

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (District Meeting)

Date: February 6, 2023

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*, Mark Waller- *Supervisor*. **(Virtual)** Anjali Boyd- *Vice Chair*. **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* and Gabriela Velez- *NRCS*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, February 6, 2022, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was in person, and they met at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.*

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (Read by Lisa Marochak) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from December 8, 2022, meeting (regular meeting). Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 3) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by David Harris to move to accept the financial report as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda**- Mark Waller motioned to approve the agenda as printed. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Old Business**
  - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Anjali Boyd
    - Provided an EAB update to the board
  - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
    - Provided an UNRBA update to the board. A handout was shared.
  - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
    - **County Budget**- The department is asking for the following for the 2023-2023 budget. 1) a full time Environmental Education position, 2) \$50K increase for the AED Grant for a total of \$200K, and 3) an increase in Dues and Subscription
    - **Stream Restoration Training**- Sherry Scully & Saad Masood completed a Stream Restoration training. In addition, Sherry Scully completed a Certification training course in Stream Restoration.

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

- **The Area 4 Spring meeting-** will be held February 23<sup>rd</sup> in Vance, NC. The registration is \$30.
- **Area 4 Dues -** A motion was made by David Harris to pay the Area 4 Dues to the NCASWCD. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

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

**Grants Update:**

- A motion was made by David Harris for Durham SWCD to enter into the \$120,000 **DWR Grant Agreement** CW34250 for (Reinvestment Partners - Streambank Stabilization Project). Mark Waller 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 for Durham SWCD to enter into the \$94,000 **EPA 319 Grant Agreement** CW34340 for CCAP. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **SSCF grant** for \$188,000- completed in December 2022 and all of the funds were spent

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

- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project-** 6000 ft of Stream Restoration (1.4-million-dollar project- 4 grants)
  - **DWR Grant Extension Request-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the extension request for DWR Grant Agreement CW18328 for the Grove Park Stream Restoration project. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
  - **Pre-construction meeting** – scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am
  - **Grove Park Easement** – A motion was made by David Harris to approve for the district to enter into an agreement for the easement. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Riverside High Project-** Project will be starting this year when school gets out. This project will be used as a national study. A meeting is planned with DPS and the Engineer on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am.
- **Marbrey update-** it has been too wet for anything to be done about the ATV's.
- **Southern High School** – The irrigation still hasn't been hooked up.

**H. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP-** *Dustin Brewer*

**ACSP** *(informational only)*

- Contract 32-2023-001: Division approved, work may begin (Exclusion Fencing, Drinkers)
- Contract 32-2023-003: Division engineer provided Preliminary Design, waiting on landowner response to send surveyors out (Streambank Stabilization)

**AgWRAP** *(informational only)*

- Contract 32-2023-801: Waiting on Division engineers for design plans (Ag. Storage Water Tank)
- Applied for additional AgWRAP funding of \$5,000

**AgWRAP Application for Assistance:**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Application for Assistance for Contract 32-2023-802 including Water Well for Livestock, ranking score of 100. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**AgWRAP Contract:**

- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve contract 32-2023-802 including Water Well for Livestock (\$5,697), with a ranking score of 100. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**I. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Sherry Scully reported the following:**  
(Informational Items)

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program** – The Ag Economic Development Committee met in December to review 5% of past projects and the documentation for the upcoming program year. Changes to these documents are being prepared and will be reviewed by county attorney for approval. Work is ongoing for FY 22 and FY 23 projects.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**  
**Farmer Breakfast Series** – The FPAB has held two Breakfasts with speakers from Durham Tax Department and NC Wildlife Resources Commission. Topics presented were Present Use Value and the Wildlife Conservation Land Program. Fifty-two attendees joined us for these conversations. The next breakfast will be held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 8:00-10:00 am at the Bahama Volunteer Fire Department. John Lyttle with the Cooperative Extension Office will present on “Making Good Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Choices.”
- **Next Meeting** – February 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:15am following Farmer Breakfast. The meeting will be held in person at the Bahama Fire Department and will also be available online.

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

- **Durham SWCD Tree Sale-** Please share the tree sale flyer and link to the online order form with your contacts. The sale ends on February 13th. Pick-up will be on March 1 and March 2 at Waller Family Farm.
  - A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve purchasing lunch for staff and supervisors that help with the tree pick-up. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Conservation Contests-** deadline is February 22 at 5pm
- **Area IV Envirothon** – Durham SWCD is the host of the 2023 Area IV Envirothon. We need volunteers. Please contact Lisa if you would like to volunteer.

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

- Provided a reported to the Soil & Water board and staff.

**L. Regional Coordinator-** Lisa shared a copy of the regional Coordinators Report with the Soil & Water board and staff.

**M. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris and Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- David reported that the Bahama Community Park Committee recommends for the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District to donate the 48 acres in Bahama to the Bahama Volunteer Fire Department. The transfer and title fees will be paid for by the Bahama Volunteer Fire Department.
  - Easement – All parties would like to use the changes made to the easement a couple of years ago. NC Land and Water Fund will be responsible for monitoring the easement.

Mark Waller seconded the recommendation from the Bahama Community Park Committee as presented. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**N. Other Committees/Board Reports-** No report

**6) New Business**

- a. **Master Agreement** (*Lisa Marochak*)- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Master Agreement with the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Science. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. The Chair did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- b. **Matching Funds Form** (*Lisa Marochak*)- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 2023-2024 matching funds application with the Division of Soil and Water. Mark Waller seconded the motion. The Chair did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned at 6:41 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid** on March 6, 2023, 5:30pm. Please check our website for the meeting location.

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

3/6/2023  
Approval date