

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (District Meeting)

Date: February 3, 2025

Meeting Number: 6 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others 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 (Virtual)* Olivia Plant- *NRCS*.

A regular Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board meeting was held on Monday, February 3, 2025, and called to order at 8:05am by the Vice Chair, Mark Waller. 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 December 3, 2024. 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 approve the agenda as printed. Ja’Nell Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6) Business

- A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller gave an update on the last EAB meeting in December. The next meeting will be on February 5th.
- B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - Provided a handout on the UNRBA to everyone in attendance
 - Wendy Jacobs was reelected as the Chair of UNRBA and Ryan Eaves is the Financial Officer
- 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. Eddie Culberson encouraged the Durham SWCD Board Supervisors to submit any budget ideas to him.
 - Budget due by February 21
 - Budget meeting with County Manager is scheduled for March 25 at 9am.
 - **60th Anniversary Proclamation and News Release** –The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) recognized the Durham SWCD Board and staff for 60 years of dedicated service and presented them with a proclamation during the BOCC meeting on January 27.

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

- **Area 4 Spring Meeting-** February 27th in Warrenton. The \$35 Registration is due this week.
- **60th Anniversary-** We are working with EPA to confirm the new date and location for the Durham SWCD 60th Anniversary Celebration.
- **Accountant-** The account for the NCASWCD assisted us with mailing and filing our tax forms.
- **Staff Development-** A motion was made by David Harris to provide \$300 for staff development. Kenny 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 4 AFA as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2025-512- Streambank Stabilization (Neuse River Watershed)
 - 32-2025-513 – Streambank Stabilization and Cistern (Neuse River Watershed)
 - 32-2025-514- Streambank Stabilization and Cistern (Neuse River Watershed)
 - 32-2025-515- Downspout Disconnect and Structural Stormwater Conveyance)
- **Contracts**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-512– Streambank Stabilization for \$9,112 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 175- Highly Qualified- Interlocal Agreement. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-513- Streambank Stabilization and Cistern for \$14,000 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 105 – Qualified – Interlocal Agreement. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-514- Streambank Stabilization and Cistern for \$11,500 (Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 105 – Qualified – Impaired Stream Improvement Program (ISIP). Ja’Nell Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **In Engineer Review/Design Phase (informational only)**
 - Stormwater Conveyance (4)
 - Multiple technical assistance requests pending
 - **BETC (informational only)-** The first meetings for the Spring cohorts take place in May. Three sites have been secured for installation of raingardens.

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

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project –** (Ellerbe Creek) Total project cost will be \$1.4 million.
 - NCLWF will be sending the contract in May or June.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project-**
 - An extension until February 2026 was received for the DWR grant
 - Peter Skillern with Reinvestment Partners received permission from the neighbor adjacent to the property to move the stream onto their property away from the apartments.

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

Ag Cost Share

- **Contract Revision-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract revision for 32-2025-001 for Livestock Exclusion Fencing increase from \$3,159 to \$8,213 (added 1,200 feet of fencing to contract). Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payment (RFP)** *Informational only*
RFP for 32-2024-002 for \$22,690 (Supplement to 32-2024-004) signed by David Harris in between meetings

AgWRAP

- 1 contract under construction
- Supplemental Funding-Waiting on supplemental funding for contract for 32-2024-802 for Water Well for \$1,958.40 to cover additional footage for the construction of the well.

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

Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)

- Grant awardees are on task and working on projects for both active program years. Many partial payments have been made in the past two months with two projects completed.
- Maintenance checks and Committee meeting scheduled for February 4th at 8:15am

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- FPAB Subcommittee met on Thursday, January 30 to discuss proposed UDO. FPAB plans to execute a letter that will support agriculture in all zones of the UDO.
- The Farmland Board met on March 20th at 6pm at Durham Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham.
- Upcoming events: Farmland Protection Plan Community Engagement on February 20th at 6pm (Bahama Ruritan Club).
- Winter Farmer breakfasts were held on December 12th and January 16th.

I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- a. **Tree Sale update-** pick-up date is February 25-26
- b. **Awards Celebration-** Possible dates are May 7 or May 20. Staff will look for a venue.
- c. **Area IV Envirothon** – this year we have 4 high school teams representing Durham

J. NRCS Update- Olivia Plant provided an update and written report.

K. Regional Coordinator- Ken Parks provided a written report

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – March 3, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date