North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission

Job Approval Authority Initiative and Technical Training Program

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NC SWCC JAA and Training Initiative

1. NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) Job Approval Authority (JAA) Overview
2. Training Initiative
   - Program goals
   - FY 2023 Summary
   - Keys to success
   - New Resources

What is Job Approval Authority ?

DEFINITION:

JAA is the certification granted to an individual who has demonstrated the appropriate knowledge, skills, and abilities to plan, design, and certify installation of a given best management practice.

- Granted by USDA – NRCS or NC SWCC in North Carolina

NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission Job Approval Authority

- Legislation was passed in 2021 giving the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) authority to grant their own Job Approval Authority (JAA).
- The NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) has primary responsibility for managing and implementing this JAA initiative.

Benefits of NC SWCC JAA System

- Managed and administered by the NC DSWC to meet needs of NC SWCC programs and NC SWCD staff.
- Policies of the program are developed under the guidance of the NC SWCC
- Not reliant on a partnering agency.
- JAA for BMPs unique to NC SWCC programs

Importance of JAA for NC SWCC Programs

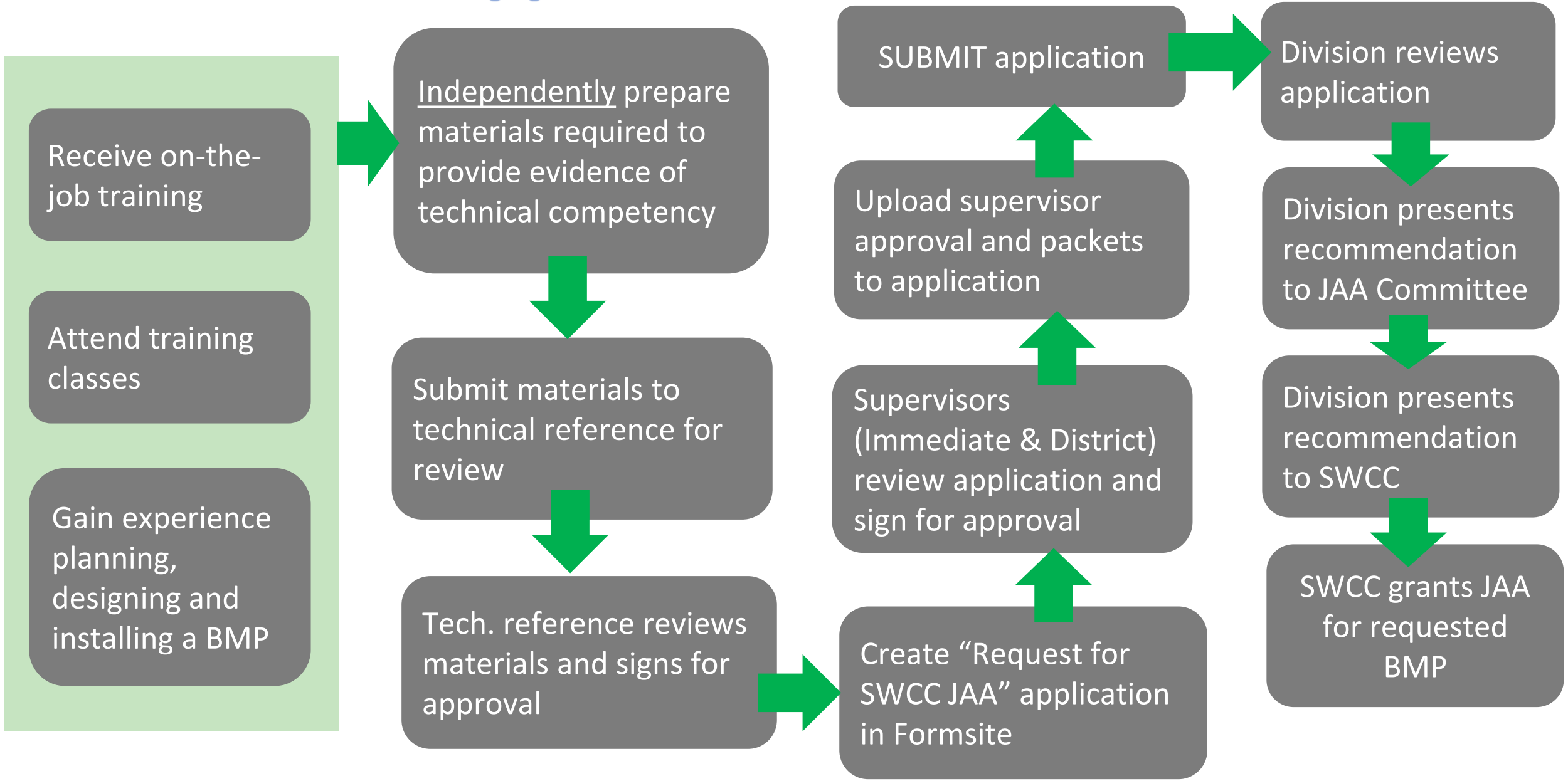
- ALL NC Cost Share Program contracts require JAA
  - Contract approval
  - Payment approval

NC SWCC JAA System Eligibility

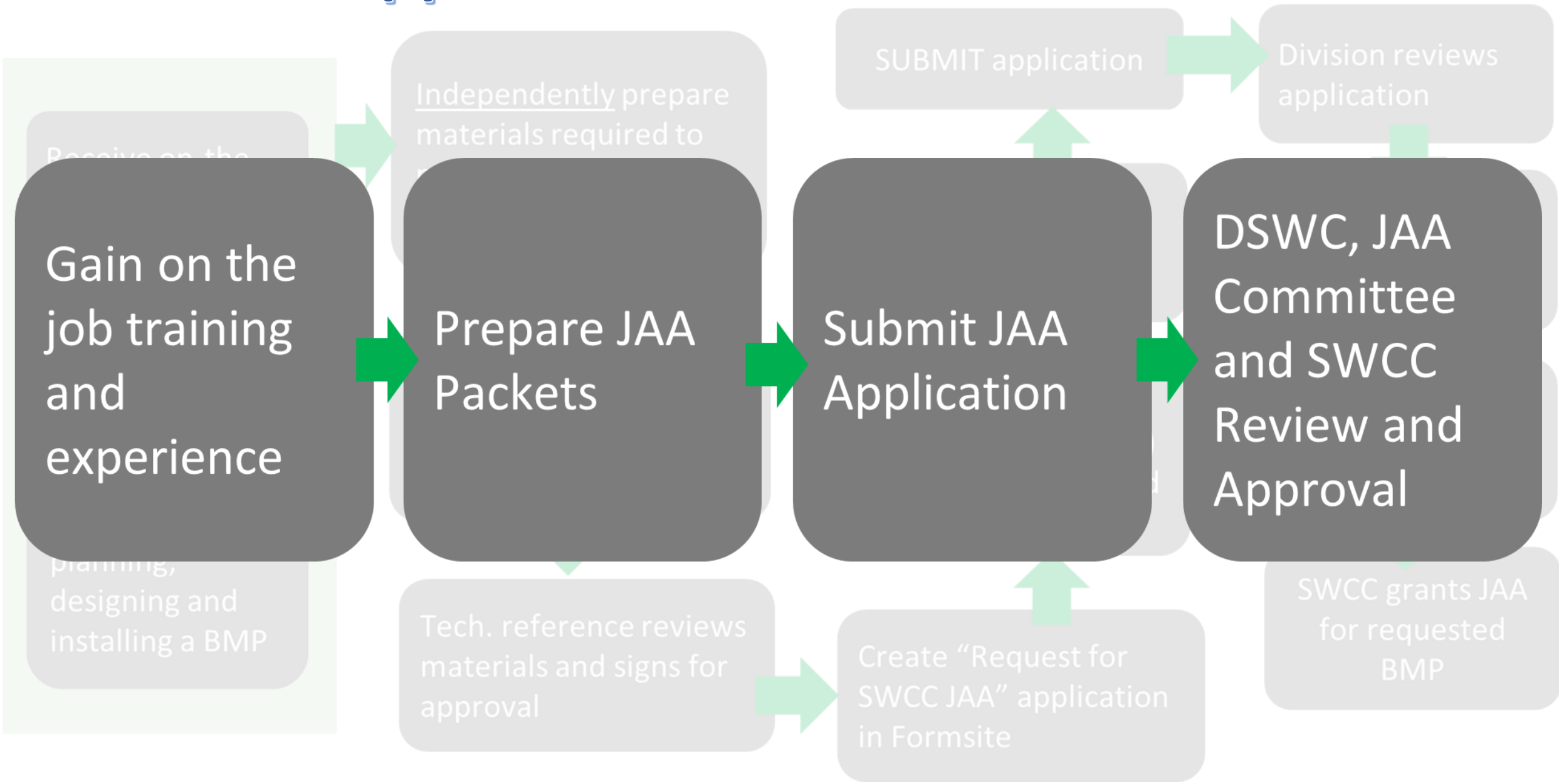
ELIGIBILE INDIVIDUALS

- SWCD Employees
- County Employees working in a SWCD
- NCDA&CS DSWC Employees

NC SWCC JAA Application Process



SWCC JAA Application Process



NC DSWC Technical Training Program

Training Program Goals

Provide technical training to district employees to support JAA initiative

- Conservation planning process
- BMP Implementation
  - I&E, Design, and Construction/Check-out
- NC SWCC Cost Share Programs policy
- Conservation planning tools (Surveying, RUSLE2, EFT)

FY 2023 Training Program Summary

30 - NC DSWC led trainings held

15 - BMP Specific Trainings

7 - Cost Share Program Trainings

4 - Engineering Field Days

3 - Soil Science Trainings

1 - Fundamentals of Conservation Planning

FY 2023 Training Program Summary

Overall Training Attendance = **Over 900** SWCD, DSWC and partner agency staff

FY 2023 Training Program Results

"Time well spent!"

"Very **helpful to network** with other district employees."

"I **would recommend** the training to new district staff!"

"The Division has made **immense progress** with available trainings."

"Great time to be a Soil & Water employee with all the training opportunities available!"

Training Program Keys to Success

- Dedicated Training Coordinator Position
- NC DSWC Training Website
- District Involvement
- Post Training Surveys
- Assistance from Experienced District Staff
- Regionally Hosted

New and Upcoming Training Resources

- Learning Management System
- Mentoring Network
- Competency Exams
- New Employee Training Curriculum
- Recorded Trainings

QUESTIONS?



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