

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

Meeting Number: 8 (District Meeting)

Date: September 9, 2024

Meeting Number: 2 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer* 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*; Magnolia Long- *guest (Consultant Senior Planner)*; and Paloma Garcia S.- *Guest (LFNC Fellow)*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, June 3, 2024, and called to order at 8:06 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 Mark Waller to approve the minutes from August 5, 2024. David Harris 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. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- Mark Waller motioned to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
  - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller provided an update on the EAB's last meeting. The Durham Landscape Manual needs to be updated.
  - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
    - Last Path Forward Committee meeting was held on September 3rd at 9:30am.
      - PCC is becoming a partner with UNRBA
    - Next meeting is scheduled for October 1st
  - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
    - **New DCo Strategic Plan**- Staff will be working on a new business plan for Soil & Water.
    - **Our Mission at Work event for BOCC and others**- Eddie reported that the event on September 4<sup>th</sup> went well. He thanks everyone for attending.
    - **FY25-26 Budget Kick-off meeting** is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.
    - **Board of Elections**- has moved to a new location (3825 S Roxboro St)
    - **Regional Coordinator Position**- The Division of Soil & Water has readvertised this position. Hopefully, they have someone in that position soon.

- **Conservation Employees Training (CET)**- Staff will be attending the CET workshop for NC district employees September 16-19. Lisa Marochak is the Vice President of the NC District Employees Association.
- **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:

**Please save the following dates on your calendars:**

- **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)

**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 3 AFA as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - 32-2025-503 Cistern; Cape Fear Watershed.
  - 32-2025-504 Raingarden; Neuse River Watershed.
  - 32-2025-505- Raingarden; Cape Fear Watershed)
- **Contracts**  
A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-504 for \$645 (Interlocal Agreement) for raingarden: ranking 130; Neuse River Watershed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **RFP (Informational Only)** The following RFPs were signed by David Harris between board meetings.
  - 32-2024-516 (\$6,500) for Stormwater Conveyance; New Hope Creek; Interlocal Agreement
  - 32-2024-517 (\$27,050) for a Raingarden; New Hope Creek; Interlocal Agreement
- **In Engineer Review/Design Phase** (informational only)
  - Streambank Stabilization (1), Stream Restoration (1), Stormwater Conveyance (1)
- **BETC Update** (informational only)- Working with Jordan High School to develop a Sustainable Ag Curriculum. Jordan High students will put in a Raingarden at New Hope Academy in late October. Will begin working with Northern High School cohorts in late October. The NHS students will install a raingarden in N. Durham Development.

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

**ACSP**

- **Supplemental Application for Assistance (AFA)**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the following Supplemental AFA as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried
  - Application for Assistance **32-2025-003** (Water Well), Supplement to Contract **32-2024-004** (livestock Exclusion, HUAP, Pipeline, and Water Well), ranking score of 110.
- **Contracts**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract **32-2025-002** (\$23,248) for Livestock Exclusion Fencing and Waste Application System. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract **32-2025-003** (\$748) for Water Well. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **RFP (Informational Only)**- 32-2024-004 (\$25,601) signed by David Harris between board meetings

#### **AGWRAP**

- **Information only**- Contracts are under Construction (pictures were shared)
- **Contracts**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-801 (\$10,500) 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> 9am-3pm @ Gates Farm, in Orange County.
- **Jordan Watershed Survey**- Dustin Brewer went over the survey and the board and staff completed it together.

#### **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.
  - **StRAP:** \$148,980 was received by PCC for the Eagle/Honeycutt Project. Eddie Culberson, Lisa Marochak and Grace Messinger are meeting with Matt Safford to go over the StRAP contract on 9/25.
  - Waiting to hear back from NLWF on 10/2 and DWR late October.
- **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:***

- **NACD Grant**- funding for the BETC Program  
This grant of \$60,000 will support the expansion of the BETC program and stipends for student interns to install 10 rain gardens. The deadline for the use of these funds is October 2025. A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve entering in the Memorandum of Agreement to allow NACD to contract with district. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **(Informational Items)**

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)**
  - Allocation for FY2025-2026 \$250,000
  - 48 applications received requesting \$384,370 in grant funds with a total expected project cost of \$473,893.
  - Committee reviewed all the applications and met on September 12 to determine allocation of funds.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**  
Did not meet in August. However, they did hold an online vote to support funding of three potential conservation easements to present to the BOCC.

- 30 acres on Bacon Rd for Ken Wolfe
  - 17 acres on Wiley Mangum Rd for Cliff Teasley
  - 25 acres on Tilley Farm Rd for Wesley Poole
- Next Meeting: September 19th 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**—2024 Environmental Field Days for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders schedule is on 9/12, 10/15, 11/1, 11/15, and 4/23.
- **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.
- **Training for Durham County Grounds Maintenance staff**—Staff has been asked to provide training for the Durham County Grounds Maintenance. We will be working on a schedule soon.
- **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.

**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)**- Lisa Marochak reported that she is assisting PCC with doing interviews to hire an Americorp person through the Working Land Climate Corps program. The person hired will be working out of the Durham Soil & Water office and ¼ of their time will be spent doing education and outreach with the Durham District.

**7) New Business**

- **Supervisor Reappointment (Lisa Marochak)** – tabled to next meeting
- **Contractor for Farmland Protection Plan revision**- The staff with Foothills Regional introduced themselves, told a little about the company and explained the steps for getting the plan updated. Also, they plan to meet with some of the board members immediately after the Durham SWVD Board meeting.

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

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – October 7, 2024 at 8:00 am.**- (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705).

Talmage Layton  
Chair

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

10/7/2024  
Approval date