

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 12 (District Meeting)

Date: November 3, 2022

Meeting Number: 5 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*, Ken Browning- *Supervisor*, Melissa Rooney- *Associate Supervisor*, Jan Cromartie- *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, November 3, 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.*

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

**Minutes**– A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to approve the minutes from the October 3, 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 Mark DeWitt to move to accept the financial report as presented. David Harris 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)**- No report

**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:

- **Bahama Ruritan** – On October 11<sup>th</sup> Eddie Culberson gave a presentation to the Bahama Ruritan on the Soil and Water Annual Report.
- **Hydrilla**- The hydrilla treatment ended on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Friends of NACD grant**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve for staff to submit a grant application in the districts name. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Lunch and Learn**- The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation is offering lunch and learn trainings for Supervisors and Staff.

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

- **Area IV Fall Meeting**- Will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Nash County. Registration is \$30.
- **The NCASWCD Annual Meeting**- will be held January 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in Cherokee, NC. The hotel and registration have opened up.

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

**Request for Payment**

**Request for Payment (RFP):**

- 32-2023-501, Potter for a rain garden in Little Lick Creek/Neuse. Ranking score of 150. Payment request \$1,939.69. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Regional Application:**

- 32-2023-502, Sundaramoorthy, for \$25,000, Permeable Driveway, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, at ranking score 160. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the regional application as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Informational Only:**

- BETC – Rain Garden installed on October 29<sup>th</sup> with nine Northern High School students.
- Another rotation of BETC students from Northern High School in November.
- Spoke at SSCF community event (50 people) in Braggtown on October 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the benefits of communities working together and water quality benefits.

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

**Information Only**

- Waiting on the Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts to approve some contracts.
- Farmer Appreciation Dinner update- The dinner was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> and we had 72 citizens in attendance.

**G. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects –** Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Eddie Culberson reported that the contractor is going to start next Wednesday. They will be stacking debris to stop the ATVs that are causing significant destruction to the stream restoration project.
- **Southern High School Irrigation update-** Soil and Water staff have been in touch with DPS Maintenance, who has new staff. In addition, DPS Maintenance has been in touch with the engineer who installed the project because they had questions. DPS Maintenance states they intend to connect the irrigation.
- **Grove Park Project**
  - Waiting for the flood plain maps from the City of Durham. This is holding up starting construction.

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

**Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program (Informational Items)**

**Informational Items**

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

- **Environmental Education Month-** A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to donate \$150 to the Environmental Education Month. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Tyler D'Angelo will be receiving the Teacher of the Yr. award at the NCASWCD Annual Meeting.

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

**Conservation Programs Update:**

**EQIP & CSP applications:**

- We have six EQIP applications in the system.
  - Three for a high tunnel system
  - One for Silvopasture
  - One for pre-commercial thinning
  - One participant is still deciding what to do
- One application for CSP for pre-commercial thinning

**EQIP & CSP contract updates:**

- Request to terminate an EQIP contract due to inactivity for two years.
- Certified and paid a High Tunnel System
- Submitted two advance payment requests from two contracts so they could purchase a high tunnel kit and/or materials.
- Completed CSP payments for 3 CSP Contracts in Durham.

**ACEP:**

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

**In other topics:**

- Gabriela Velez and JaBioas Glenn will attend the 37th Sustainable Agriculture Conference held in Durham on November 5 and 6.

**K. Regional Coordinator-** Brandy Myers reported on the following.

- Provided an update to the board. A copy of the Regional Coordinator's report was emailed to the District Board.
  - Nov. 16- Commission Meeting; Dec. 1- Cover Crop Training; Dec. 7- Area Chairs Meeting

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

- Still waiting on legal. Eddie Culberson will try to contact the attorney.
- The District Board is responsible for monitoring the easement in perpetuity.
- Eddie Culberson had a conversation with Lynn Needham about the land. The Bahama Fire Department is willing to pay for an attorney to draw up the papers. The Durham SWCD Board would like to pick the attorney that is used. Eddie will relay this message to Lynn Needham,

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned at 7:01 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – in person on December 8, 2022, 11:30am-12:25pm (lunch) and 12:30pm (Board Meeting).** Please check our website for the meeting location.

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

12/8/2022  
Approval date