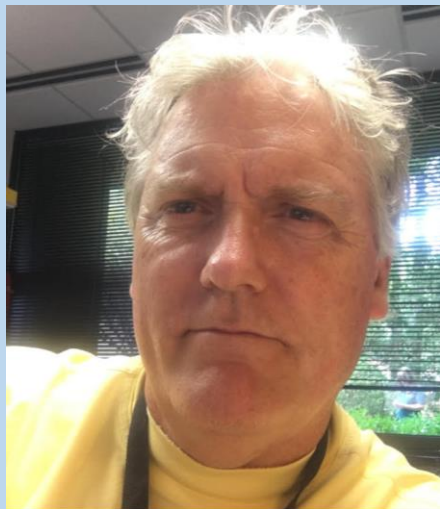


## Resilience Innovations: Financing Opportunities



**Jim Kjelgaard**

Natural Resources Conservation Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Dr. Jim Kjelgaard is the state conservation engineer with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Raleigh state office. He has served NRCS in California as a field engineer and Texas as a zone engineer. Jim was raised in Pennsylvania and has degrees from Penn State and Washington State University. He specializes in low volume roads and trails assessments and erosion/drainage control and is currently the Emergency Watershed Protection program manager for NRCS.



**Brian Loadholt**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Brian Loadholt is Easement Coordinator for NRCS North Carolina assisting with the management of programs such as Agricultural Land Easements, Wetland Reserve Easements and Flood Plain Easements. He has served NRCS for 15 years holding positions as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, and supervisory soil conservationist. Brian was raised in South Carolina, is a North Carolina A&T grad, and is currently pursuing 'coolest Dad/Husband' certification in Durham.



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# Emergency Watershed Protection

J.F. Kjølgaard & Brian Loadholt Jun. 2019

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## “Regular” EWP Program Purpose



- Remediate Erosion Threatening Infrastructure/Structures
- Recovery Removal of Debris Threatening Infrastructure/Structures (NRCS Not First Responders)
- Documented Benefits Must/Shall be Greater than Estimated Project Costs



# Eligible Program Participants



## Participants/Sponsors:

- Any legal subdivision of a state government or agency (e.g. city, town, district, commission, SWCDs, etc)
- Native Americans Tribes and Tribal organizations
- Sponsor obtains land rights, release of records, & permits
- Sponsor responsible for O&M and administration the contract
- May sponsor projects on private lands



## EWP Process



- Natural Disaster has to occur and be declared: Fed or STC may declare
- Project Sponsor request EWP assistance and site is assessed for eligibility. Damage Survey Report and Environmental Evaluations prepared by NRCS
- Upon approval, funding is provided when available
- 220(280) days to develop formal agreement document, procure/contract engineering services (if needed) and procure/contract/finish construction



# Funding



- Dependent upon several factors such as; the magnitude of the disaster, number of disasters in the region, congressional authorization, etc.
- May or May Not be Available
- 75/25, possibly 90/10 cost-share
- May take up to a year to see work on ground



## Working the Program



- Pre-Disaster, Sponsors should contact local NRCS offices and Acquaint with Available Technical/Program Resources
- Post-Disaster, Sponsors should contact local NRCS offices and assess potential EWP projects, work with NRCS to complete Damage Survey Reports and Environmental Evaluations, PREPARE to administer Grants, Procurements, and Contracts
- Program requires Formal Agreements between Sponsor & NRCS prior to any work beginning. NRCS NOT FEMA





# EWP Floodplain Easements



**The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) for Floodplain Easements (FPE) provides an alternative measure to traditional EWP recovery (7 CFR Section 624.10).**

**FPEs can be administered in locations where:**

- Stafford Act (Presidential) Disaster Declaration has been made
- <https://www.fema.gov/disasters>
- Identified and funded through Congressional legislation



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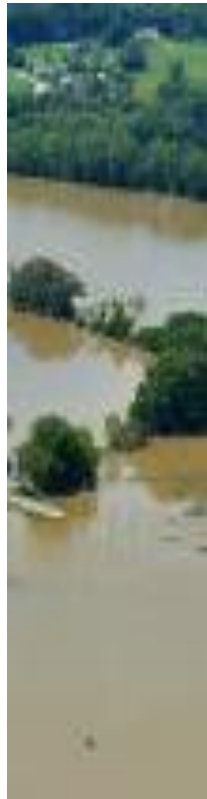
# How FPE is Authorized

## Following a Disaster:

Through FPE, NRCS may purchase floodplain easements – voluntarily offered by landowners – where sites meet FPE eligibility criteria and it is determined that acquiring an easement is the more economical and prudent approach to reducing a threat to life or property. This process is identified as “In Lieu of Recovery.”

- Enrollment process begins with landowner voluntarily submitting application.

Alternatively, a disaster appropriations may carry language that authorizes NRCS to purchase floodplain easements. This process is generally identified as “Legislatively Prescribed.”



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# Types of FPE Projects

1) Agricultural Lands and Other Lands Without Residences or Other Structures



2) Residential Properties With Structures Present



# Who Can Be an FPE Project Sponsor?

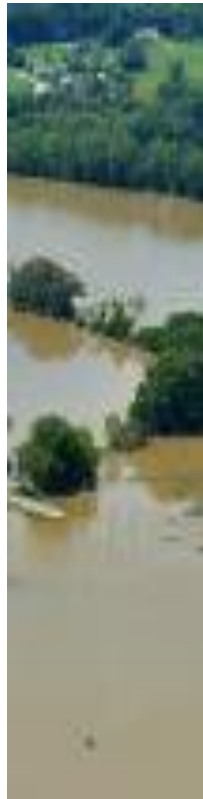
## An eligible project sponsor is:

Any legal subdivision of a State government or a State agency, including the following:

- Cities, Counties or Parishes, Towns, Municipal authorities, Townships, Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Entity chartered under State law.

Any Native American Tribe or Tribal organization as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. Section 450b).



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## EQIP and CSP



### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns. Participants earn CSP payments for conservation performance—the higher the performance, the higher the payment.





## Contact Information



**Interested Sponsors should contact their local NRCS office to arrange site visits and assessments once conditions are safe to do so.**

NC NRCS EWP Program Manager  
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Floodplain Easement Program  
Brian Loadholt, [brian.Loadholt@usda.gov](mailto:brian.Loadholt@usda.gov)



# Questions





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# If Time Allows.....



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# Columbia, MS, Owen Street Project

Before



After





# Columbia, MS, Browns Avenue Project

Before



After



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# Debris Removal



Before



After



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# Grade Stabilization



Before



After



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# Streambank Stabilization



Before



After



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