

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: March 3, 2025

Meeting Number: 7 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark Waller- *Vice-Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*, and Kenny Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer*. **(Virtual)** 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, March 3, 2025, and called to order at 8:00am 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 February 3, 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**- Mark Waller motioned to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6) Business

- A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller gave an update on the last EAB meeting. The next meeting will be on March 5th.
- B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - The workgroups are still meeting and working on the draft.
 - Next Path Forward Meeting is March 4th 10am-2:30pm.
- C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY25-26 County Budget** –Was submitted to the county on February 21. We are asking again for an Education and Outreach Coordinator (have asked for the past 5 years) and \$25,000 to expand the BETC Program.
 - Budget meeting with County Manager is scheduled for March 25 at 9am.
 - **Biochar**- The NCASWCD President has requested to meet with Eddie Culberson and Mark Waller to discuss the benefits of biochar to strawberry farmers.
 - **Grove Park Project**- Barbara Doll with NCSU would like to bring a group of students out to see the project.
 - **Durham County Stormwater bills**- There was a mix-up with PUV on the bills. Hopefully, this issue has been corrected.

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

- **60th Anniversary Celebration** - We are still searching for a new location to host the Durham SWCD 60th Anniversary Celebration. The board has suggested several locations that the staff will investigate. Additionally, the proposed new dates are June 24 or June 26.
- **Accountant-** The account for the NCASWCD assisted us with mailing and filing our tax forms. Eddie Culberson is going to contact Ernie Warner to see if he can assist with the accounting questions that staff has.
- **New Security check for Admin I and Admin II-** Durham County installed a metal detector at the entrance of Admin I and Admin II. If you come to either building, you will have to go through the security check.
- **2025 Durham-Orange Pond Clinic-** The 2025 pond clinic will be held on Saturday, April 19th 8:00am-1:00pm
- **NCFSWC Grant Amendment-** A motion was made by David Harris to accept the amendment to add additional funding to the drone grant we received from the NCFSWC. Mark Waller 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 approve the AFA for 32-2025-516 Streambank Stabilization (Jordan Lake/Neuse River Watershed) as presented. ISIP funding. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contracts**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-515– Downspout Disconnect and Structural Conveyance for \$6,246 (New Hope/Cape Fear Watershed) District Ranking 155- Highly Qualified- Interlocal Agreement. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2025-516- Streambank Stabilization for \$9,500 (Jordan Lake/Neuse River Watershed) District Ranking 140 –Qualified – Impaired Stream Improvement Program (ISIP). Kenny Browning 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 teacher meeting took place in February for the Spring cohorts. Three sites have been secured for installation of raingardens. March – (Jordan HS and New Hope Academy), May – (NHS).

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 Contract - contract was DocuSigned by the chair.
 - Knickpoint Engineering Contract- A motion was made by Mark Waller for the Durham SWCD Board to enter into the contract agreement with Knickpoint Engineering for the Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project. David Harris seconded the motion.

- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project-**

- The 3rd revision to the design is complete
- 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.
- Meeting tomorrow with engineer and contractor

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

Ag Cost Share (informational only)

- Contracts under construction
- Waiting on Engineer cost estimate for 2 potential projects.

AgWRAP (informational only)

- Contracts under construction
- Applied for supplemental Funding on 2/19 for contract for 32-2024-802 (Water Well) for \$2,176 to cover additional footage for the construction of the well.

Jordan Lake One Water Coalition (JLOW)

- David Harris volunteered to be the Durham SWCD representative for JLOW. Ja’Nell Henry will be the alternate representative.

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

Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)

- Maintenance Checks and Committee met on February 4th to perform Maintenance Checks and hold a meeting. All projects checked were in compliance. The committee and staff look forward to another successful year.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- Upcoming Event: Farmland Protection Plan Community Engagement- March 6th at 6pm (Bahama Ruritan Club)
- FPAB Subcommittee plans to meet (virtually) on March 11 at 3pm to discuss proposed UDO.
- The Farmland Protection Plan Contractor, Magnolia Long, is holding interviews with producers. She is impressed with Durham Counties’ involvement and with the feedback they have received.
- Next Meeting- March 20th at 6pm at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham
 - Guest Speaker- Durham County Planning staff

I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- Tree Sale update- Lisa Marochak thank Waller Family Farm for allowing us to hold the tree sale pick-up at the farm. Also, she thanked Mark Waller and the staff for assisting with the sale.
- Awards Celebration- Possible dates are May 7 or May 20. Staff will look for a venue.
- Area IV Envirothon – The competition will be held on March 20, and we have 4 high school teams representing Durham.
- NC Envirothon- will be held on May 2-3 at Cedar Rock Park. The registration for each team that qualifies for states is \$300. Registration is due on April 4.
- 2025 Bookmark Contest – The 2025 Durham SWCD bookmark contest for K-2 is due on April 10th at 5pm. The Theme is Creek Critters. Lisa Marochak thanked Ja’Nell Henry for translating the bookmark flyer to Spanish.
- 2025 Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)- Applications are due by March 31st.

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

K. Regional Coordinator- Taryn Thompson provided a written report

- Taryn Thompson is the new Regional Coordinator for Area 4.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – April 14, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date