

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (District Meeting)

Date: January 3, 2022

Meeting Number: 7 (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*; and Jillian Riley- *Associate Supervisor*.

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*; Phoebe Gooding- *guest*; Mikiah Carver- *guest*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, January 3, 2022, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held 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 December 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 move item *New Business* to the top of the agenda and approve the agenda as altered. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

New Business

A. Deer Ecology Study- David Harris introduced Mikiah Carver, a student with NCSU. Mikiah reported that she is looking for a place to capture, release and study the deer as part of the Deer Ecology Study at NCSU. The study would begin on Jan 3, 2022, and last until August 2024. David Harris made a motion to offer the NCSU students with the Deer Ecology Study the use of the district's land until August 2024 as long as the district board receives a copy of the study's findings and that none of the Ag practices are disturbed. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

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

- **Provided an EAB update**
- **Next meeting**- January 5. Will be setting goals for the year at this meeting.

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

- No Report
- Next Path Forward meeting: January 4, 2022-will be talking about modeling

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

- **FY2022-2023 Budget**
 - **Goal 4 County Pre-Budget meeting-** The pre-budget meeting for Goal 4 will be held this Friday. Some items Soil and Water is planning to ask for in the upcoming FY23 budget request. 1) Full Time Environmental Education position 2) Additional Travel and Training funds.
 - **Budget Hearing with County Manager-** March 22
- **Piedmont Community Conservation (PCC) Executive Meeting-** PCC was hit with an email scam last month.

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

- **NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** Jan 9-11, 2022, at the Sheraton Imperial RTP. The NC Soil and Water Commission Meeting will be held on January 9th at 3:00 pm.
- **Basic Training for Supervisors** – Now is the time to signup to attend if you haven't already. This training is required for all elected and appointed Supervisors. February 1- Coastal training, February 8- Mountain training, and February 22- Piedmont training.

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

- **Requests for Payment (Informational Only)**
 1. 32-2021-521 (Conrad) for \$4183.32 for Rain Garden and Stormwater Conveyance. FY19 City Interlocal funds.
 2. 32-2021-527 (Yarborough) for \$8,500 for Bank Stabilization and Riparian Buffer Planting. 319 (\$5,000) and ISIP (\$3,500) funds.
 3. E. Club Blvd. Community for \$1,500 for tree plants. SSCF funds.
 4. 32-2021-531 (Fennimore) for \$4,489 for Rain Garden and Stormwater Conveyance. FY19 City Interlocal funds.

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the four RFPs as requested. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Regional CCAP Applications-** There will be 1.5 million in funding available for the Regional CCAP Applications this year.

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

- **Remaining Ag Cost share funding-** \$4,700
- **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:

- **Grove Park Project-**Submitted for the 404 permits (Army Corp of Engineering) for the project.
 - Planning to do presentation for HOA before construction starts
 - Looking forward to the project starting next summer.
- **Riverside High Project-** Is now fully funded. The Riverside High students will be starting a nursery to grow the plants for the project.

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

Agriculture Economic Development

- **The FY21 AED Grant Annual Report** was shared with the BOCC and County Manager in November
- **AED Grant Committee**- Will meet on the 25th of January to discuss plans for the Grant Program in FY2023. Revisions to the program are in process.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- **Provided an informational update.**
- **Farmer Breakfast**- are scheduled for January 20th and February 23rd. Pesticide credits will be available for the February breakfast.
- **Next Meeting** – January 20th at 6:30. The meeting will be held virtually.

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
- **NCASWCD Contest Resolution**- A motion was made by Kenyon Browning to submit a resolution to the Education Committee at the NCASWCD Annual Meeting to support Re-aligning the Contest Types by Grade Level. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Wildflower Seeds**- A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to purchase \$200 in native wildflower seeds to package and sell. Kenyon Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

K. NRCS Update- Diana Irizarry with NRCS provided an update.

- Went over the EQIP and Conservation Activity Plan Transition handout
- **Staffing Restrictions**- This week the National Office changed the staffing restriction for the Wake NRCS Service Center from 50% to 25% with no visitors due to the number of COVID cases in the county.

L. Bahama Community Park update- *David Harris report the following:*

- *See Deer Ecology Report under New Business*

M. Regional Coordinator- *Lisa Marochak report on behalf of Brandy Myers the following:*

- Lisa will send out the coordinator report as soon as its available.

N. Other Committee/Board Reports

No Report

Additional NEW BUSINESS:

- B. Additional budget request items for FY2023**- Anjali Boyd asked for Eddie Culberson to bring a report back to the next meeting on budget items that staff wants the District Supervisors to support.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned at 7:12 pm.

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

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

2/7/2022
Approval date