

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (District Meeting)

Date: May 1, 2023

Meeting Number: 11 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *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*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*. **(Virtual)** Gabriella Velez- *NRCS*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, May 1, 2023, and called to order at 5:32 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 Sherry Scully*) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Statement of Professionalism** – was read by Supervisors in attendance.
- 3) **Minutes**– A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the minutes from April 3, 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.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by David Harris 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.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- Ken Browning 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.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- No report
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- No report
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **County Budget**- The BOCC will hold public hearings on the proposed FY2023-2024 County Budget. Now is the time to talk to the BOCC about any changes you want to see in next year's budget.
 - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **FY2024 Strategic Plan**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Strategic Plan as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - **BMP Certification for FY2020-2022**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the BMP Certification as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Staff with JAA**- A motion was made by Ken Browning to accept the NC Soil & Water commission's list of staff with JAA. 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 the following:
Request for Payments: A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the two RFPs as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-504, Wiggins, ranking score 170. Rip Rap, Swales, and Streambank Stabilization. Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, \$19,000 ISIP funding.
- 32-2023-505, Delaney, ranking score 150. Swale, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, \$1,000 ISIP funding and \$3,000 319 funding.

Grant Updates:

- Intercity Local FY2024-2025 – \$90,000 for two years (including \$10,000 for contractor services) allotted to Durham Soil & Water, this is an increase from \$40,000 per year. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the FY2024-2025 Interlocal Agreement. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- EPA 319 Grant – Applying for \$80,000 for a Streambank project at an affordable housing complex with Reinvestment Partners. Need a letter of support from the board. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the letter of support for the EPA 319 grant. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only:

- **BETC**- students from Northern High School installed a Rain Garden from scratch on April 22, 2023, at Eno Elementary School. Another cohort helped with the upkeep of four rain gardens at Ek Powe.
 - Next rotation of students will be installing Rain Garden on May 20th.
- **Community Green Infrastructure event** on May 6th at Homeplace II in the Woodcroft Community.
- Spot checks were conducted on April 25th. All were under compliance.

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)
 - Phase 2 – This phase has been completed expect for the plantings.
 - Phase 1- has started. Will have about 3 months to complete.
- **Riverside High Project**- Project will be starting this year after school gets out.

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

Informational Only

- 2023 Spot Checks were held April 18th,
 - Ag Cost Share- visited 7 farms with Contracts: 6 being **In Compliance** and 1 being **Out of Compliance**. 3 Supervisors, 5 Staff attended Spot Checks
 - AgWRAP- visited 3 farms with Contracts: all 3 were **In Compliance**. 3 Supervisors, 5 Staff attended Spot Checks.
- **Local Work Group Meeting**- tomorrow at 10:00am (online)
- All FY2023 Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP funds have been allocated.

ACSP

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-005. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contracts**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2023-005 including Waste Application System (Manure Spreader) (\$12,141) with a ranking score of 95. Mark Waller 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)**

1) Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program

- One grant project completed this past month. Working to wrap up six FY 22 projects!
- Went over dates for FY 24 AED Grant Program Trainings.

2) Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

A. VAD:

- New VAD (previously removed): TAFNC – 6 parcels of 82.5 acres on Cornwallis and Erwin Rd
- Renewals of VAD: (have been in program 10 years and have signed a new application for renewal) Ricky Pope and Laura Blue 1407 John Jones Rd

- ##### **B. Next Meeting** – The next FPAB meeting will be held on May 18th at 6:00 pm at Farm Bureau or online.

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

- **NC Envirothon Competition**- On April 28-29, two of the three Durham teams placed in the top 7 at the state competition. One of the teams placed 4th overall and received medals for having the highest score in two of the competition categories.
- **2023 Bookmark Contest**- we received a total of 676 entries. Lisa thanked everyone that helped judge the bookmarks.
- **Conservation Contest Awards Celebration**- May 2nd 6pm at Durham Technical Community College on the main campus. The room fee will be less than \$100. Planning to serve pizza and dessert.
- **Durham and Orange SWCD Pond Clinic**- May 6th at Cornwallis Farm in Durham.

K. NRCS Update- Gabriela Velez

1. Gave an NRCS program report to the board.
2. Vacant Positions
 - Supervisory Soil Conservationist- applications for Team 10 has closed.
 - Chatham Soil Conservationist- will be readvertised.
 - Soil Conservationist – applications close on May 15th.

L. Regional Coordinator- No report

M. Other Committees/Board Reports – no reports

7) New Business

- **FY2023-2024 State Budget (Hearing)**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the FY2024 Durham SWCD State Budget as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:12 pm.

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

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

June 5, 2023
Approval date