

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: October 3, 2022

Meeting Number: 4 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*. **(Virtual)** Anjali Boyd- *Secretary/Treasurer*; Melissa Rooney- *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*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*. **(Virtual)**; Diana Irizarry - *NRCS*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, October 3, 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– No conflicts of interest

Minutes– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the September 12, 2022, 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. Mark DeWitt 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)**- Lisa Marochak presented the EAB update on behalf of Jillian Riley.
- Report was emailed to board members
- B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
- Provided an UNRBA update to the board. A handout was shared prior to the meeting.
- C. Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
- **Local Advisory Committee (LAC) update**- All 17 counties met the reduction. Durham County achieved 79% reductions in 2021
 - **Class & Comp Study**- Durham County is doing a class & comp study for their 2k employees. The study will be compared to 5 counties and 5 municipalities.
 - **FY2024 Budget**- The FY2024 Budget process has started. Eddie asked the board to be thinking about any requests for the upcoming budget process.
- D. Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Area IV Fall Meeting**- Will be held on November 17th in Nash County. Registration is \$30. Please turn your money into to Lisa Marochak by October 31st.

- **NEW Area IV website-** a new site is being developed that will provide details about upcoming meetings, reminders, and registration.
- **Supervisor Reappointment-** Talmage Layton recused himself from voting. David Harris made a motion to recommend Talmage Layton for reappointment to the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **The NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** will be held January 7th-10th in Cherokee, NC.

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

Request for Payment

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-501. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2023-501 for a Rain Garden, Neuse, Intercity funds.
- **Contract-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented below for 32-2023-501. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2023-501 for a Rain Garden, \$1,939.69, Neuse, Intercity funds. Ranking score 150.

Informational Only

- BETC- rain garden installation on October 29th with Northern High School students
- HOA presentation was done this past weekend for 10 HOAs
- New 319 Grant- received confirmation today that we were awarded \$94,000.
- Eddie Culberson congratulated Saad for going above and beyond to help a citizen.

F. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer reported on the following:

ACSP

Information Only

- Contract 32-2021-004 including Livestock Exclusion Fencing for \$4,490 was Cancelled upon Applicants Request.
- Request for Payment for Contract 32-2021-005 including Stream Crossing (\$9,449)

Application for Assistance (AFA)

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-003. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Application for Assistance for Contract 32-2023-003 including Streambank Stabilization, ranking score of 115

Contracts

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2023-001 including Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Cropland Conversion, and Waterers (\$11,565) with a ranking score of 105. Mark Dewitt 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 contract 32-2023-003 including Streambank Stabilization (\$13,762). Ranking score 115. Mark Dewitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried

AgWRAP

Informational only

- Hall of Fame Committee is meeting Wednesday, October 5th at 12pm @ Phillip and James Ellis shop
- Tri-County Pasture Field Day held on September 22 was a great turnout at Van and Enda Ellis farm in Rougemont, NC. 76 people attended from across the Piedmont and learned about pasture and livestock management techniques

Contract

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented below for 32-2023-801. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-801 for Agricultural Water Storage and/or Collection System, Ranking Score of 75; \$5,673.

G. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects – Eddie Culberson reported the following on behalf of Eddie Culberson:

- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Eddie Culberson provided an update on the easement where the ATVs are causing significant destruction to the stream restoration project. Dustin Brewer and Eddie Culberson met with the contractor and landowners who agree that they like the natural look of stacking debris. The contractor quoted \$2,250 to do the work to block ATV activity. A motion was made by David Harris to follow through with the recommendation to stack debris to stop the ATV destruction to the stream restoration project. The money should come from the general checking account. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried
- **Triple Crown Farm-** The new owner of Triple Crown Farm is Lanier Homes, and the easement is part of the HOA area. 90 acres of the land will remain as open space.
- **Southern High School Irrigation update-** Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department has a new person in charge of the irrigation at Southern High School. Still waiting on a quote to get the irrigation hooked up.
- **Grove Park Project**
 - Eddie Culberson received a call from the President of the Grove Park HOA regarding sediment entering their HOA lake from new development upstream. They recently spent 500K dredging it out. Stormwater Services Manager, Ryan Eaves sent staff out to look at the lake.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Sherry Scully reported the following: Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program (Informational Items)

Informational Items

• Agriculture Economic Development (AED)

The AED Committee ranked and reviewed 36 grant applications on September 28th. Funding of \$150,000 was allocated to 3 schools and 24 farmers. Nine applicants, requesting \$47,059 were not funded. Applicants have been notified of their status and the writing of the contracts has begun.

- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)** The 2022 Farm Tour will be held on October 6. We will be visiting 6 farms and 1 school to highlight many of the programs offered

through Durham Soil & Water, Open Space and Trails and Cooperative Extension. We currently have 32 registered attendees.

- **Next Meeting** – October 20th at 6:00. The meeting will be held in person at Farm Bureau and will also be available online. Guest speaker, Ryan Eaves with Stormwater and Erosion Control, will be joining us.

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

- **NC Foundation Soil & Water Conservation Outdoor Learning Center Grant-** Lisa announced that OELC grant for R.N. Harris Elementary has been completed and that we received the final payment today of \$949.45. The payment will be deposited this week.
- **Big Sweep-** the 2022 Durham County Employee Big Sweep will be held on October 18.
- **2022 Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** Invitations have been sent out for the dinner on October 27th. We are asking everyone to RSVP by October 20th.

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

EQIP & CSP:

- The EQIP and CSP application sign-up deadline is October 14, 2022. Those applications not selected for funding in FY2022 will roll over to FY2023. We may receive one EQIP application for High Tunnel and another one for pasture-related practices
- So far, we have four EQIP applications in the system; two for a High Tunnel System; one for Silvopasture; one participant is still deciding what to do

ACEP:

- Currently working on a conservation plan for two ACEP applications.

In other topics:

- JaBioas Glenn, the Soil Conservationist in Chatham County, accepted the Team 17 Supervisory Soil Conservationist position. He will be in the Sampson Field Office. His starting date will be announced once confirmed.

K. Regional Coordinator- Lisa Marochak 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.

L. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris reported that the Bahama Community Park Committee is still working on the MOA.

- Received MOA from County Attorney, Willie Darby.
 - Release form was recommended by Mr. Darby
 - Easement Monitoring (Eddie is checking to see if the district can get out of this requirement)

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid Meeting on November 3, 2023, 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

11-3-2022
Approval date