

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (District Meeting)

Date: April 4, 2022

Meeting Number: 10 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Kenyon Browning- *Supervisor* and Melissa Rooney- *Associate Supervisor*. **(Virtual):** Mark DeWitt-*Vice Chair*; Anjali Boyd-*Secretary/Treasurer*; Melissa Rooney- *Associate Supervisor*; Jan Cromartie- *Associate Supervisor*.

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; **(Virtual):** Diana Irizarry- *NRCS*; Len Needham- *guest*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, March 7, 2022, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was hybrid. Those in person met at the Durham Farm Bureau Bldg. and Virtually via Zoom.

Conflict of Interest Statement– read by Anjali Boyd.

Minutes– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Acceptance of the Financial Report- A motion was made by David Harris to move to accept the financial report as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

- A. Bahama Community Park update**- *Len Needham* the Fire Chief with Bahama Fire department discuss their idea for the park with the board and staff. The board decided to form a committee. Anjali Boyd, David Harris, Eddie Culberson, and Lisa Marochak will serve on the committee.
- B. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Jillian Riley wasn't present
- No updates
- C. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- *David Harris reported the following*
- Provided an UNRBA update to the board and staff.
 - Symposium will be this Thursday at Falls Lake. (Must register to attend)
- D. Directors Report**- *Eddie Culberson reported on the following:*
- **Breakfast for County Commissioners and County Manager** – possibly this fall
 - **FY2022-2023 Budget Request**- Mark DeWitt and Anjali Boyd joined the budget hearing. The Soil & Water Department requested the following increases for the upcoming FY23 budget 1) Full

Time Community Outreach Coordinator position (they seemed favorable of this position) 2)
Additional Travel and Training funds.

- **Emily Bateman resigned and has taken a job with Wake SWCD.** The Natural Resources Coordinator position has been posted. We plan to keep it open until filled.

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

- **Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** Do we want to do this again in the fall? The farming community really seemed to enjoy the event. This item was tabled until next meeting.

F. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Saad Masood reported on the following:

- **Contacts (for approval):** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the following contract as follows: 32-2022-520 (DCLT) for Cistern (1000 gal), \$2,223, Ellerbe Creek Neuse, EPA 319 funds. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request for Payment:** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP for 32-2022-503 (Immaculata) for \$1,191 for a rain garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 145, 319 grant. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **Regional Applications-** Two regional applications were submitted.
- **Spot Checks-** April 21st @9:30 am. David Harris is planning to go on the spot checks.
- **BETC Update**
 - Pretests for students was administered
 - First rotation of 15 students – April 9th (visit site) and April 23rd (install rain garden)

G. ACSP and AgWRAP Programs- Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

Application for Assistance

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Ag Cost Share application for assistance as follows: 32-2022-003 for grassed waterway; ranking 90. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Contract

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Ag Cost Share contract as follows: 32-2022-003 for grassed waterway at \$498; ranking 90. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **Spot Check date for Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP-** April 18th at 9am
- **Remaining Ag Cost share funding-** \$4,709
- **Fencing School-** Working with Cooperative Extension to plan a Fencing School for May 5th at Funny Girl Farm). Lunch will be provided for this event.

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

- **Grove Park Project-** on April 12th Eddie Culberson will be doing a presentation for HOA.
- **Riverside High Project-**
 - **Contract Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** was emailed to the Board prior to this meeting. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract with DEQ for the Riverside HS project. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all

voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contract with Water and Land Solutions-** was emailed to the Board prior to this meeting. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract with Water and Land Solutions for the Riverside HS project. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **NC State Testing-** has started doing pre and post water testing at the site.
- on April 12th (after school) Eddie Culberson will be doing a presentation for teachers, the Principal and DPS Maintenance.

I. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Sherry Scully reported the following:

Agriculture Economic Development

- **AED Grant-** grant participants continue to call for site visits. One project was completed in the month of March.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB) *Provided an informational update.*

- Hybrid Farmer Breakfast held on March 24th – 33 participants attended in-person and 6 online
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting-** Met on March 24th, 2022, at 10:15 am (hybrid).
- **VAD-** new VAD application approved for 86 acres.
- **The next FPAB meeting April 21-**Time and location to be determined by poll of members and staff

J. Environmental Education Report- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

- **Conservation Awards Celebration** –Tuesday, May 10th.
- **NC Envirothon-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve paying \$150 each for the two Durham Envirothon Teams. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried
- **Regional Public Speaking Contest** – The Durham SWCD first place 7th Grade Public Speaking winner will be competing in the Area IV Public Speaking Contest on April 8th. If the contestant advances to the State competition, she will come to the next board meeting to practice her speech.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)-** The board will need to decide how many students they want to sponsor for the RCW. Also, at the May meeting, the board will need to choose which student(s) they will be funding to attend the week-long workshop at NCSU.
- **Rain Barrels-** Durham SWCD is currently sold out of rain barrels. The board asked Lisa Marochak to presale the barrels instead of buying more.

K. NRCS Update- Diana Irizarry with NRCS provided an update to the board.

Program Update

- **EQIP FY 2022-** currently waiting for who's application gets selected for funding.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program-**Diana is currently updating the Forestry application for CSP
 - Prescribed Burning
 - Tree Planting

Technical Assistance

Diana received the Technical Specialist designation from the Division and the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC), effective March 16, 2022.

L. Regional Coordinator- *Informational only*

- A copy of the Regional Coordinator's report was emailed to the District Board.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – May 2, 2022, at 5:30 pm (TBD)
(Please check our website for the meeting information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

5/2/2022
Approval date