

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 11 (District Meeting)
Meeting Number: 5 (for State reporting purposes)

Date: December 3, 2024

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark Waller- *Vice-Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*; Kenny Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer*, and Ja’Nell Henry- *Supervisor*.

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*, Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*, Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*, Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*, and Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manage*.

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, December 3, 2024, and called to order at 12:35pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held in person at 709 Washington St, 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 November 12, 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. Mark Waller 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)**- Mark Waller gave an update on the last EAB meeting on November 6th. The guest speaker talked about banning gas powered blowers and mowers. The next meeting will be on December 4th.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - Provided a handout on the UNRBA to everyone in attendance
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **Board of County Commissioners Orientation**- Eddie plans to present at the orientation on December 17th.
 - **FY25-26 County Budget** – Eddie and Lisa plan to attend the budget kick-off on December 11.
 - **60th Anniversary Celebration** –The event will be held on January 22nd at EPA. Eddie has contacted a few potential donors.
 - David Harris will contact the new commissioners to see if they plan to attend.

D. Administrative Report- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

- **2025 Durham SWCD Board Meeting Schedule**-The Durham Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board will meet on the first Monday of each month at 8 AM, with the following exceptions: there will be no meeting in January, and in July and September, the meetings will take place on the second Monday of the month. All meetings will be held at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.
- **2025 NCASWCD Annual Meeting**- Durham Sheraton Imperial January 5-7, 2025. Early registration is due by December 10.
- **2025 Supervisor Disclosure Forms** – All of the Durham SWCD Supervisors completed and signed the forms.
- **NCFSWCD Grant Agreement**- A motion was made by David Harris to enter into the grant agreement with the NCFSWCD to purchase an ant spreader. The grant is for \$662 with a required 30% match of \$283 plus tax. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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.
 - 32-2025-510 Streambank Stabilization; Cape Fear River Watershed.
 - 32-2025-511 Raingarden; Neuse River Watershed.
- **Contracts**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-510 Streambank Stabilization for \$12,150: Cape Fear River Watershed. (Impaired Stream Improvement Program-ISIP) District ranking 175- highly qualified. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-511 Raingarden for \$562.50: Neuse River Watershed. Interlocal Agreement with a ranking of 130 (qualified). Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **In Engineer Review/Design Phase (informational only)**
 - Stream Restoration (1), Streambank Stabilization (2), and Stormwater Conveyance (4)
- **BETC (informational only)**
 - Finished up its Fall 2024 projects. A series of three raingardens were installed at the Hub Farm in a highly eroded area upslope from Crooked Creek. A total of 24 Northern High School students completed the internship this fall. The raingardens will provide a line of defense from sediment and nutrient dispersal into a threatened watershed.

F. 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.
 - The design phase has now started.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**- A one year extension is being requested of DWR
- **Piedmont Wholesale Flowers Project** – Eddie Culberson and Sherry Scully met with Peter Skillern who is planning to add a greenhouse to support 17 growers at the current location of Farmer Food Share. Durham SWCD is planning to help with stormwater runoff.

- Applying for USDA grant funding. Applications are due in April 2025.

G. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP – Dustin Brewer reported the following:

Ag Cost Share

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2025-004 Cropland Conversion. Ranking score 85. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contract**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract for 32-2025-004 pending landowner signature for Cropland Conversion \$9,450: Ranking score 85. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payment (RFP)**

Informational only

RFP for 32-2024-005 for \$300 (Residue & Tillage Management) signed by David Harris in between meetings

RFP for 32-2024-002 for \$22,690 (Supplement to 32-2024-004) signed by David Harris in between meetings

AgWRAP

- **Request for Payment (RFP)**

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the following RFP as presented.

32-2024-802 for \$13,381 (Water Supply Well & Pump). The well is 565 feet, and we are paying 456 feet now. The remaining 180 feet will be paid on February 1st when the supplemental funds come out. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **2024 Farmer Appreciation Dinner**- Tuesday, December 10th at Coffey Ground Ranch
- **NCFSWCD Grant**- the drone was ordered on October 15th (backorder) from Duncan Purnell
- All Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP money has been spent for the year.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Board – Sherry Scully reported the following:

Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)

- FY 2023-2024 – Of 32 contracts encumbering \$250,000, all but 8 contracted projects have been completed.
- FY 2024-2025 – 26 of 31 applicants have completed contract paperwork; most have been fully signed and ready to start work.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

The Farmland Board met on November 21. Discussion included the following:

- Two VAD applications for Renewal were approved:
 - 28.70 acres on N Roxboro Rd owned by Patsy Andrews
 - 159.2 acres on N Roxboro Rd owned by Pope Farm C 1987, LLC
- Ordinance Revision is in process by staff. FPAB Subcommittee will meet again after further staff edits are made. County attorneys will be a part of this process.
- Upcoming Event Dates:
 - Winter Farmer Breakfasts are scheduled for
December 12th 8-10 am at Farm Bureau; topic of discussion will be insurance with Presenter Paul Kaplar
January 16th 8-10am at TBD to discuss farm law with Annette Hiatt as speaker
 - Farmland Protection Plan Community Engagement meeting February 20th at 6pm at Bahama Ruritan Club

- Cooperative Extension completed the Farm Campus Community Engagement Report and presented it to board.
- Next Meeting - December 12th at 10:15 at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

7) **New Business**

- **2025 Boards and Committee Assignments** – The board discussed the 2025 Boards and Committee assignments for Durham SWCD Supervisors and made changes where needed.
- **Election of Officers for 2025-**
 - **Chairman** A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Talmage Layton for the 2025 Board Chair. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Approved by acclamation.
 - **Vice Chairman-** A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Mark Waller for the 2025 Board Vice-Chair. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent.
 - **Financial Officer-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to nominate David Harris for the 2025 Financial Officer. Ja’Nell Henry seconded the motion. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent.
 - **Secretary/Treasurer-** A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Kenny Browning for the 2025 Secretary/Treasurer. Ja’Nell Henry seconded the motion. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Swearing in of newly elected and appointed Durham SWCD Supervisors-**
The Honorable Judge Shamioka LaCher Rhinehart, District Court Judge 14th Judicial District, administered the Oath of Office to Chair, Talmage Layton and Supervisor, Ja’Nell Henry.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:13 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – February 3, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date