

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (District Meeting)

Date: February 2, 2026

Meeting Number: 6 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Staff Present (Zoom): Eddie Culberson- *Director*, Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*, Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*, Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*, Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manage*, and Elicia Senff- *Education & Outreach Contractor*.

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, and called to order at 8:00am by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held on Zoom.

- 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 Kenny Browning to approve the minutes from December 10, 2025. 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. 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
 - Provided an EAB update.
 - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for March 3.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- No Report.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY 27 Budget Request for Soil and Water** – Staff will submit the department’s budget request by February 16th. The Budget hearing with the County Manager is scheduled for March 11.

D. Administrative Report- Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- **Area 4 Spring Meeting** – February 26, 2026, hosted by Wilson SWCD. Registration is \$40 and is due by 2/9.
- **Support request for NCASWCD Education Position-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve \$500 yearly to support the NCASWCD Education position. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

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

Informational Only

- **BETC-** Trinity School Riparian Buffer and Streambank project began. 6th grade students and staff from Durham SWCD, Orange SWCD and Durham Co Open Space braved the cold and removed invasive species from approximately 200 ft of stream corridor. Phase 2 of this project will be planting native species to replace the invasives to enhance biodiversity and create a healthy riparian ecosystem. This will likely take place in early April.
- Presentation was given to **Town and Country Garden Club** in hopes of receiving \$5000.00 grant to help sustain material costs for this Spring's cohorts and summer Youthworks Program.
- **CCAP Regional Grant-** NC Division of SWCD announced that Durham SWCD was one of the recipients of the CCAP Regional Grants. This is a 25k allotment that will provide multiple BMPs on a property that has an impaired tributary of Ellerbe Creek running through it.
- **RFP-** David Harris signed two RFPs between meetings
 - **Contract # 32-2026-503 for \$20,000.00 (ISIP)**
 - **Contract # 32-2026-502- for \$3552.66 (Interlocal Agreement)**

Application for Assistance (AFA)

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA below as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Contract #32-2026-505 for Downspout Disconnect, Raingarden and Critical Area Planting in Cape Fear Watershed (Cape Fear Watershed)

Contracts

A motion was made by David Harris to approve Contract #32-2026-505 for \$4968.75 - Downspout Disconnect, Raingarden and Critical Area Planting in Cape Fear Watershed (EPA 319 and Interlocal Agreement)- District Ranking 155 Qualified. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried

Contract Supplement

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Contract Supplement for 32-2025-526 (Downspout Disconnect) for \$463.60 to cover additional expense of engineer design. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

F. 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 Application for Assistance for Contract #32-2026-003 (Ag. Pond Repair/RetroFit) with a ranking score of 100. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Contract

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve Contract #32-2026-003 (Ag. Pond Repair/RetroFit) for \$26,573. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

AgWRAP

Informational Only

- Contracts under Construction
- All Funding has been allocated for FY26

Other (Informational Only)

- Cost Share Specialist from the DSWC (Shelby Kaplan) will be joining us at our March Board Meeting to report Durham SWCD's Program Review to the Board.
- Dustin Brewer received his Commission JAA on 1/15/2026 for Cropland Conversion to Grass (currently working on submitting more)

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

• **Eagle/Honeycutt Project**

- Construction underway and should be completed by the end of May.

• **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the DWR contract extension. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Waiting on permits from City/County Planning & Development.

• **Park Place HOA Project in conjunction with PCC**

- Planning to schedule a meeting two additional HOA's downstream from the project.

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

Informational Items

• **Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**

Ag Economic Development Committee will meet and perform Maintenance Checks on February 4th of five percent of all active contracts.

• **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)** - met on December 15, 2025 and January 12, 2026. Next Meeting – February 12th at 10:30am at Durham Cooperative Extension or online following Farmer Breakfast.

- Two properties (94 acres) owned by Steve Holder have come out of VAD
- Farmland Protection Plan contract with Foothills Regional has been canceled. New contract with Gerry Cohn will be entered soon. NC ADFP Trust Fund grant for this project will end on September 30th.
- Division of Open Space & Real Estate closed on Wesley Poole's Conservation Easement; they have seven projects (254 acres) in due diligence process
- Durham Farmland Protection Program, administered by Division of Open Space and Real Estate, celebrates 25 years!

Farmer and Landowner Breakfast update:

- December 18; Topic: Farm Law; 32 participants
 - January 15; Topic: Farm Tax; 27 participants
 - Upcoming - February 12, 8-10am at Durham Cooperative Extension. Topic: Fire Ants
- Special thanks to Durham Farm Bureau, Redwood Ruritan and Durham Cooperative Extension for hosting these events. The Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation will be sponsoring the February breakfast utilizing a grant provided by the NCADFPTF.

Other Information

NACD grant slide presentation of projects and activities funded utilizing this grant.

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

Informational Items

Contests

- Conservation Contests due date extended to February 5 at 5pm due to winter weather.
- K-2nd Bookmark Contest details will be released this week after February 3rd. Bookmark entries are due April 8th.
- We are accepting nominations for the Conservation Education Teacher of the Year Award. Nominations are due March 27th.
- Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)
 - Applications for the RCW have opened. Applications and a letter of recommendation are due March 31st. Please send this information along to anyone you think would be interested.
 - The Board will vote at their April meeting for the applicant(s) they would like to send to the weeklong camp held at NCSU in June.

Envirothon

Area 4 Envirothon- March 19th at Ownes Park in Louisburg

- Durham has 6 HS teams registered to compete in the Area competition.
- All required forms are due February 27th.
- Area IV Envirothon Volunteers Needed- online signup will be sent out soon
- NC Envirothon- April 24 and 25 at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington
 - NC Envirothon Volunteers Needed- Let Lisa know if you want to volunteer and she will send you the link

Tree Sale

- Payment due date for the tree sale is February 13th. Tree Sale pick-up is February 24th-26th at Waller Family Farm.
- Supervisors- Let Lisa know if you would like to volunteer to help with the tree pick-up February 24-26.

J. NRCS Update – Olivia Plant provided a NRCS update and written report.

K. Regional Coordinator- Taryn Thompson provided a written report

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:48 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – March 4, 2026, at 8:00 am

Location: 1901 Hillandale Rd Durham, NC 27705

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

3-4-2026
Approval date