

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 5 (District Meeting)

Date: June 2, 2025

Meeting Number: 10 (for State reporting purposes)

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

**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, May 5, 2025, and called to order at 8:04am 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 David Harris to approve the minutes from May 5, 2025. Ken Browning 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. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
  - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller
    - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for May 7 in person.
    - At the last meeting they had a Neuse River update.
    - Tom Campbell will be the new EAB Chair.
  - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
    - Provided update to the board and others in attendance.
  - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
    - **FY25-26 County Budget** – The Durham County BOCC will adopt the FY25-26 Budget on June 12 during the regular BOCC meeting.
    - **PL566** (Crabtree Watershed Project in Wake County)- David Harris made a motion for the Durham SWCD to continue to support the rehabilitation of dams in Lake Crabtree. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – The celebration will be held on July 31<sup>st</sup> at EPA. Invitations will be mailed out next week.
- **Audit of District Book-** Talmage Layton, David Harris, and Ken Browning will audit the district book on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Durham SWCD Tour** – Will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> for Upper Leadership.

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

**Contract**

**Applications for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the following 5 AFA as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **32-2025-524-** Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden – Critical Area Planting – Cape Fear Watershed -ISIP
- **32-2025-525-**Structural Stormwater Conveyance - Raingarden – Critical Area Planting in the Cape Fear Watershed- City Interlocal
- **32-2025-526-**Downspout Disconnect- Structural Stormwater Conveyance in the Cape Fear Watershed- City Interlocal
- **32-2025-527-**Streambank Stabilization in the Neuse Watershed- ISIP
- **32-2025-528-** Streambank Stabilization in the Cape Fear Watershed- ISIP

**Contracts**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve **contract 32-2025-524-** Structural Stormwater Conveyance- Raingarden – Critical Area Planting Cape Fear Watershed -ISIP. District ranking 150 (Qualified). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve **contract 32-2025-525-**Structural Stormwater Conveyance - Raingarden – Critical Area Planting in the Cape Fear Watershed- City Interlocal. District ranking 150 (Qualified). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2025-526-Downspout Disconnect- Structural Stormwater Conveyance in the Cape Fear Watershed- City Interlocal. District ranking 150 (Qualified). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2025-527-Streambank Stabilization in the Neuse Watershed- ISIP. District ranking 155 (Qualified). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2025-528- Streambank Stabilization in the Cape Fear Watershed- ISIP. District ranking 180 (Qualified). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Informational Only**

- **CCAP Technical Assistance-** 16 site visits in May
- **Request for Payments (RFPs)-** David Harris signed 1 RFP in between meetings for \$9,630.00 (contract 32-2025-510)
- **BETC-** Finished all BETC projects for the Spring of 2025. We had 75 students participate in this cohort, installing seven raingardens across Durham. Will continue this summer with Durham YouthWorks program participating with numerous projects already lined up.

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

- **Park Place HOA-** Looking at a potential Stream Restoration Project on July 10<sup>th</sup> with Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC).
- **Eagle/Honeycutt Project**
  - **Central Pines Regional** – Is requesting for the district to draw up an agreement with the City of Raleigh and the District. The County Attorney's office is assisting with guidance on drafting the language. We will bring back the agreement to the next meeting.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
  - Moving forward with getting permits
  - **Agreement between Reinvestment Partners and the District-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the agreement as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

**Ag Cost Share**

- **Informational only**
  - Contracts under construction
  - Waitlist created for interested Cooperators for FY26
- **Contract**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 1-year contract extension request to the Division Director for 32-2023-003. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payments (RFPs)-informational only**
  - RFP for Contract 32-2023-001 (Livestock Exclusion Fencing, HUAP, Water Trough, CC-Grass) for \$10,420 signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings.
  - RFP for Contract 32-2024-006 (Supplement to 32-2023-001) for \$640 signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings.
  - RFP for Contract 32-2024-003 (Residue and Tillage Management) for \$270 signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings.

**AgWRAP**

- **Request for Payment (RFP) – Information Only**

RFP for 32-2024-802 for \$1,958 (Water Well) was signed by David Harris in between Board Meetings.
- **Contract**
  - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 1-year contract extension request to the Division Director for 32-2023-801 before the contract expires June 30<sup>th</sup> (construction underway). Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Informational Only**
  - Contracts under construction
  - Waitlist created for interested Cooperators for FY26

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

**Informational Items**

**Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**

- FY2024 will end June 30<sup>th</sup>. All contracts have been completed and are in the payment process. There are 2 remaining payment requests.

- FY2026 program dates established: AED Training- July 10 at 6pm at Redwood Ruritan; AED Application Deadline- August 25 at 11:5pm; AED Committee Meeting- September 11 or 16;

#### **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**

- FPAB met on May 15. The Farmland Protection Plan contractor met with board to discuss the schedule for revision. Draft is expected in June.
- Two members have been appointed to the board:
  - Helena Cragg and Carolyn Rose-Seed
- VAD Approval: Ali Shackelford, RW Vine LLC-113.8 acres on South Lowell Rd
- Open Space and Real Estate- Provided a report
- Cooperative Extension provided a report
- Planners are using the AED and VAD GIS mapped parcels in their UDO plan
- Next meeting – July 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

#### **I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:**

- 1. 2025 Durham SWCD Awards Celebration:** Lisa expressed her gratitude to the Board and staff for their assistance in organizing the celebration. She also thanked the Redwood Ruritan for providing the use of their building.
- 2. The 2025 Durham and Orange SWCD Pond Clinic-** Held on May 17, 2025, the clinic attracted 42 guests who learned about pond maintenance, construction, wildlife management, and aquatic weeds. A delicious lunch was prepared and catered by the NHS Culinary Students.
- 3. Resource Conservation Workshop –** This workshop will take place at North Carolina State University from June 8 to June 13, 2025. Two students from Jordan High School that the district sponsored are planning to attend the Durham SWCD Board meeting on August 4.

#### **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**

- New State Director of FSA – The State Director of FSA is Ronnie Fisher (Talmage Layton's son-in-law)
- Ben Gordon (AFT/NRCS)- was laid off but is now back at work.
- Employee Awards Committee- A motion was made by David Harris for Kenny Browning to replace the vacant spot on the committee. Ja'Nell Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **7) New Business**

##### **a. 2025-2026 State Budget- Lisa Marochak**

- David Harris made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – July 7, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)**

Talmage Layton

Chair

Lisa Marochak

Senior Administrative Officer

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Approval date