

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 5 (District Meeting)

Date: May 2, 2022

Meeting Number: 11 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In person): Talmage Layton- *Chair* and David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Kenyon Browning- *Supervisor*; Jillian Riley **(Virtual):** Anjali Boyd-*Secretary/Treasurer*

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Zoe Robinson- *guest- Public Speaking contestant (Virtual)*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Gabriela Velez- *NRCS*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, May 2, 2022, and called to order at 5:33 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was hybrid. Those in person met at the Durham Farm Bureau Bldg. and Virtually via Zoom.

Public Speaking Contestant from Durham- Zoe Robinson won the regional competition and will be competing at the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation's Public Speaking Contest on Friday, May 13th in Raleigh. Zoe attended the meeting to practice her speech and to get feedback from the board.

Conflict of Interest Statement– read by Anjali Boyd.

Minutes– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the April 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. Kenny 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 approve the agenda as printed except to move the Public Speaking Contestant to the top of the agenda. Kenny Browning 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:

- Eno River Association attend last months meeting to speak on objection to housing development on the Eno.
- The Duke Sandford School of Public Policy is looking for an Environmental Intern for climate control and immigration. Duke will pay the intern. Please contact Jillian Riley if you know someone that is interested in the intern position.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- No Report

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

- **District Land** – A motion was made by David Harris to accept the offer that we received from United Land of America to purchase the Midland Terrace District Land for \$14,059.48. Kenny

Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **FY2022-2023 Budget Request-** 100 new positions were requested for FY2022-2023. We were told by budget that our position was 1 of 35 that were being recommended by the County Manager.
- **The Natural Resources Coordinator position-** The new employee starts on May 16th

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

- **FY2023 Budget-** will email a draft copy out to the board supervisors at least 10 days prior to the June meeting.
- **Annual Audit-** Anjali Boyd and David Harris will be conducting the FY22 audit of the Durham SWCD books. Lisa Marochak will set-up a date for them to do the audit in June.

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

- **Application for Assistance:** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the following Contract 32-2022-509 (EPA 319) for a Swale, Northeast Creek Cape Fear. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contracts:**
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Contract as follows: 32-2022-509 for Parkwood HOA. The contract is for Swale, Northeast Creek Cape Fear, ranking 150; EPA 319 funds. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Contract as follows: 32-2022-505 for Parkwood HOA. The contract is for Critical Area Planting, Northeast Creek Cape Fear, ranking 160; EPA 319 funds. Anjali Boyd 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 batch and approve the three RFPs listed below.
32-2022-503 (DCLT) for \$3,339 for a Cistern (1100 gal), Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 145, 319 grant; 32-2022-520 (DCLT) for \$3,339 for a Cistern (1100 gal), Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 145, 319 grant; 32-2022-507 (Thoumsin) for \$2,914 for a Cistern (500 gal), Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 155, 319 grant.
Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **EPA 319 Grant-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve for staff to submit a 319 application for CCAP funding. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Spot Checks-** were conducted on April 21st. All sites were found in compliance.
- **BETC Update**
 - First rotation of 14 students and 3 teachers was completed on April 23rd (install rain garden)

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

Contract Extension Request

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Ag Cost Share contract extension as follows: 32-2022-004 for water supply & pump. The District Board must approve locally and then the contract goes before the NC Soil & Water Commission. One Supervisor will be required to attend with staff on July 20. Talmage Layton is planning to attend the Commission Meeting. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- **Spot Checks for Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP** was conducted on April 18th. All 9 contracts but 1 was in compliance. Letters have been sent out to applicants/landowners regarding the spot check results.
- **Remaining Ag Cost share funding-** \$4,709
- **Fencing School-** scheduled 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:

- **Southern High School Project (Maintenance update)**
 - The site has been mowed, but the irrigation hasn't been connected yet.
- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Cherri Smith and Eddie Culberson reported that there has been significant stream restoration destruction from ATV's.
 - Eddie Culberson plans to contact the Army Corp of Engineering to see if they are aware of the destruction from the ATVs that are entering through their property.
 - **Fencing or Cable-** A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to do additional investigation of price up to \$2,000 to put up a barrier/fence to keep the ATVs out of the project. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - Staff will look into adding signage
- **Riverside High Project-**
 - on April 12th (after school) Eddie Culberson did 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 update-**
 - 8 contracts have been completed since July. Two additional projects are in the process of completion and payment. Three contracts remain in the FY21 program year and is due to be completed by June 30th.
 - The next committee meeting will be held on May 17th at 9am.
 - **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)** *Provided an informational update.*
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting-** Met on April 21st, 2022, at 6 pm (hybrid).
 - **VAD-** new VAD application approved for 54 acres.
 - **The next FPAB meeting-** May 19th at 6pm
- **Other**
 - **World Hunger Day- June 4, 2022- 1-3pm at Durham Central Park-** public event to promote resources available to those who are food insecure and to raise awareness of food insecurity experienced in Durham. If you would like to be involved, please contact Sherry.

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

- **Teacher of the Year-** Tyler D'Angelo with Carrington MS was selected as the 2021-2022 Durham SWCD Teacher of the Year. Tyler will receive this award on May 10.
- **Conservation Awards Celebration** –Will be held on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 pm. Please let Lisa know if you are planning to attend by May 5.
 - **Yard Signs-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the purchase of 18-yard signs for the Conservation Contest winners. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)-** This year, we received 8 applications from HS students wishing to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU.
 - The cost to send one student is \$450 for registration plus \$100 for food allowance. Anjali Boyd made a motion to recommend that the board sponsor 4 students to attend the RCW at \$550 each. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Lisa Marochak will resend the 8 RCW applications to Supervisors and Associate Supervisors to help choose the four students that the board will sponsor.
- **Pond Clinic-** Durham & Orange SWCD plans to hold their annual pond clinic on May 14 at the Garrett Farm. Durham Farm Bureau has graciously agreed to sponsor the event.

K. NRCS Update- Gabriela Velez with NRCS provided an update to the board.

- **EQIP** - none have been approved from Durham.
- **Forestry CSP & Assessment-** working on completing by July 1
- Participated in the Durham Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP spot checks on April 18th
- Team 10 will be attending the Fencing School sponsored by Durham Soil & Water and Durham Cooperative Extension.
- Starting on May 4th all NRCS staff will officially be working full time in the office.

L. Regional Coordinator- *Informational only*

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

M. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris reported the following:

- Started MOU for committee to review
- A request has been sent to Len Needham to inquire on the structure of the building.

NEW Business

A. FY2023 Strategic Plan- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

B. BMP Certification- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the BMP Certification as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

C. Farmer Appreciation Dinner: A motion was made by David Harris to move the Farmer Appreciation off the table. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. The board discussed having a Farmer Appreciation Dinner this fall. They also discussed possible guest speakers.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid Meeting on June 6, 2022, at 5:30 pm (In-person 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham and Virtual- Zoom) Please check our website for the meeting information.

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

6-6-2022
Approval date