

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (District Meeting)

Date: September 11, 2023

Meeting Number: 2 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Anjali Boyd- *Vice Chair*; Ken Browning- *Secretary/Treasurer* and Mark Waller- *Supervisor*. **(Virtual):** David Harris- *Financial officer*

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*. **(Virtual):** Angela Dobbins- *NRCS*; Ken Parks- *Regional Coordinator*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, September 11, 2023, and called to order at 5:29 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 August 14, 2023, meeting (regular meeting). Anjali Boyd 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 Mark Waller to accept the financial report as presented. Anjali Boyd 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, with one change under Business move item “K. Regional Coordinator” to item A. and renumber. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Old Business**
 - A. **Regional Coordinator Update**- Ken Parks introduced himself to the board and provided an update to the board. The Regional Coordinator newsletter was shared with the board prior to the meeting.
 - B. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Anjali Boyd reported on the following:
 - Duke study conducted on lead levels in City of Durham parks and found high levels in five parks.
 - Future Duke Study- test farmers for lead.
 - C. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported on the following:
 - Provided update on UNRBA.
 - Forrest Westall with UNRBA will do a presentation for Redwood Ruritan tomorrow night at 7pm.

D. Directors Report- Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **2023 CET (9/18-9/21/2023)**- Staff will be attending the 2023 Conservation Employees Training next week. Eddie Culberson, Lisa Marochak, and Sherry Scully are on the agenda to do presentations.
- **Annual Report Presentation** –on August 31st the Soil & Water staff presented the FY2023 Annual Report during a breakfast for the Board of County Commissioners, and other County upper leadership. The breakfast went well.
- **Room Dedication:** Tonight, the BOCC is officially naming Conference Rooms A&B at the County Agricultural Building Cooperative Extension Building after Carl D. Hodges, the first African American Extension Director in Durham, NC.
- **Vacant Position-** Saad Masood’s last day with us was September 8th. The position for Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager has been posted and is open until 9/20/23.

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

- **Area IV Fall Meeting-** Will be held in Vance County on November 16th. registration information will be sent out in October.
- **Farm Family-** Bull City Farm in Rougemont won the 2023 Piedmont Farm Family. The State Farm Family judging will take place on September 12th.

E. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Lisa Marochak reported the following:

Applications for Assistance (AFA): A motion was made by Ken Browning to batch and approve the three applications for assistance (AFA) as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-508- Streambank Stabilization. Ellerbe/Nuese with a ranking of 170. 319 grant funds.
- 32-2023-509- Swale with Rip Rap and Streambank. Eno/Nuese with a ranking of 170. 319 grant funds.
- 32-2023-510- Stormwater Conveyance and Rip Rap. Lick Creek/Nuese with a ranking of 165. 319 grant funds.

Contracts:

- A motion was made by Anjali Boyd to approve contract 32-2024-508, ranking score 170. Streambank Stabilization. Ellerbe/Nuese, 319 funding; \$8,000. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve contract 32-2024-509, ranking score 170. Swale and Rip Rap and Streambank. Eno/Nuese, 319 funding; \$7,500. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve contract 32-2024-510, ranking score 165. Stormwater Conveyance and Rip Rap. Ellerbe/Nuese, 319 funding; \$7,500. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Payments (Informational Only):

- 32-2023-506, ranking score 155. Stormwater Conveyance and Downspout Disconnect. Eno, Neuse, 319 funding (payment amount \$3,145).
- 32-2023-508, ranking score 145. Swale. Cape Fear, Jordan, 319 funding (payment amount \$4,500).
- 32-2024-502, ranking score 150. Stormwater Conveyance, Swale with Rip Rap. Cape Fear, Jordan, 319 funding (payment amount \$6,000) and ISIP funding (\$9,000).
- 32-2024-503, ranking score 155. Swale and Stormwater Conveyance. Cape Fear, Jordan, ISIP funding (payment amount \$4,000) and City funding (\$5,000).

- 32-2024-504, ranking score 180. Stormwater Conveyance and Rip Rap. Ellerbe, Jordan, 319 funding (payment amount \$6,000), ISIP funding (\$6,000), and City funding (\$6,000).
- 32-2024-505, ranking score 145. Stormwater Conveyance and Swale. Cape Fear, Jordan, 319 funding (payment amount \$3,700) and City funding (\$3,800).
- 32-2024-507, ranking score 135. Stormwater Conveyance, Swale with Rip Rap. Cape Fear, Jordan, 319 funding (payment amount \$7,500).

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

- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project-** The 6000 ft of Stream Restoration is completed for Ph1 and Ph2 (1.4-million-dollar project- 4 grants and the HOA).
 - Sewer issue– Staff are working with the City of Durham to replace the sewer drain.
 - Signage needed- staff have been in conversation with Piedmont Conservation Council to see if they assist with paying for signage for the project.
- **Riverside High Project-** Finishing project next week. Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department has been pleased with the project.
 - NCSU will be doing water monitoring at the project site.
- **New Stream Restoration Project-** on the Eagles property along with their adjacent neighbor (Ellerbe Creek). Next month Eddie Culberson will bring the application for approval with Central Pines Regional Council (formally TJCOG).

H. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer

ACSP

Application for Assistance (AFA) Contract supplement- A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve the AFA as presented below. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Contract 32-2024-002 (Cropland Conversion to grass and Grassed Waterways), ranking score 95.

Contract- A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve the AFA as presented below. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Contract 32-2024-002 (Cropland Conversion to grass and Grassed Waterways), ranking score 95 (\$7,787).

AgWRAP (Informational Only)

- Durham SWCD was allocated \$10,000 funds for AgWRAP in Fiscal Year 2024.
- Regional Ranking Application available- cap is based off of FY2024 AgWRAP Average Cost List

Other (Informational Only)

- Tri-County Pasture Field Day- September 26th @9am-3pm (lunch provided for all that pre-register)
- 2023 Farmer Appreciation Dinner- November 14th at Coffey Grounds Ranch
 - Farm Family and Farm Heritage Hall of Fame winners will be announced at the dinner.

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

- **Award-** Durham County Soil & Water received one of ten **Civic Excellence in Innovation Awards** during the 2023 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Conference

in Wake County, August 24-26. The Excellence in Innovation Awards program received over 60 applicants this year, highlighting the great work across North Carolina counties. Durham SWCD received the award for the [Durham County Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program](#), which they administer. The program's purpose is to increase agriculture and agribusiness development in Durham County.

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)**

AED Grant Program received 32 applications for \$268,677 on or before August 25th. All applications were redacted and presented to the committee to review.

- On September 14th the committee will allocate funding to ranked applicants. Applicants will be notified on September 15th.

- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**

- VAD Update- the following applications were presented and approved at the August meeting:

- John and Robin Powell – 2107 Hamlin Rd with 38 acres
- Tom Rajala and Heidi Perreault – 3516 Bivins Rd with 31 acres
- John and Sarah Smith- 4720 Bahama Rd with 91 acres

- VAD Removal- Kathleen Alexander and Robert Ross- Leesville Rd with 88.56 acres

- Annual Report -presented to FPAB for BOCC at Work Session on September 5th.

- Next Meeting – The next FPAB meeting will be held on September 21st at 6:00 pm at Farm Bureau or online.

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

- **2023 Environmental Field Days** – We plan to hold field days for 3rd graders at individual schools during September, November, and December. On Friday, September 15th we will be at Voyager Elementary.
- **Big Sweep**- Looking for Big Sweep locations. If you know of any areas that have a lot of litter, please send the locations to Lisa Marochak.
- **NC State Fair/Soil & Water Booth**- The NCASWCD is asking districts to sign up to work at the booth. Please let Lisa know if you would like to help.

K. NRCS Update- Angela Dobbins reported on the following:

- **New FY** starts October 1st.
- **EQIP**- Application deadline is November 3rd.
- **NRCS All Employee Meeting**- September 18th-21st

L. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – October 2, 2023, 5:30pm. (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27701).

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

10/2/2023
Approval date