to learn from each other, build shared interests and approaches.
* Group was fine with broadening focus to ecosystem management, rather than water only. Would like an umbrella that fits what our members are doing now.
* The objectives are what get distributed to Experiment Station Directors and can be used as a communication/recruiting tool.
* The proposal must show that what we’re proposing to do as a Hatch project is not redundant to other projects and show the added value - what does the multi-state Hatch allow us to do that we cannot do alone? For example, can we build workshops, conferences, panel presentations, special issues from what we are doing?
* Research questions per se may not be needed in the proposal.

NC1190 Objectives:

* Current NC1190 objectives and meeting participant input/comments found in tab 3 of this document: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FXUwWpVpONDZBK0F9neTnjVK9vk0XmeJ9aIlA0RyMcI/edit?tab=t.sq632m5138d8>
* Proposed revised objectives to be sent to full listserv for input found in tab 4 of this doc: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FXUwWpVpONDZBK0F9neTnjVK9vk0XmeJ9aIlA0RyMcI/edit?tab=t.94teyx9vn48>

Volunteers for Writing Team: Landon, Tonya, Adam, Stephen

Volunteers to Review: Sarah, J., Mark, Doug

### **Action steps:**

* Landon will send out survey to listserv
  + Which proposed objectives do you want to contribute to? What is missing or needs tweaking?
  + Ask for contributors to writing team
  + Propose group-write date - July 28 2025 at 1 CT/2 ET

## 2026 Meeting

Meeting participants were in favor of meeting in 2026 prior to the IASNR Conference (Corvallis, OR) or Rural Sociology (TBD). We do miss the opportunity for more time for brainstorming and working organically together but find folks just don’t have time for longer stand-alone meetings currently. We will try to offer hybrid participation. Our goal is one full day together, with or without a field trip. Further, we will work together to propose NC1190 sessions at whichever conference we piggy-back on. The sessions could be organized around our old or new objectives.

### **Action Steps:**

* Tonya and leadership team decide location, after Rural Soc sets its 2026 location/date
* Tonya find meeting room with hybrid/zoom capability (Landon knows a couple of people who might be able to help)
* As Landon and leadership team set agenda, can follow up with Stephen G. if we want to explore a field trip related to forestry
* Tonya will ask NC1190 listserv about interest in presenting in group sessions (and interest in organizing/leading sessions) at whichever conference we piggyback on and we’ll go from there

## Panel/Special Session at Existing Conferences

Agreed to explore panels/special sessions at conferences in 2026 - particularly conference where we piggyback NC1190 annual meeting. There is interest in comparative/collaborative panels for sessions, conservation delivery, peer and network effects, adoption/disadoption, outcome monitoring, etc. Organizing NC1190 sessions at conferences are a great way to get us to work together and are good project deliverables. TH taking next step - see above.

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## Listserv

We will move to Gaggle Mail to run NC1190 Listserv.

### **Action Step:**

* Sarah will upload Purdue list to this site.

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## Election of New Secretary/Officer

### **Action Steps:**

* Tonya & Landon will follow up with folks.

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## Follow Up from Last Year - Conference Proposal

Landon reported out that a letter of intent was developed but we were not encouraged to submit given uncertainty in funding. Group decided to explore future possibilities with conference funding, as well as private Foundation funding

### **Action Steps:**

* Stephen will provide links to foundations we might consider for conference funding
* Landon will resend letter of intent to NC1190 subgroup who worked on it, and facilitate discussion of which foundations/funding sources might be appropriate

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## Follow Up from Last Year - Policy/Sustainable Transitions + Increasing Social Science Impact (Adena)

No report.

# Details Here!

## NC1190 Member Updates

Landon Yoder – working on cover crop stuff with Chloe and other folks; survey about social norms around that practice

Sarah Church– TH and I wrapping up project about eco drought with MT fed and state agency folks how and if they manage eco drought; other cool thing finished 3rd round of statewide vol water monitoring survey, getting good longitudinal data and getting good R code to streamline process we’d be happy to share that in our shared resources folder

Tonya Haigh – IMPACT2 scenario activity is engaging small scale and specialty crop farmers in envisioning farming under future climate settings, the activity has proven useful not only for gathering data about needs and opportunities, but also for sparking discussions and new awareness of potential future challenges

Mae Davenport – working with local govt body on urban water values across racial/ethnic identity, published preliminary paper; working with tribes on fish consumption/contamination and relationships with wetlands created a values scale; big survey out with private well owners about drinking water and what might compel them to test annually; working with LSP on soil health hubs

Adam Zwickle – resilience ag and farmers trust in water models using soil moisture probes to build farm level model and doing interviews to tweak model development and think about how to roll out in a way that builds trust; recruiting for a MS or PhD student

J Arbuckle – disadoption of cover crops/no-til using survey data (2 data sets) to look at adoption behavior over time and finding lots of farmers disadopting even as other adopt, two papers coming out soon – link to practitioner poll in chat

Mark Burbach – 14th class of NE Water Leaders (year long program) evaluation/assessment; evaluating TAP program impact on participants behavior and changes on their farms but also impact to state officials who participate

Aaron Thompson – working with lots of you on Diverse CornBelt Project; moving into a lot of work on agri-voltaic adoption, lots happening in IN including development and moratoriums; climate-smart practices looking at non-linear adoption finding that most edge-of-field practices are not in the right place, maladoption; planning process for coastal counties in NW IN

Chloe Wardropper – evaluation of farmer demonstration networks/groups funded by NRCS using spatial data analysis to see how demos affect cover crop adoption and social network analysis to find important sources of information (not always demo farmers); starting new project related to carbon sequestration related to scientific and legal concerns, looking for contracts

Steven Wallander – back from detail again at ERS; released 5th report of survey of irrigation organizations and 6th report is in progress link in chat; work on tile drainage survey data collection; participation in USDA conservation programs and how that affects environmental quality – farms using for regulatory compliance; crop rotation spatial distribution of crops at farm level

Doug J-S – SAS project “From the Ground Up” experimentation around practices farmers are interested in hung up in the funding freeze have lost time but back online; conversations about the language we use – more on conservation less on climate-smart; ran statewide polls in OH; heading to social science panel on monitoring/evaluating agency investments impacts (Michigan)

Stephen Gasteyer – groundwater monitoring perceived risk by farmers related to PFASs and risks of disclosing contamination, survey data; new project related to farmers using activated sludge science is unclear on risks to people; ditch management and drainage decision-making; water quality and sanitation upgrades economic benefit with small communities; how to assess capacity of local conservation organizations to impact conservation

## Project renewal - Process and Important Links

Jeff Peterson serves as administrative advisor to our group; moving into a faculty position but will still be able to act as administrative advisor if that’s a fit so agreed to stay on through the end of this project then in the renewal process we identify who we want as administrative advisor (which can still be Jeff).

Current Proposal: <https://nimss.org/projects/view/mrp/outline/18775?search=nc1190>

Link to proposal renewal instructions:<https://www.aginnovationnc.org/new-renewal-nc-project-instructions>

This project expires Sept 30 2026 but the entire year before is application for continuation, first deadline is September 2025 - send an email to Christina Hamilton by September 15, she’ll create a temporary project to hold our docs. October 15 steps 3 & 4 are due, process hasn’t changed much. Next step project objectives uploaded. The next thing is for participants to be added – once they have objectives a notice goes around to experiment stations for people to sign up to be participants. Everyone has to sign up it does not auto-renew. December 1 2025 full final proposal has to be uploaded to NIMSS. After submitted goes through review process and we are asked to id potential peer reviewers. Goes to admin advisor for review to make sure there’s no red flags. Reviews then approval notification by April 2026 to begin Oct 2026.

Proposal guidelines NC proposal guidelines (Appendix A, p26):<https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4081a5_86b90557963a4cfb88a4603b33eaf2d5.pdf>  
NC Regional Project Expectations guide: <https://www.aginnovationnc.org/_files/ugd/4081a5_7c81109d73204a98933af284b126fdfb.pdf>