

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (District Meeting)

Date: April 14, 2025

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*, Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*, Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*, and Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manage*, Taryn Thompson, *Regional Coordinator* **(Virtual)** Olivia Plant- *NRCS*.

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, April 14, 2025, and called to order at 8:02am by the Vice Chair, Mark Waller. The meeting was held in person at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (Read by Lisa Marochak) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Statement of Professionalism** – was read by Supervisors in attendance.
- 3) **Minutes** – A motion was made by Kenny Browning to approve the minutes from March 3, 2025. Mark Waller 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**- Kenny Browning motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller gave an update on the last EAB meeting in March. The next meeting will be the EAB Annual Retreat on April 9th, Room 461 in the Durham County Administration II Building at 201 East Main Street
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported that there is not new update.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY25-26 County Budget** – asking for an Education and Outreach Coordinator (have asked for the past 5 years) and \$25,000 to expand the BETC Program.
 - Budget Hearing with the County Manager was held on April 2. Talmage Layton, Mark Waller and David Harris attended the budget hearing with Eddie Culberson and Lisa Marochak.
 - **Performance Evaluations for staff**- due May 24
 - **Biochar**- Mark Waller, Eddie Culberson and Lisa Marochak met with the NCASWCD President, Barbara Bleiweis to discuss Biochar.
 - **MOU** –Need to work on updating the MOU between the District and the County. The last update was 2021.
 - **60th Anniversary Celebration**- Still looking for a location. Eddie has contacted the Frontier Building to see if it is available. We are also waiting to hear back from EPA.

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

- **Checks for District Accounts** – A motion was made by David Harris to approve the purchase of checks for two Durham SWCD checking accounts at a cost of \$199 per account, plus tax and shipping. Mark Waller seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- **2024-2025 Matching Funds Form-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 2024-2025 Matching Funds Form. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion.
- **Master Agreement-** A motion was made by David Harris to enter into the Master Agreement with NCAGR for FY2025-2026. Ken 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 7 AFA as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2025-517- Two Raingardens – Neuse River Watershed -EPA 319
 - 32-2025-518-Structural Stormwater Conveyance > Raingarden – Neuse River Watershed- EPA 319
 - 32-2025-519- Streambank Stabilization- Neuse River Watershed- ISIP
 - 32-2025-520- Streambank Stabilization- Neuse River Watershed- EPA 319
 - 32-2025-521- Structural Stormwater Conveyance > Raingarden-Neuse River Watershed - Interlocal Agreement
 - 32-2025-522- Structural Stormwater Conveyance > Raingarden- Neuse River Watershed- Interlocal Agreement
 - 32-2025-523- Cistern – Cape Fear Watershed - ISIP
- **Contracts**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-517– two raingardens for \$1,197 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 135- Qualified- EPA 319. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-518–raingarden for \$3,868.25 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 155- Qualified- EPA 319. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2025-519– Streambank Stabilization for \$9,500.00 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 120- Qualified- ISIP. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-520– Streambank Stabilization for \$5,500 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 120- Qualified- EPA 319. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-521– Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden for \$4,638 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 160- Qualified- Interlocal. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-522– Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden for \$7,500 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 160- Qualified- Interlocal. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-523– Cistern for \$5,201 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 100- Qualified- ISIP. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-524– Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden for \$6,112.50 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 155 Qualified- Interlocal. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payment (RFP)**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented for 32-2025-514 for \$11,500 ISIP. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented for 32-2025-513 for \$14,000 Interlocal. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried
- **Informational only**
 - **BETC** - Last week at Jordan High School, 17 students in the Sustainable Agriculture class have got the chance to learn about the importance of water quality from the Durham County Soil & Water Conservation District. Over a 5-day school week, Durham SWCD employees Jack Brown and Sean Culm taught students about common water pollutants, how it impacts our local streams and wildlife, and how the community can help treat this water. The class included several trips to visit the nearby New Hope Creek next to the school to search for indicator species and take water samples. The class will culminate with the construction of a rain garden on April 24th.
 - **CCAP Technical Assistance**- 29 site visits in March
 - **Engineering Review**- 4 stormwater conveyance

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

- **Grove Park** – doing walk through this Wednesday.
- **Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project** – (Ellerbe Creek) Total project cost will be \$1.4 million.
 - Lidar Survey has been completed with a drone.
 - In design process
 - Eddie Culberson went to the project site last week with Haley Bock from Piedmont Conservation Council.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
 - In the process of obtaining permits from the City of Durham.
 - Meeting with the City on 4/16 to discuss requests for fulfilling comments.
- **Monitoring Duke SWAMP Project**- Sherry Scully found several violations during her last site visit. A meeting with the property manager is planned for 4/8.

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

Ag Cost Share

- **Application for Assistance**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the application for assistance as presented for 32-2025-005 (Grassed Waterway), ranking score of 100. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contract** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract for 32-2025-005 for Grassed Waterway for \$13,274. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payment (RFP)**
A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP 32-2024-001 for \$3,032 (livestock exclusion fencing, part 1). Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AgWRAP

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2025-802 for Water Well, Supplement to contract 32-2024-802, ranking 85. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried
- **Contract** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract for 32-2025-802 for Water Well, Supplement to contract 32-2024-802, ranking 85 for \$1,958 (to cover additional footage of 108.80 for water well from 2024). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried

Job Approval Authority

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve Dustin Brewer to submit JAA for practices which include Cropland Conversion to Grass, Cover Crops, livestock Exclusion Fencing, Residue and Tillage Management, Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP), and Trough/Tank. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **Board meetings for Jordan Lake One Water Coalition (JLOW)** – 4 meetings held quarterly 2nd Thursday (10am-noon)
- **Spot Checks needed for FY2025**- The board and staff picked 4/29 to do all the spot checks.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Board – Lisa Marochak on behalf of Sherry Scully reported the following:

Informational Items

- **Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**
 - Three payments made this past month to grant participants. Four are in process.
 - Work has begun on updating online application for the 2026 application.
 - Upcoming event - July AED training
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - The Farmland Protection Plan Community Engagement event was held on March 6th at 6pm at the Bahama Ruritan Club. Forty-four people were present to offer input on the Farmland Protection Plan revision.
 - Robin Schultze and Bo Dobrzanski with Durham City/County Planning spoke with FPAB at the March meeting. Due to multiple conversations over the past months, planning has lessened agricultural restrictions to proposed UDO.
 - NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Protection Trust Fund grant extension has been requested and approved. Staff is in the process of completing the necessary paper work that will provide us with a six-month extension.
 - Next Meeting – April 17th at 6pm at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- Awards Celebration**- May 20th. Invitations will be sent out soon.
- NC Envirothon** – Will be held May 2-3 at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington. The registration costs \$300 per team and this year we had 3 teams to qualify. Payment is due by April 14.
- Bookmark Contest Judging**- will be held on 4/9 (8-9am) at our office.

- J. **NRCS Update**- Olivia Plant provided an update and written report.
- K. **Regional Coordinator**- Taryn Thompson provided a written report
RCW- application deadline has been extended to 4/20
- L. **Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC)**- Lisa Marochak reported that David Harris was elected to serve as the Vice President for PCC during the last Full Council meeting,

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:14 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – May 5, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

5/5/2025
Approval date