

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (District Meeting)

Date: May 5, 2025

Meeting Number: 9 (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 8:00am 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 David Harris to approve the minutes from April 7, 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**- Ken Browning motioned to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller
 - No report this month. The next EAB meeting is scheduled for May 14. There will be a speaker from UNRBA at the next meeting.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
 - No new update. The workgroup is meeting tomorrow to finalize the draft/draft.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY25-26 County Budget** – The County Manager will present her FY25-26 Budget recommendation on May 12th during the regular BOCC meeting.
 - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **60th Anniversary Celebration** – New date for the celebration is July 31st at EPA. Invitations will be mailed out around the second week of June.

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

Contract

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract amendment for 32-2025-508– for \$7,500 (original contract was approved at the November 2024 board meeting for Interlocal funding) switch funding to EPA 319 to best utilize available grant funding; this is for multiple raingardens and a backyard wetland. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Informational only

- **BETC -**
 - NHS students installed 55 sq ft Raingarden at DPS Hub Farm. This raingarden is one of a series of Raingardens at the DPS Hub farm that will clean irrigated water and impervious runoff near the Riparian buffer of Crooked Creek, not far from the Eno confluence right down stream. The advanced NHS BETC students began excavation of the raingarden at Riverwalk Terrace in Old Farm; this townhome community has experienced significant erosion due to roof -top runoff and this 100 sq ft raingarden will help remediate this erosion and remove harmful nutrients before entering stormwater system and ultimately the nearby Eno River. In May, Jordan High School.
 - South Durham that will capture large scale rooftop runoff in the sensitive New Hope Creek watershed. And alas, the Southern High School OCS students will excavate and plant a 60 sq ft raingarden at local native plant nursery in Old East Durham. This raingarden will collect impervious runoff and minimize erosion and allow the nursery to better utilize this small space for growing. This nursery is also a recipient of our Ag Economic Development Grant.
- **CCAP Technical Assistance-** 13 site visits in April
- **CCAP Spot Checks for FY25-** held on April 29th. Conducted 5 spot checks and all were in compliance.

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

- **Grove Park**
 - Sherry Scully did a walk through with contractor and engineer (2-year maintenance).
 - Sherry Scully met to show Barbara Doll and some of her NCSU students the Grove Park project.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
 - The Celebration of the Community was held on April 25. Eddie Culberson and Sherry Scully attended the event.
 - April: Submitted to get permits from the City of Durham and had meeting with contractor.
- **Monitoring Duke SWAMP Project-** Duke University to put signage at the project site.

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

Ag Cost Share

- **Application for Assistance**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the application for assistance as presented for 32-2025-007 (Ag Pond Sediment Removal), ranking score of 90. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contract** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract for 32-2025-007 for Ag Pond Sediment Removal \$6,179. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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.

Informational Only

- Spot Checks on 12 contracts were completed on 4/29/2025 by 3 supervisors and 4 staff. All contracts were in compliance.

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

Informational Items

- **Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**
 - FY2024 will end June 30th. Final projects are being implemented for 5 of the 30 contracts.
 - FY2025 update- 12 of 32 contracts complete and paid.
 - FY2026 program dates established: AED Training- July 8; AED Application Deadline- August 25 at 11:5pm; AED Committee Meeting- September 11 or 16; AED Tour- October 14
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - No April meeting
 - Next meeting – May 15th at 6pm at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham

I. Environmental Education – Lisa Marochak reported the following:

1. **Awards Celebration**- May 20th at Redwood Ruritan
2. **NC Envirothon** – Was held on May 2-3 at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington. The three teams from Durham did really well at the State event.
 - Jubilant Junipers from the NC School of Science and Mathematics:
 - NC Envirothon – 7th place HS team
 - Achieved the highest score of 100 for the Current Environmental Issues Test
 - Branching Out Bunch from the NC School of Science and Mathematics:
 - NC Envirothon – 14th place HS team
 - Falcon FFA from Jordan High School:
 - NC Envirothon – 2nd place FFA High School team
3. **Resource Conservation Workshop applications**- A motion was made by David Harris to support the two students from Jordan High that applied to attend the 2025 RCW. The District Board will pay for one student to attend and apply for the grant at NCSU for the other student. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

K. Regional Coordinator- Taryn Thompson provided a written report

7) New Business

- a. 2025 Spot Check Form**- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the 2025 Spot Check Form as presented by Dustin Brewer and Jack Brown. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. FY2026 Strategic Plan** - A motion was made by David Harris to accept the FY2026 Strategic Plan as presented by Dustin Brewer and Lisa Marochak. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. BMP Certification (program audit 2022-2024)**- A motion was made by David Harris to accept the BMP Certification as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – June 2, 2025 at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

June 2, 2025
Approval date