

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 8 (District Meeting)

Date: October 6, 2025

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark Waller- *Vice-Chair*; 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, October 6, 2025, and called to order at 8:03am 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 September 8, 2025. Mark Waller 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. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Mark Waller
 - An EAB meeting was held on October 8.
 - Duke University presented on their eight years of planning for their climate commitment and carbon neutrality.
 - Durham City/ County Planning Department presented on UDO updates.
 - The next EAB meeting is scheduled for November 5.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- No Report.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **Budget Review** – Eddie expressed concern to Budget Analyst of similar services being provided by multiple departments
 - **FY 27 Request for Soil and Water** – BETC program stipend funds and new vehicle due to having six FTEs on staff. Requests will be considered and finalized in December/January timeframe.

- **Land & Water Fund** – Steve Bevinton is retiring. Steve has been very supportive of our stream projects over the years.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Commission** – meeting to be held in Huntersville in November.
- **Durham County Employee Appreciation Week** - October 13-18.

D. Administrative Report- Sherry Scully provided Lisa Marochak’s report:

- **Area 4 Fall Meeting** – November 20 hosted by Warren SWCD. Please let Lisa know if you plan to attend.
- **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.
- **State Fair/Soil & Water Booth** – October 21st is Durham SWCD District Day at the Soil & Water booth.
- **Farmer Appreciation Dinner** – Tuesday, October 28th at 6pm at Coffey Ground Ranch in Bahama. Please register you and your guest for this event. Deadline to register is October 17.

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

Informational Only

- **CCAP Technical Assistance-** 16 site visits in September
- First phase of **Trinity School riparian buffer project** has started. Presentation provided to Earth Science cohort. Phase II will begin in November.
- Presentation and “water-walk” engagement for Lakewood Elementary School Garden Club and administration. Jordan High School BETC students will install a raingarden on-site in spring.
- RFP signed by David Harris for Contract 32-2025-526 for \$1315.50 in between meetings.
- Two applications were submitted for the Division’s CCAP regional grant cycle.

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

Ag Cost Share

Application for Assistance

- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve contract #32-2026-002 (\$20,000) for Ag Road Repair. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. (This amount is 57% of estimated cost of road repair provided by engineer.) Motion carried.

Contract

- A motion was made by Kenny Browning to approve contract #32-2026-001 (\$9,973) for Ag Sediment Removal. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Kenny Browning and seconded by Mark Waller for approval of contract #32-2026-002 for \$20,000 for Ag Road Repair. Motion carried.

AgWRAP

Informational Only

- A motion was made by Kenny Browning and seconded by Mark Waller to approve contract #32-2026-802 (\$9500) for Water well. Motion carried.

Program Information Only

- Division Program Review for Durham SWCD was held on October 2 at 9am. All program

files and projects were found in compliance. (This review was for all Division programs.)

- Over 100 people participated in the 2025 Tri-County Pasture Field was held on Wednesday September 24th @ Lowell Valley Farm-South Lowell Road. Appreciation for Farm Bureau financial support and Board member attendance.

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

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Project –**
 - City of Raleigh Water Resources signature is in process and needed to pay Engineer for work completed.
 - All permits have been received and design finalized.
 - Meeting scheduled with all stakeholders (landowners, SWCD staff, contractors, PCC and Engineer) on October 22nd.
- **Charlestowne Apartment Stream Restoration Project**
 - Extension for Division of Water Resources grant has been requested that will extend the deadline to January 2027
- **Park Place HOA Project in conjunction with PCC**
 - Army Corp of Engineers has been contacted to look at the Dam. If they do not claim the dam, it can be removed as part of this flood mitigation project. After they look at it, we will contact the two HOA's downstream.

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

Informational Items

- **Agriculture Economic Development Grant (AED)**
 - FY 2026 - 51 Farmer and 3 School Applications received requesting \$421,839.
 - AED Committee met on September 16, 2025, to determine disposition of funding. Thirty farmers and three school projects were approved. Staff is in the process of finalizing vendor information, holding site visits and writing contracts for each applicant awarded for funding.
 - Native Plant Sale held on September 25, 4:00-6:00pm at Durham Cooperative Extension Service. This is a joint effort between Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension. Four Durham vendors, Soil and Water table and Master Garden table available.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - The Board did not meet in September.
 - Farmland Protection Plan has been received and is being reviewed by staff.
 - Next Meeting – October 16 at 6pm at Durham Farm Bureau or online.

I. Environmental Education – Elicia Senff reported the following:

- **Move-A-Bull** – Elicia Senff and Grace Fine tabled at this event in downtown Durham. This well attended event went well; there was a lot of interest in Soil and Water programs.
- **2025/2026 Tree Sale** – Online sale will go live week of October 13.
- **NC Environmental Education Outdoor Classroom Symposium** – 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.

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. December Board meeting will be held on December 10th at Pomodoro Italian Kitchen on Hillandale Rd, Durham.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:26 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – November 10, 2025, at 8:00am (hybrid)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Sherry Scully
Ag Development Coordinator

11-10-2025
Approval date