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Contact Information

Name	Jeff Essic
Address	1233 Lorimer Rd
City/Town	RALEIGH
ZIP/Postal Code	27606
Email Address	jfessic@gmail.com
Phone Number	919-443-5223

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Please submit your comments via the form below (500 words or less). The clerk will document your comments as part of the formal minutes of today's meeting.

To the esteemed Wake County Board of Commissioners,

I want to personally recognize the hard work of the Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District staff for their many accomplishments this past fiscal year despite unprecedented challenges. In their annual report for 2019-2020, some of the highlights include that the staff have installed and implemented 35 best management practices for over 2,500 acres of farmland this year to protect our valuable soil and water resources. This work was enabled by them procuring nearly \$160,000 in cost-share funding.

Also, continuing what they have done for many years, the staff provide educational outreach for schools, community groups, and the public that has had an immeasurable yet profound impact on our environment. From poster contests for elementary students, Envirothon competitions for middle and high school students, to Big Sweep clean ups for everyone, the District provides these and many more opportunities for citizen volunteers to engage in activities that promote good stewardship. The results of all of this work are very visible, but there is always more to do.

As Co-Chair of the Friends of Wake County Soil and Water Conservation District, I hear and read monthly reports from the staff and am always impressed by their engagement and activities with Wake County's landowners and citizens. Thank you very much for all that you as our Board of Commissioners have done to fund and support our Soil and Water District operations, and I encourage you to continue providing them with their budgetary needs.

Sincerely,
Jeff Essic