

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: December 10, 2025

Meeting Number: 5 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Mark Waller- *Vice-Chair*; David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Kenny Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer*; Ja’Nell Henry- *Supervisor*.

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

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Wednesday, December 10, 2025, and called to order at 12:09pm by the Vice-Chair, Mark Waller. The meeting was held in person at 1811 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 with correction to add the Senior Administrative Officer to list of attendees from November 10, 2025. Kenny Browning 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**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the agenda as printed. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6) **Business**

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

- An EAB meeting was held on December 3.
 - KDB campaign underway- planting 8,000 trees in Durham
 - Durham Public Schools provided an annual update
 - UDO- Presentations going over changes.
- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for January 7.

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

- David Harris shared the highlights of the 2025 UNRBA Report- a copy will be shared with the board.
- Compliance Group Committee (CGC)- this committee was dissolved at the last meeting
- IAIA- Seeking an extension on the program that they use to measure P and N.
- Nominating Committee- appointed at the last meeting (this group identifies and recommends candidates for Board Officers.)

C. Directors Report- Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **FY26-27 Budget**– Kick-off meeting was held this morning. A meeting will be held with the Assistant County Manager assigned to Soil & Water on December 22 to discuss the budget process.

D. Administrative Report- Lisa Marochak reported 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. Early Registration Deadline: December 12, 2025. Anyone registering after that date will be charged an additional \$50.00.
- **Supervisor Disclosure Forms** – Lisa Marochak will provide the forms for everyone to sign and return to her.
- **Secondary Employment Forms-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the forms as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **2026 meeting dates-** The board will meet on the first Monday of each month at 8am except there will be no meeting in January. The meetings will be held at the Durham Farm Bureau office (1901 Hillandale Rd Ste 105 Durham, NC 27705).
- **NC District Employees Association Membership (NCCDEA)-** Lisa Marochak encouraged all staff and Supervisors to become members if they aren’t already.
 - Membership renews each January.
 - Fees:**
 - Staff: \ \$25 per year or \ \$70 for 3 years
 - Supervisors: \ \$25 per year or \ \$25 for 3 years

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

Informational Only

- **CCAP Technical Assistance-** 14 site visits in November and early December
- **BETC-** The second NHS Cohort installed a 70 sq ft raingarden in N. Durham County on Saturday November 20. This wrapped up our Fall cohort with 3 raingardens being installed and a week-long introductory class taught with Jordan High School Sustainable Agriculture students.

We will be removing invasives with students from Trinity School along a riparian buffer of New hope Creek Tributary on December 15th. This will ultimately result in a streambank stabilization project in the Spring of 2026.
- **ISIP** – The first ISIP project completed construction this week. It is a Streambank Stabilization with two raingardens and widening of an existing channel.
- **CCAP Regional Application-** An application was put in this year.

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

Ag Cost Share (Informational Only)

- Contracts in discussion with landowners

AgWRAP (Informational Only)

- Regional Application didn’t rank high enough to advance to need stage.

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

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Project –**
 - \$506,000 was received from the City of Raleigh Water Resources (Central Pines Regional)
 - Met with all stakeholders (landowners, SWCD staff, contractors, PCC and Engineer) on October 22nd.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
 - Division of Water Resources grant extension was approved. The new deadline is January 2027.
 - Waiting on permits from City/County Planning & Development.
- **Park Place HOA Project in conjunction with PCC**
 - Met with engineer and others to discuss project
 - PCC is applying for an NC Emergency Management grant
 - Planning to work with Park Place HOA and possibly 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)**
 - FY 2025- only 6 contracts have funds remaining that will expire in June of 2026.
 - FY 2026 – All but 3 contracts have been written.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - The Board did not meet in October.
 - Farmland Protection Plan has been received and is being reviewed by staff.
 - Next Meeting – November 20 at 6pm at Durham Farm Bureau or online.

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

- **Soil and Water education contest** – due date is January 30th. Please share this information.
- **Tree Sale-** pickup will be held February 24-26 at Waller Family Farm.
- **Area IV Envirothon-** Will be held on March 19th at Owens Park in Louisburg. The volunteer sign up will be sent out soon.

J. NRCS Update –Olivia Plant shared a written report.

K. Regional Coordinator- Taryn Thompson provided a written report

7. Other Committee/Board Reports

- Technical Review Committee- David Harris reported that next Wednesday will be his last meeting serving on this committee.
- Piedmont Conservation Council- mini retreat on January 12th in Randolph County at their new Ag Building.

8. New Business

A. Election of 2026 Officers- David Harris made a motion to nominate Talmage Layton to continue serving as the Chair of the Durham SWCD Board for 2026. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

David Harris made a motion for the 2025 Durham SWCD officers to continue in their current roles for 2026. Ja’Nell Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:48 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – February 2, 2026, at 8:00am

Location: 1901 Hillandale Rd, Ste 105 Durham, NC 27705

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

2-2-2026
Approval date