

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: February 7, 2022

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present (Virtual): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Emily Bateman- *Natural Resource Coordinator*, Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Diana Irizarry- *NRCS*; Matt Kopac- *guest*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, February 7, 2022, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Vice Chair, Mark DeWitt. The meeting was held Virtually via Zoom.

Conflict of Interest Statement– read by Lisa Marochak.

Minutes– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the January meeting. Anjali Boyd 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. Kenyon Browning 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 move item *New Business* (#A.) to the top of the agenda and approve the agenda as altered. Kenyon Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

A. Durham People’s Alliance funding request- Talmage Layton introduced Matt Kopac with the Durham People’s Alliance. Matt reported that he was reaching out to the District Board to communicate the community’s support for the CCAP and BETC programs administered by the Soil & Water Department. Matt further stated that several community groups would be discussing their support with elected officials as the FY 23 county budgets developed.

Old Business

A. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)- Jillian Riley reported on the following:

- **Provided an EAB update**
 - Working on annual priorities (expanding community engagement)
- **Next meeting**- February 2.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- *David Harris*

- Provided an in depth UNRBA Path Forward update (PPT was shared)
- Next Path Forward meeting: February 1, 2022-will be talking about Modeling and Regulatory Support Status

D. Directors Report- *Eddie Culberson reported on the following:*

- **FY2022-2023 Budget Request**
 - The Soil & Water Department requested the following increases for the upcoming FY23 budget request. 1) Full Time Environmental Education Coordinator position 2) Additional Travel and Training funds.
- **Stream Flow Rehabilitation Program-** This program was announced at the NC Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting in January. \$38 million dollars has been allocated from the state to support this program. Let Eddie Culberson know if see any site that might qualify for the program.
- Sandra Weitzel – The Program Coordinator (Outreach, Education, Training) for the NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation is retiring on March 4.

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

- **Area IV Dues-** A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to pay Area IV Conservation Districts \$150 for our annual dues.
- **Area IV Spring Meeting-** scheduled for February 24th 9:30am-12:30 pm. This will be a virtual event. The registration cost is \$15. Please let Lisa know if you plan to attend. Also, the registration fee is due no later than February 9.
- **NACD Insurance for Board Supervisors-** The National Association of Soil & Water Conservation is now offering insurance for all Gold, Dimond and Platinum NACD Members. A flyer on the insurance was sent to the five Durham SWCD Supervisors.

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

- **Contracts**
32-2022-503 (Soffera) for \$2750 for Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 145, EPA 319 grant. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as present for 32-2022-503. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Regional CCAP Applications-** The NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation was given \$1.5 million by the state and every district has the potential to receive \$100,000 with the maximum of \$50,000 per project. We have conducted site visits and there are three potential sites that will qualify for regional funding.
- **SSCF/BETC –** We have conducted 21 site visits so far and 11 of the sites will qualify for the grant. We will be meeting with Dr. Pack and teachers on the 14th of February to discuss the timeline for implementation and increase participations of teachers and students.

G. ACSP and AgWRAP Programs- Emily Bateman reported on the following:

- **Remaining Ag Cost share funding-** \$4,700
- **Avian Bird Flu-** This is starting to pick up in NC.
- **Fencing School-** Working with Janel with Cooperative Extension to plan a fencing school for this spring). Eddie Culberson and Emily Bateman attended one in the past and thought it would be beneficial for Durham farmers.

- H. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects** – Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
- **Southern High School Project**-Met with Dan with Durham Public Schools on January 5th. They are going to hire contractors to mow and connect the irrigation system.
 - **Riverside High Project**-
 - Spoke with Dan with Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department and he is going to be a part of the Riverside Project.
 - Working with Steve Bevington with Land and Water Trust Fund to finalize contract to bring back to the next Board Meeting.
- I. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board**- Sherry Scully reported the following:
- Agriculture Economic Development**
- **AED Grant Committee**- Met on the 25th of January to discuss plans for the Grant Program in FY 2023. Revisions to the FY2023 documents were updated.
 - **FY 2022 AED Grant Recipients**- Six participants whose contracts were approved in September have completed their projects and have been paid. Two are in process of finalizing their reimbursement paperwork.
- Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB) Provided an informational update.**
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting**- Met on January 20, 2022, at 6:30 pm (Zoom).
 - The next FPAB meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 10:30 am at the Bahama Ruritan Bldg. This will be a hybrid meeting.
 - **NEW Farmer Breakfast Schedule**- February 23rd and March 24th. Please visit our website for more information under the News and Upcoming Events section.
- J. Environmental Education Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Tree Seedling Sale**- The last day to order is February 11th. The pick-up will be the beginning of March.
 - **Conservation Contests** -are due by February 25th at 5:00 pm
 - **Area IV Envirothon**- schedule for March 16th at the Warren County Armory. Durham has six teams this year.
- K. NRCS Update**- Diana Irizarry with NRCS provided an update to the board.
- L. Bahama Community Park update**- David Harris report the following:
- **District Land**- The District Board needs to decide what they want to do with the land. The committee will meet before the March Durham SWCD Board Meeting.
- M. Regional Coordinator**- Lisa Marochak report on behalf of Brandy Myers the following:
- A copy of the Regional Coordinator's report was emailed to the District Board.
- N. Other Committee/Board Reports**
- **Deer Ecology Report**- David Harris sent the District Boards' response to the NCSU student but never heard back from her.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – March 7, 2022, at 5:30 pm (TBD)
(Please check our website for the meeting information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

3-7-2022
Approval date