

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: March 6, 2023

Meeting Number: 9 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Anjali Boyd- *Vice Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*; Ken Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer*; Mark Waller- *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*, Brandy Myers- *Regional Coordinator*; and Hana Stepnick- *guest with 9th Street Journal (out of Duke)*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, March 6, 2023, 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 Anjali Boyd*) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from February 6, 2023, meeting (regular meeting). Ken Browning 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. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Mark Waller 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
 - No update
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
 - Provided an UNRBA update to the board.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **County Budget**- The budget hearing with the County Manager will be on March 29th at 11:30 am. The department is asking for the following for the 2023-2024 budget. 1) a full time Education and Outreach Coordinator position, 2) \$50K increase for the AED Grant for a total of \$200K, and 3) an increase in Dues and Subscription
 - **Compensation Study**- The results of the compensation study will be shared with the Department Head this Wednesday.
 - **County Manager**- did a reorganization of the leadership team. She did away with the General Manager title and instead has Assistant County Managers over each goal area. Julio Delgado is now the Assistant County Manager over Goal 4.

- **Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy Meeting-** Monday March 20th at 6 p.m. A meal will be provided to anyone that registers by March 15th. The meeting will be held at the Durham Farm Bureau Building.

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

- **QuickBooks-** is no longer providing support for the desktop version that the board currently has. Intuit is now making users pay for the desktop and online versions. The board asked Lisa to look into the cost of QuickBooks and other software that the board could possibly use.

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

Approval needed:

- **Increasing the reimbursement amount-** David Harris made a motion to approve increasing the reimbursement amount for Downspout Disconnect from \$1,750 to a max amount of \$2,250. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Reimbursement Grant-** David Harris made a motion to approve for staff to use up to \$15,000 in funds from the Sales and Use checking account to pay for 319 projects. The grant is reimbursable. The Board will get reimbursed once the projects are completed. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only:

- **Met with teachers for implementation of BETC program this year.**
- **CCAP Spot Check date:** April 12th

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)
 - Pre-construction meeting – met on February 21st with the President of the HOA, landowners, and contractor.
 - Construction – Started at the Holder Rd end in mid-February. This phase is expected to take a month to complete. The next phase (lower end to 98) will take around three months to complete.
 - Trees – Southern High School has planted the trees that will be used.
- **Riverside High Project-** Project will be starting this year when school gets out. This project will be used as a national study. A meeting was held on February 22 with DPS and the Engineer.

H. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer

ACSP (informational only)

- Contract 32-2023-003: Division engineer provided Preliminary Design, surveyors are going out on March 2 (Streambank Stabilization)

AgWRAP (informational only)

- Contract 32-2023-801: awaiting Division engineers for design plans (Ag. Storage Water Tank)
- Contract 32-2023-802: awaiting Cultural Resources review to be completed (Water well)

Informational Only

- Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP Spot check date – April 18th
- We still have Cost Share funding available if anyone knows someone interested.

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

Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program

- FY24 Budget Request was submitted to the County Manager requesting an additional \$50,000 of funding for the Ag Economic Development Grant Program.
- Work is ongoing for FY22 and FY23 projects. No projects were paid this month.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- **Farmer Breakfast Series** – The FPAB sponsored their third Farmer and Landowner Breakfast on February 16th at the Bahama Fire Department. John Lyttle presented to 19 attendees on “Licensed applicator Responsibilities.” Pesticide credits were awarded for those attendees.
- **Next Meeting** – March 16th at 6:00 pm at the Durham Farm Bureau or Zoom.

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

- **Durham SWCD Tree Sale-** The 2023 was a huge success. Lisa thanked Mark Waller for allowing staff to hold the tree sale at Waller Family Farm and for helping with the sale. Also, Lisa thanked the staff for helping.
- **Conservation Contests Awards Celebration-** Will be held May 2nd at 6pm. Location to be determined.
- **Area IV Envirothon** – Durham Soil and Water will host the 2023 Area IV Envirothon on March 16th at the West Point on the Eno. We would love to have the support of the Durham SWCD Board at the event. Please let Lisa know if you can attend.

K. NRCS Update

- A written report was shared from NRCS.

L. Regional Coordinator- Brandy Myers provided a regional coordinator report to the board.

- **RCW Workshop at NCSU-** registration opens the end of March.
- **Soil and Water Conservation Commission -** Next Meeting is on March 15, 2023

M. Bahama Community Park update- Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **Easement** – Last week Justin Mercer with NCLWF came to the Soil and Water office to record the easement. NC Land and Water Fund will be responsible for holding and monitoring the easement.

N. Other Committees/Board Reports

- **Durham Environmental Coalition-** meeting notes from Durham Soil and Water Contractor Kim Lahman were shared with the board.

6) New Business

- No new business

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid on April 3, 2023, 5:30pm. Please check our website for the meeting location.

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

4/3/2023
Approval date