



FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
101 South Bickett Blvd, Suite B • Louisburg, NC 27549 • (919) 496-3137 • Fax (919) 496-7235

November 29, 2016

N.C. Source Water Collaborative – Awards Program
Attn: Rebecca Sadosky
1634 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1611

Dear Ms. Sadosky:

The Franklin Co. Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors would like to respectfully submit our nomination of Mr. Mike Hicks and the Hicks family for the Source Water Protection Award. The Best Management Practices (BMP) implemented by the Hicks family have benefitted and greatly improved the surface water quality surrounding and flowing into the Cedar Creek watershed and the Franklinton NC reservoir.

Mr. Hicks and his father have successfully worked with the Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District for over 20 years. They have successfully implemented and maintained many BMP's on farmland they own and/or operate. The Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District recognizes the most valuable conservation results received by the BMP, Sod Based Rotation (SBR). SBR is the planting of a grass species (usually fescue) on land previously cropped with a commodity crop. This allows the land to 'rest' for a period designated in the conservation plan for 17 to 41 months. As part of their conservation plan, the Hicks family implemented 246.74 acres into SBR for the 2013-2015 tobacco planting seasons. If not enrolled in SBR, these acres would have been planted in wheat and soybeans. By planting grass instead, a total 172.74 pounds of soil was saved – a result of planting a cover on the land and not disturbing the soil. By implementing this BMP, there was also a reduction of 7523.95 pounds of nitrogen during the three year period.

All farmland owned and operated by the Hicks family is located in the impaired and impacted Cedar Creek watershed in Franklin County. Waters from this watershed flow directly into the nearby Franklinton, NC reservoir on Long Mill Road. This reservoir serves as a major drinking water source for families and businesses located in this area. By reducing the amount of soil and nitrogen that is introduced into these waters there is a significant increase in the clarity, physical and biological condition of those waters.

We respectfully submit this application for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Mitchell".

Charles Mitchell
Franklin Soil & Water Conservation District Board

—Yours for Life—