

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (District Meeting)

Date: September 8, 2025

Meeting Number: 2 (for State reporting purposes)

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

**Staff 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*, and Elicia Senff- *Education & Outreach Contractor*.

**Others Present (virtual):** Olivia Plant (NRCS)

*A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, September 8, 2025, and called to order at 8:00am by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held in person 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 August 4, 2025. 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**- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 6) **Business**

##### **A. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller

- A EAB meeting was held on September 3
  - EAB voted to approve the City of Durham’s plan to become carbon neutral by 2050 and to submit these plans to Durham County to consider.
  - Canopy funding- for 4000 trees to green up Durham
  - Durham plans to get 14 electric buses by 2026
- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for October 1.

##### **B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris

- Still working on preparing updates to document.
- Next Path Forward Committee meeting is scheduled for October 7.

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

- **Budget Analyst** –Lisa Marochak and Eddie Culberson are taking our budget analyst out to see some of our projects on 9/30.
- **Tour for Assistant County Manager (ACM)**- ACM Dwayne Brenson would like to see some of our projects in the near future.
- **Soil & Water tour for Leadership** – The tour for the leadership team has been scheduled for April 9.
- **Education & Outreach Coordinator**- Elicia Senff has been hired as our Education & Outreach Coordinator. She will start on September 15.
- **Dco Family Night at the Durham Bulls Game**- Staff

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

- **NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts**- The NCASWCD Annual Meeting will be held January 4-6, 2025 in Cherokee, NC at Harrah’s Cherokee Casino and Resort. Lisa Marochak encouraged everybody to book their hotel rooms early before they sell out.

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

**Applications for Assistance (AFA)**- A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the following two AFA as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **32-2026-502**- Cistern (2) and Raingarden– Cape Fear River Watershed. Interlocal funding
- **32-2026-502**- Streambank Stabilization, Stormwater Conveyance, and Raingarden – Neuse River Watershed. ISIP Funding

**Contracts**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve **contract 32-2026-502**- Cisterns (2) and Raingardens (2) in the Cape Fear River Watershed for \$7500-Interlocal funds. District ranking 155 (Qualified). Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2026-503- Streambank Stabilization, Stormwater Conveyance, and Raingarden in the Neuse River Watershed for \$20,000-ISIP funds. District ranking 135 (Qualified). Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Informational Only**

- **CCAP Technical Assistance**- 12 site visits in August
- **VNRP**- Delivered a presentation to New Hanover SWCD about our Voluntary Nutrient Reduction (VNRP) program in which they have interest in their own district.
- **2025 CET/BETC**- August 2025 led a breakout session on the Durham SWCD BETC Program with a great response and multiple districts have reached out to start implementing similar programs.

**Ranking Forms for AgWRAP and Ag Cost Share**

Both forms were updated to remove MWBE. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the changes to the two ranking forms. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- **Riverside High Stormwater Project**- Sherry Scully, the contractor and Eddie Culberson walked the project and noticed that it needed to be mowed. Sherry contacted DPS Maintenance, and they have committed to mowing & removing trees from the Dam.

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Project**
  - Should start construction soon
  - **Central Pines Regional** – They are now requiring a contract. We submitted the contract, and the Raleigh City Council approved it last Tuesday. As of today, we have still not received payment for the five outstanding invoices.
- **Park Place HOA Project in conjunction with PCC**
  - Army Corp of Engineers has been contacted to look at the Dam. After they look at it, we will contact the two HOA's downstream.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
  - Should start construction soon
  - Still waiting on permits (They have 60 days to get back with us)
- **RES-** wants to partner with us on future projects.

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

**Ag Cost Share**

- **Informational only**

FY26 Allocation for **ACSP is \$56,555**

- **Application for Assistance**

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for contract 32-2026-001 (Ag Pond Sediment Removal) with a ranking score of 90. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**AgWRAP**

- **Information Only**

- FY26 Allocation for **AgWRAP is \$9,500**

- Discussed Cap for Projects based on FY amounts. A motion was made by Kenny Browning to approve a cap for whatever the FY allotment is. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Application for Assistance**

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for contract 32-2026-001 (Ag Pond Sediment Removal) with a ranking score of 90. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Informational Only**

- Program Review for Durham SWCD- October 2 at 9am

- 2025 Tri-County Pasture Field: Wednesday September 24th @ Lowell Valley Farm- South Lowell Road (Topics: Drones, Multi-Species Grazing, Hay Sampling, Army Worms). We also plan on having our Soil and Water equipment there for participants to see.

- Farmer Appreciation Dinner: Tuesday October 28th @ Coffey Ground Ranch in Bahama

**Ranking Forms for AgWRAP and Ag Cost Share**

Both forms were updated to remove MWBE. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the changes to the two ranking forms. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

**Informational Items**

**Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**

- FY 2025 – closed with portions of 14 remaining contracts (of 32) not complete. These will expire June of 2026.
- FY 2026 - 51 Farmer and 3 School Applications received requesting \$421,839.
- AED Committee is in the process of reviewing and ranking all applications. They will meet September 16, 2025 to determine disposition of funding. Applicants will be notified by September 19.
- Native Plant Sale – September 25, 4:00-6:00pm at Durham Cooperative Extension Service. This is a joint effort between Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension. Four Durham vendors, Soil and Water table and Master Garden table available

**Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**

- The Board voted to accept three VAD applications:
  - Fran Cook – 147 acres on Hopkins Rd
  - Sandra and Jerry Wrihtenberry – 88 acres on Roxboro Rd
  - Samantha Gasson and Scott Stirrup (Renewal) – 38 acres on Isham Chambers Rd
 The Board supported three farmland protection easement projects presented to them by Celeste Burns with Open Space and Real Estate:
  - Mountain Creek Farm – 147 acres
  - Mountain View Farm – 119 acres
  - Washington Farms – 76 acres
- FPAB Chair, Nicole Connelly presented Annual Report to the BOCC at their Work Session on September 2nd at 9 a.m.
- Next Meeting – September 18 at 6pm at Durham Farm Bureau or online.

**I. Environmental Education** – Lisa Marochak and Elicia Senff reported the following:

- **Big Sweep:** A motion was made by David Harris to approve staff to purchase Big Sweep supplies up to \$100. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **State Fair/Soil & Water Booth-** October 21<sup>st</sup> is Durham SWCD District Day at the Soil & Water booth. Please let Lisa know if you would like to help work at the booth.
- **Carrington MS** – Elicia Senff and Lisa Marochak are meeting with the new Ag teacher at Carrington MS later this week.
- **2025/2026 Tree Sale-** Will be ordering the trees soon.
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**J. NRCS Update-** Olivia Plant provided an update and written report.

**K. Regional Coordinator-** Taryn Thompson provided a written report

**L. Other Committee/Board Reports**

- **Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC)** – David Harris reported that PCC was awarded a \$50,000 grant from the state. \$5,000 will go to each Soil & Water District that is a member of PCC. The funding will be for CCAP work in their county.
- **Employee Appreciation Committee** – A motion was made by David Harris as a recommendation from the Employee Appreciation Committee to pay for all the staff and their families to attend the DCo Family Night at the Durham Bulls Game on September 9. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**7. New Business**

**A. 2025/2026 Board Committee Assignments**

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:13 am.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – October 6, 2025, at 8:00am (hybrid)**

Talmage Layton  
Chair

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

10-6-2025  
Approval date