

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (District Meeting)

Date: November 10, 2025

Meeting Number: 4 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Staff Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*, 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 Monday, November 10, 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 October 6, 2025. 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. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller
 - An EAB meeting was held on November 5.
 - KDB campaign- planting 8,000 trees in Durham
 - Durham Public Schools provided an annual update
 - Durham received the Business of Excellence Award from Duke Energy.
 - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for December 3.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- No Report.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **State of County address**- The Durham County BOCC Chair will be delivering the State of the County address on Monday, November 24 at 7pm
 - **FY 27 Budget Request for Soil and Water** – This is going to be a challenging budget year.
 - **County’s Confidentiality & Workplace Conduct Policy**– Durham County has implemented a new policy for all Durham County staff.

- **Soil and Water Conservation Commission** – meeting to be held in Huntersville in November.
- **Durham County Employee Appreciation Week** - October 13-18.

D. Administrative Report- Lisa Marochak reported the following:

- **Area 4 Fall Meeting** – November 20 hosted by Warren SWCD.
- **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.
- **SECDEA Annual Meeting** – Lisa Marochak provided an update to attendees on the NACD (National Association of Conservation Districts) grant funds received by the Durham SWCD. During her presentation, she outlined how the funds have been utilized to support district initiatives. The presentation was well received by all attendees, reflecting strong interest and engagement from the audience.

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

Informational Only

- **CCAP Technical Assistance-** 13 site visits in October
- **BETC-** The first NHS Cohort installed a 50 sq ft raingarden in N. Durham County on Saturday Oct 21. The advanced group began their classroom training last week with another North Durham raingarden slated for November 8th. Jordan High School will begin their Fall Programming on November 10
- **ISIP** – The first ISIP project will begin construction next week, it will be a Streambank .
- RFP for contract 32-2026-501 for \$972.50 signed between meetings by David Harris

Application for Assistance

A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the two AFA below as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2026-502 Stormwater Conveyance> Raingarden in the Neuse River Watershed
- 32-2026-503 Stormwater Conveyance> Raingarden (2) in the Neuse River Watershed

Contracts

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2026-502 for a Stormwater Conveyance and Raingarden in the Neuse River Watershed for \$3918 using Interlocal funds. District ranking score 165 (qualified). Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2026-503 Stormwater Conveyance and 2 Raingardens in the Neuse River Watershed for \$2350 using Interlocal funds. District ranking score 145 (qualified). Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried

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

Ag Cost Share

Contract Update (Informational Only)

- Last month the board approved contract #32-2026-002 for \$20,000 for Ag Road Repair. The Division Engineer is still working on the design.

AgWRAP

Informational Only

- FY26 Allocation for AgWRAP is \$9,500

Application for Assistance (AFA)

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for #32-2026-803 (water well) pending extra funding becomes available this FY. District ranking score of 95. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- FY26 Regional Application Letter of Support- A motion was made by Kenny Browning for the board to write a letter of support for the Regional Application for a “Agricultural Water Supply/Retrofit Pond-Livestock”. Davis Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Other (Informational Only)

Farmer Appreciation Dinner- was held on Tuesday, October 28th at Coffey Grounds Ranch in Bahama with over 100 guests in attendance.

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

• **Eagle/Honeycutt Project –**

- City of Raleigh Water Resources is scheduled to cut a check to us on November 13th so we can pay the Engineer.
- Administration- Durham SWCD should receive \$20,000 for administration by the end of the year.
- 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:
 - **NC Environmental Education Outdoor Classroom Symposium** – On 10/13/2025 Lisa Marochak and Sherry Scully along with Monica Unger presented at this event held at the NC Botanical Gardens.
 - **Soil and Water education contest** – due date is January 30th. Please share this information.
 - **Tree Sale**- We have sold out of trees already.
 - **Field Day**- We will be at Spring Valley Elementary this Friday.
 - **Big Sweep**- Durham SWCD held a Big Sweep Cleanup Event for Durham County Employees on 10/23. We had 26 volunteers picked 28 bags of litter, 15 bags of recycle, and numerous bulky items from New Hope Creek/Garret Rd.

- J. **NRCS Update** – due to federal government shutdown, there was no report.

- K. **Regional Coordinator**- Taryn Thompson provided a written report

7. **New Business**

- A. **Employee Awards Committee**- David Harris reported that the Employee Awards Committee’s recommendation is to give each of the six Full Time staff an employee appreciation bonus of \$599. All approved.
- B. **December 10th Board Meeting**- A motion was made by David Harris for the board to pay for the meal on December 10th for Staff, Supervisors, and Guests. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:34 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – December 10, 2025, at 12:30pm
 Location: 1811 Hillandale Rd Durham, NC 27705 (in the private room)

Talmage Layton
 Chair

Lisa Marochak
 Senior Administrative Officer

 Approval date