

## MINUTES

### Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 201 E Main St/floor 5, Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 9 (District Meeting)

Date: October 7, 2024

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer* and Kenny Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer*.

**Others Present (In person):** Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*, Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manager*; Grace Fine- *PCC Americop Contractor*; **(Virtual)-** Olivia Plant- *NRCS*

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, October 7, 2024, and called to order at 8:03 am by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was in person and held at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.*

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (*Read by Sherry Scully*) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Statement of Professionalism** – was read by Supervisors in attendance.
- 3) **Minutes** – A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from September 9, 2024. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by Kenny Browning to accept the financial report as presented. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
  - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- No Report
  - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
    - On November 20<sup>th</sup> there will be a meeting in downtown Durham for committee partners to help come up with the new Stage 2 rules that are due by 2026.
  - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
    - **Jordan Watershed** – The Jordan Lake 1 Annual Meeting will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> 9:30 am-noon.
    - **NCDA and NRCS Hurricane Helene drop off site** – NCDA and NRCS are currently collection Ag supplies for those affected by the hurricane.
    - **NCLWTF Trustees Meeting**- Eddie reported that he is planning to attend the upcoming trustees meeting. The district submitted one grant for the Eagle Honeycutt Project, and PCC submitted three. Two of the 3 were for Durham SWCD projects.
    - **Durham County Internal Auditor**- recently passed away.
  - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

- **Plaque for IV Farm Family-** A motion was made by Kenny Browning to allow staff to purchase the plaque for the Area meeting. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Please save the following dates on your calendar:**
  - Area 4 Fall Meeting (Wake SWCD)- November 21<sup>st</sup>
  - Farmer Appreciation Dinner- December 10<sup>th</sup> (Location TBD)
  - NCASWCD Annual Meeting- Durham Sheraton Imperial January 5-7, 2025
  - 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Luncheon- February 6<sup>th</sup> (Location TBD)
  - NACD's 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting- Salt Lake, UT (Feb. 8-12, 2025)- Registration is open

**E. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Jack Brown reported the following.

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approved the following 2 AFA as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - 32-2025-506 Cistern; Neuse River Watershed.
  - 32-2025-507 Downspout Disconnect and Structural Stormwater Conveyance; Cape Fear Watershed.
- **Contracts**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-506 Cistern for \$3000: Neuse River Watershed. (Interlocal Agreement) ranking 105. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-507 Downspout Disconnect and Structural Stormwater Conveyance: Cape Fear Watershed. Interlocal Agreement with a ranking 140. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- In Engineer Review/Design Phase (informational only)
  - Stream Restoration (1), Stormwater Conveyance (4)
- BETC (informational only)- Northern High School Fall BETC program will begin October 12 with three raingardens slated to be installed for the NHS group. Jordan High School start-date is not confirmed but will be installing multiple raingardens at New Hope Academy in South Durham.
- ISIP (Informational Only)- Division Engineer plans are in for major Streambank Stabilization project in Walltown Neighborhood through Impaired Stream Improvement Program. Waiting on final contractor estimate.
- CCAP Site Visits (Informational Only)- 10 Technical Assistance Site Visits in August

**F. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP-** *Dustin Brewer*

**ACSP**

- **Contract**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract **32-2025-001** (\$3,159) for Livestock Exclusion Fencing. Ranking 110. This is a 3-part project. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AGWRAP**

- **Information only-** Contracts are under Construction (pictures were shared)

**Information Only**

- **2024 Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** will be held December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm @ Coffey Grounds Ranch.

- **Hall of Fame Committee** – meeting on Thursday, October 10th at noon.

**G. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects – Eddie Culberson reported the following:**

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project** – (Ellerbe Creek) Total project cost will be \$1.4 million.
  - We have received all of the funding except we are still waiting to hear from DWR for the remaining \$200,000. We should hear back late October from DWR.
- **Charlestowne Apartments Streambank Stabilization Project** – (Ellerbe Creek)
  - This project is fully funded
  - The area flooded after the last hurricane and water was out of the creek that we plan to stabilize. This was a 1 in 500-year storm. Now the Engineering firm needs to come back and look at the project.

**H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Sherry Scully reported the following:**  
**(Informational Items)**

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)** Allocation for FY 2024-2025 of \$250,000 was allocated by the Committee to 28 Farmer and 3 School Applicants. Sherry Scully and Lisa Marochak are meeting with applicants to set up vendor information with county, conduct site visits, and write contracts.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**  
 Board met on September 19. Discussion included the following:
  - Three VAD applications were approved: 14 acres on Johnson Mill Rd owned by Jonathan Lasher
    - 18 acres on Mason Rd owned by Nicole Connelly
    - 12 acres on Stallings Rd owned by Michale and Bonnie Biggs
- **The Farmland Protection Plan contractor** has completed survey which has been distributed to the community through email, meetings and personal contact. Staff requests board members to encourage farmers and landowners of the county to complete this survey.
- **Ordinance Subcommittee of the Farmland Board** will meet on October 24 at 8am to discuss the 1996 Ordinance. Any thoughts or insight to this document is appreciated.
- **Upcoming Event Dates:** Winter Farmer Breakfasts are scheduled for December 12th, January 16th and February 20th from 8-10. The first topic of discussion will include taxes and insurance.
  - Community Engagement meeting tentatively scheduled for November 12th or 14th.
  - Next meeting – October 17th at 6:00 at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

**I. Environmental Education Report- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:**

- **Big Sweep**—A motion was made by David Harris to approve for staff to purchase up to \$200 in bags for the 2024 Big Sweep events. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **NC State Fair (Soil and Water Booth)**- The Durham District Day will be on October 22. Please let Lisa Marochak know if you would like to help man the booth.
- **Annual Tree Sale**—Trees have been ordered from the nursery. We plan to start advertising next week.

**J. NRCS Update-** Olivia Plant provided an update and written report.

**K. Regional Coordinator-** Ken Parks provided a written report and highlighted some of the important things for the board and staff.

**L. Other Committees/Board Reports**

- **Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC)-** Grace Fine introduced herself to those in attendance. Grace is working with PCC through the AmeriCorps/Working Land Climate Corps program. She will be working out of the Durham Soil & Water office and ¼ of her time will be spent doing education and outreach with the Durham District.

**7) New Business**

- **Supervisor Reappointment** – A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Kenny Browning for reappointment to the Durham SWCD Board. Talmage Layton seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Resolution (Reduce the Maintenance Period on Agronomic Practices)** A motion was made by Kenny Browning to submit the resolution to Area 4. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:54 am.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting** – Tentatively on November 12, 2024 at 8:00 am.- (Virtual).

Talmage Layton  
Chair

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

11/12/2024  
Approval date