

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (District Meeting)

Date: August 4, 2025

Meeting Number: 1 (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*, Grace Fine- *Technical Contractor*, and Elicia Senff- *Education & Outreach Contractor*.

Others Present (In person): Tyler D'Angelo, Xavier Atwater, Kameron Prince, Frances Koiyan, Destini Goodwin, Aja Arnette, Maxwell Mheeler, Chi Fletcher, Cristin Ryman, Corinne Paul, and Ariel Hernandez.

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, August 4, 2025, and called to order at 8:02am 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 Kenny Browning to approve the minutes from June 2, 2025. David Harris 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. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to move item number 7 before item number 6 and approve the agenda. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **New Business**
 - a. 2025 RCW Students
 - b. 2025 YouthWorks Interns (BETC Program)
- 7) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller
 - No New Business
 - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for August 6.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
 - No meeting in July. The next JLOW meeting is scheduled for August 17.

C. Directors Report- Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **County Update** –
 - The Durham County Manager has made some reorganizational changes. The Assistant County Manager positions have been reduced from 7 to 4 positions. The Assistant County Manager that was over the Soil & Water Department has retired.
- **DEI Compliance** – The County Legal department is working on updating all contracts in the County.
- **Education & Outreach Coordinator Position**- Interviews are scheduled for this Friday. Eddie Culberson, Lisa Marochak, Talmage Layton, and David Harris will be conducting the interviews.

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

- **60th Anniversary Celebration** – The 60th Anniversary Celebration held on July 31st at EPA was a huge success. Lisa thanked the board and staff for all their help.
- **Audit of District Book**- Talmage Layton, David Harris, and Ken Browning performed the audit of the district book on June 18th and found no errors.
- **Durham SWCD Tour** – Will be held on April 9th for Upper Leadership.
- **Annual Report**- Currently working on completing the Annual Report. We hope to have it ready by the next meeting.
- **Addendum to NCFSWC Grant Agreement for Drone**- A motion was made by Mark Waller to accept the addendum to the NCFSWCD Grant Agreement for the Drone. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Set Meeting dates for November and December**- David Harris made a motion to move the November meeting to November 10 at 8am. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried. David Harris made a motion to move the December meeting to December 10 at Bennett Point Grill at 8am. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Contract

Applications for Assistance (AFA)- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the following AFA as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **32-2026-501**- Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden– Neuse River Watershed -Interlocal

Contracts

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve **contract 32-2026-501**- Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden -Nuese River Watershed -Interlocal. District ranking 145 (Qualified). Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **CCAP Technical Assistance**- 16 site visits in May
- **Request for Payments (RFPs)**- David Harris signed 3 RFPs in between meetings for the following:
 - 32-2025-511 for \$476.20
 - 32-2025-524 for \$2169.23
 - 32-2025-508 for \$7500
- **BETC**- June 23, started the summer BETC program with Durham YouthWorks Internship. We installed multiple BMPs over the past 6 weeks. The students will be giving a presentation about their experience on August 4.

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

- **Park Place HOA-** The District is partnering with PCC to provide a stream restoration on a tributary to Little Lick Creek. There are 2 other HOA's downstream that will be approached regarding their participation. A concrete dam is on Park Place HOA property and ACOE will be contacted to see about its removal.
- **Eagle/Honeycutt Project**
 - **Central Pines Regional** – has 4 outstanding invoices that haven't been paid. They are now requiring a contract. We submitted the contract, but we haven't heard back from them.
 - Waiting on permits.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
 - Waiting on permits (They have 60 days to get back with us)
 - Sherry Scully helped to revise the DWR budget with us

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

Ag Cost Share

Informational only

- Contracts under Construction
- FY26 Allocation for **ACSP is \$56,555**
- 1-year Extension for Contract #32-2023-003 (Streambank Stabilization) granted by Division Director (Expires: June 30th, 2026)
 - RFP for Contract 32-2024-003 (Residue and Tillage Management) for \$270 signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings.

AgWRAP

Information Only

- Contracts under Construction
- FY26 Allocation for **AgWRAP is \$9,500**
- RFP for Contract #32-2023-801 (Ag. Storage Water Tank-\$5,303) signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings

Other Informational Only Items

- Submitted 2 JAA Packets (Cropland Conversion to Grass & Livestock Exclusion Fencing) on July 3rd, 2025
- 2025 Tri-County Pasture Field Day has been scheduled for 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.

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

Informational Items

Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)

- **FY 2025 AED Annual Report** complete and will be presented to AED Committee on September 16, 2025 (and to SWCD Board at October meeting).

- **FY 2026 AED Grant Allocation** of \$250,000 approved by BOCC.
 - FY 2026 Program Dates established: - AED training - July 10 at 6pm at Redwood Ruritan
 - 30 registered for this event; 23 people attended (13 in-person and 10 online)
 - AED Application deadline – August 25 at 11:59pm
 - AED Committee meeting to determine fund allocation– September 16
- Native Plant Sale – September 25, 4:00-6:00pm at Durham Cooperative Extension Service. This is a Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension program

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- FPAB met on July 17. Durham to Roxboro Rail Trail Plan Presentation provided to board by Brooke Roper, DCo Transportation Planner, and Andrew Meeker with East Coast Greenway Alliance. Landowners and residents with concerns or questions are encouraged to reach out to Ms. Roper.
- FPAB Annual Report has been prepared by staff and approved by board. FPAB plans to address the BOCC at their Work Session on September 2nd at 9 a.m. and present this Annual Report.
- Next Meeting – August 21 at 6pm at Durham Farm Bureau or online. City-County Planners have been invited to speak on UDO update.

I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- 1. Environmental Education Booths:** The Durham SWCD staff will be setting up booths at the following events:
 - Black Farmers Market (August 17)- Elicia Senff and Grace Fine
 - Kestrel Heights Open House (August 18)- Sherry Scully, Lisa Marochak and Elicia Senff
 - Redwood Community Day at Redwood Ruritan (August 23) Sherry Scully and Lisa Marochak

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 grant from Triangle Community Foundation. Trying to figure out the best way to utilize the funds. Also, the Project Committee co-chaired by Eddie Culberson and Alex Ashton will start meeting on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:54 am.

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

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

9-8-2025
Approval date