

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 8 (District Meeting)

Date: August 1, 2022

Meeting Number: 2 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (Virtual):** Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; Jillian Riley, *Associate Supervisor*.  
**(In person)** David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Ken Browning- *Supervisor*.

**Others Present (In person):** Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*. **(Virtual)** Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*; Gabriela Velez - *NRCS*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, August 1, 2022, and called to order at 5:31 pm by the Vice Chair, Mark DeWitt. The meeting was hybrid. Those in person met at the Durham Farm Bureau Bldg. and Virtually via Zoom.*

**Conflict of Interest**– No conflicts of interest

**Minutes**– A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve the minutes from the July 11, 2022, meeting. David Harris 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. Ken 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. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

#### New Business

**A. 2022 RCW Students**- James Barnes, Tucker Gaddy, Jack Solomon, and Jared Vanhook thanked the board for sponsoring them to attend the Resource Conservation Workshop this past summer at NC State University. They all talked about their experiences as RCW students.

#### Old Business

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

- No July meeting
- UNRBA provided an update in June to the EAB
- EAB summer social will be held on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Highwire Brewery
- Next EAB meeting is August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm

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

- No Report
- Next meeting is tomorrow

- C. Administrative Report-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Leadership Training for Supervisors-** The training will be held September 12-14, 2022, in Raleigh, NC. If you are interested in attending, contact the NCASWD Executive Director, Bryan Evans, at [ncaswd@gmail.com](mailto:ncaswd@gmail.com)
  - **Secondary Employment Form-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the secondary employment form for Saad Masood for FY23. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- D. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Saad Masood reported on the following:  
Informational Only
- **BETC-** On July 15<sup>th</sup>, a rain garden was installed with the help of Southern High School students and teachers and Ellerbe Creek Watershed.
- F. Ag Cost Share-** Dustin Brewer reported on the following:  
Informational Only
- **Tri-County Pasture Field Day** - Durham SWCD is helping to sponsor and host this year's event in Durham on September 22 at Van Ellis' Farm.
    - The rain date is September 23.
- G. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects** – Lisa Marochak reported the following on behalf of Eddie Culberson:
- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Lisa Marochak provided an update on the easement where the ATVs are causing significant destruction to the stream restoration project. Eddie Culberson is still working with landowners and contractors.
    - The board would like Eddie to reach out to them if there are any new updates before the next meeting.
  - **Riverside High School Project**
    - Survey went fine- The Engineers flew over the project with a drone and got what they needed for the basin design. Next step is we need to meet w/teachers to talk about what wetland plants the students will be growing.
- H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board-** Sherry Scully reported the following:  
**Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program** (Informational Items)
1. We are taking applications for the Ag Economic Development Grant. Deadline is August 31st at 5 pm! Please spread the word to schools and farmers that you know. 2. A third hybrid training sessions was held on July 12th at North Regional Library with great turnout. 3. The AG Economic Development Grant Committee will meet on September 28 to finalize ranking of applicants and allocate funds. Applicants will be notified by September 30. 4. An application for USDA Urban Agriculture Innovative Production Grant is being submitted. We have applied for funding to pay teacher stipend and student internship payments through BETC, DPS Rising Stars Program and SEEDS DIG program.
  2. **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)-**
    - FPAB Meeting held on July 21, 2022.
    - Three VAD applications were approved at last month's meeting
    - Next Meeting – August 25th at 6pm hybrid format from Farm Bureau meeting room.
  3. **USDA Grant-** a motion was made by David Harris for the board to write a letter of support for staff to apply for a USDA grant for funding to help pay for teachers and student interns for the

BETC program. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried

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

- **Rain Barrels-** Tabled until next meeting.
- **NC Foundation Soil & Water Conservation Outdoor Learning Center Grant-** Lisa announced that the district was awarded a \$949.45 OELC grant for R.N. Harris Elementary. A motion was made by David Harris to enter into the contract with the NCFSWC for the OELC Grant Contract as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
  - David Harris motioned to allow staff to purchase items out of the Sales and Rental account for the purpose of the grant and return the funds to the Sales and Rental account after the project is completed.

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

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**

- Applications for the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative that were not funded thru EQIP Classic had been evaluated thru EQIP Urban Initiative.
  - Four applicants- preapproved for high tunnels
    - Obligation deadline August 5th
- One person interested Silvopasture.

**K. Regional Coordinator-** David Harris on behalf of Brandy Myers – *Regional Coordinator*

- Provided an update to the board. A copy of the Regional Coordinator’s report was emailed to the District Board prior to the meeting.

**L. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris reported that the Bahama Community Park Committee has contact the County Attorney’s office to see if they can help draw up an MOA between the district and the Bahama Fire Department.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned at 6:22 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting** – Hybrid Meeting on September 12, 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

9/12/22  
Approval date