

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (District Meeting)  
meeting)

Date: August 5, 2024 (Additional

Meeting Number: 1 (for State reporting purposes)

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

**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*; Elicia Senff- *Education and Outreach Contractor*; Ja’Nell Henry- *guest*; Geovanna Alonza Meraz- *RCW student*; Beatriz Meraz - *Parent of RCW student*; Grace Messinger- *PCC Executive Director*; Olivia Plant- *USDA/NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*. **(Online)** Ken Parks- *Regional Coordinator*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, June 3, 2024, and called to order at 8:00 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 June 25, 2024. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by David Harris to accept the financial report as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to move items A and B under “New Business” before the “Business” section and approve the rest of the agenda as printed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **New Business**
  - A. **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) Student**- Geovanna Alonza Meraz a rising senior at the City of Medicine Academy thanked the board for sponsoring her to attend the 2024 Resource Conservation Workshop this past summer at NC State University. Also, she talked about her experiences as an RCW student and her plans for the future.
  - B. **Piedmont Conservation Council**- Grace Messinger the Executive Director of PCC introduced herself to those in attendance that didn’t already know her. She explained the purposed of the council and talked about past and potential future projects in Durham County. Lisa Marochak serves as the Durham County representative on the Executive Board. Eddie Culberson and David Harris are the Durham County representatives on the Full Council.
- 7) **Business**
  - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Lisa Marochak report that she received an email from The Clark to the Boards Office that the Durham SWCD Board would need to appoint a new Soil &

Water representative to serve on the Environmental Affairs Board (EAB). A motion was made by David Harris to appoint Mark Waller to serve as the Soil & Water representative on the Environmental Affairs Board. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update-** David Harris reported the following:

- Next meeting is August 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.
  - Durham County Stormwater Manager, Ryan Eaves will give a presentation at tomorrows meeting.
- David will share the link to the Durham State of the Streams (video)

**C. Directors Report-** Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **Beaver Management Assistance Program (BMAP)-** The department will continue to administer the BMAP for Durham County.
- **NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation-** Staff has been asked to give a presentation at BASF on August 22 on the no-till drill and the Ag Economic Development Grant program.
- **Our Mission at Work event for BOCC and others-** the event will be held on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am. We are planning to set up booths and do a brief presentation on some of our accomplishments from the FY2023-2024 Annual Report.
- **FY25-26 Budget Kick-off meeting** is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Durham SWCD-** On February 2, 1965, the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District was formed. In 2025 we will celebrate 60 years of existence.

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

- **Appointed Term-** Kenyon Browning's appointed term ends on the last day of November 2024. The Durham SWCD Board will vote on the reappointment during their September or October meeting and submit the recommendation to the NC Soil & Water Commission.
- **Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** Lisa Marochak reported that the board need to set a date for the annual Farmer appreciation dinner. The Durham SWCD Board picked December 10<sup>th</sup> as the date for the event. Staff will work on finding a location.
- **Celebration for 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Durham SWCD-** February 6, 2025 is the tentative date for the celebration. A planning committee was formed to help organize and plan the event. The following people will serve on the committee: Talmage Layton, David Harris, Kenny Browning, Eddie Culberson, and Lisa Marochak.
- **Area 4 Fall Meeting-** November 21 in Wake County

**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. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - 32-2025-501 Cistern; Nuese River Watershed.
  - 32-2025-502 for structural stormwater conveyance and raingarden; Cape Fear Watershed.
- **Contracts**
  - 1) A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2025-501 for \$3000 (Interlocal Agreement) for Cistern: ranking 110; Neuse River Watershed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **In Engineer Review/Design Phase** (informational only)
  - Streambank Stabilization (1), Stream Restoration (1), Stormwater Conveyance (1)

- **BETC Update** (informational only)
  - Plants for Durham County Stormwater project
    - Southern High Students will be growing the plants
    - BETC students from Southern, Northern, and Jordan will help install the plants.

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

**ACSP**

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approved the following 2 AFA as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried
  - **32-2025-001** (Exclusion fencing, Water Well), ranking score of 110.
  - **32-2025-002** (Waste Application System, Exclusion Fencing), ranking score of 85.
- **Information only-** Commission meeting held on July 24<sup>th</sup> to determine ACSP Funding for FY25- Durham Will receive \$60,464

**AGWRAP**

- **Information only-** Commission meeting held on July 24<sup>th</sup> to determine AgWRAP Funding for FY25- Du A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2025-501 for \$3000 (Interlocal Agreement) for Cistern: ranking 110; Neuse River Watershed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Application for Assistance**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-801 for Water Well: ranking 85; Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Information Only**

- **2024 Tri-County Pasture Field Day-** will be held Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> (rain date October 3<sup>rd</sup>) in Orange County.

**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.
  - **CREP:** meeting with the CREP Manager on Wednesday at the Eagle/Honeycutt Project.
  - **StRAP:** \$250K was received by PCC for the Eagle/Honeycutt Project
  - Waiting to hear back on the remaining grants we submitted this summer.
- **Charlestowne Apartments Streambank Stabilization Project –** (Ellerbe Creek)
  - This project now fully funded thanks to PCC for securing the StRAP funds
  - Construction should start the end of this year.
  - The Engineering Firm John R. McAdams is currently doing the design phase.

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

**Agriculture Economic Development (AED)**

- BOCC approved AED Grant allocation of \$250,000
- Training date held on July 16 at Farm Bureau. 41 registered with 27 in attendance.
- Application deadline: 11:59 pm, August 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Allocation of funds by Committee: September 12
- Farmland Plan Contractor will be attending the Durham SWCD meeting on Sept. 9

- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**

- Foothills Regional Commission's Magnolia Long joined the July meeting to discuss plans to begin Durham's Farmland Protection Plan Revision
- Durham Open Space and Real Estate Division requested support to be recognized as a certified entity under the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program- Agricultural Land Easement by NRCS. This certification, if accepted by county Manager, will acknowledge Durham for work they have performed in the past with NRCS supported Conservation Easements and provide some ease with future applications.
- Two VAD's approved
  - Elizah Bordley- 27 acres on Redwood Rd
  - Neil and Catherine Frank – 330 acres on Moores Mill Rd (Renewal)
- Board member update: Nancy Herndon (Cape Fear Rep) and Shakira Campbell (DOST Rep) have stepped down from the Board.
- FPAB Annual Plan approved
- Next Meeting: August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

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

- **2024 Environmental Field Days**– Registration has opened for the 2024 Environmental Field Days for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.
- **NC State Fair (Soil and Water Booth)**- The Durham District Day will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Please let Lisa Marochak know if you would like to help man the booth.
- **Trinity School**—We will be partnering with Orange SWCD to do a community project with 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Trinity School and Hollow Rock Park.
- **Conservation Contests**- The 2024-2025 Conservation Contests have opened. The theme is “Wetlands are Wonderful”. Please share the information with students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Entries are due by February 14, 2025 at 5pm.  
**DPS Kick-off Events**—On July 17, Durham Public Schools held a Kick-off Event for all-year-round teachers. Elicia Senff and I set up a booth at the event. On August 22, Elicia Senff and I will attend the kick-off event for traditional school teachers at Northern High School, and Jack Brown and Dustin Brewer will attend the Middle/High School event for Teachers at Southern High School.

**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

- The Soil & Water Commission will meet at the CET on September 16th
- The Commission recently made updates to the travel policy for supervisors. The updated policy was shared on the listserv and is on the Division's website
- Training website- currently being updated
  - Advanced Supervisor Training- August 13<sup>th</sup> in Raleigh
  - Training Committee has been created from the Division of Soil and Water

**L. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports**

**8) Closed Session**

At 9:58 am a motion was made by David Harris for the board to adjourn into closed session to discuss staff. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 10:25 am the board came out of closed session. A motion was made by David Harris that each employee receive a \$2000 appreciation gift. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:27 am.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – September 9, 2024 at 8:00 am.**- (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705).

Talmage Layton  
Chair

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

9/9/2024  
Approval date