

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: March 4, 2024

Meeting Number: 7 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Kenny Browning – *Secretary/Treasurer*; David Harris- *Financial officer*, and 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*; Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manager*; and Olivia Plant *Supervisory Soil Conservationist*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, March 4, 2024, and called to order at 8:06 am 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 David Harris to approve the minutes from March 4, 2024, meeting (regular meeting). Mark Waller 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. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed, with one change under Business move item “K. Regional Coordinator” to item A. and renumber. 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**- David Harris reported on the following:
    - UNRBA is working on their budget.
    - Next meeting is on March 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
    - **FY2024-2025 Budget Request:** The County has a 15 million shortfall before any departments submit new requests or the schools ask for money. To help management make decisions for the FY24-25 budget, the County has requested all departments to do a reduction exercise showing a 5% and 10% reduction.

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

- **NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation Grant-** The District applied for funding through the foundation to purchase a drone. We received the funds but are required to give a 30% cash match. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the cash match for the drone using district funds. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Area Meeting Reimbursement Forms-** Waiting on the Area 4 Treasurer to send me the receipts.

**E. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Jack Brown reported the following:  
**Informational Only**

**CCAP Updates**

- Give Presentation to Riverwalk Terrace on 3/7 Prospective Raingarden and Cisterns
- Request for \$1750 Contract (Interlocal Agreement) for Raingarden (BETC)
- Finalizing contract for Jubilee Homes – 2 cisterns
- 107 W. Main Street is under construction, this is a downtown restaurant that received CCAP Regional Grant (plants going in)
- 1009 Berkley St in engineer design currently for large streambank stabilization project.
- Meeting with Ellerbe Creek Watershed today at 3pm. Possibly partner on some projects.

**Other Updates:**

- Five BETC Raingarden jobs lined up for April-May
- Southern High School is currently growing 400 plus native plants for raingardens.
- FY24 Spot Checks- April 1st following the monthly board meeting.

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

- **Riverside HS Stormwater project-** Final walk-through tomorrow at 9am.
- **StRAP Funding:** Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC) submitted two StRAP applications for the following Durham Projects: 1) Charles Towne Apartments- \$250,000 and 2) Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project - \$250,000
- **Bahama Fire Department-** Len Needham contacted staff about the Bahama Fire Department needing help with runoff.

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

**ACSP**

**Application for Assistance (AFA)** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Contract 32-2024-005 for Residue and Tillage Management, ranking score 100.

**Contracts** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented below. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Contract 32-2024-004 for Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Pipeline, Heavy Use Area (HUAP) and Water Troughs for \$28,739 with a ranking score of 110.
- Contract 32-2024-005 for Residue and Tillage Management, ranking score 100 for \$300.

**FY24 ACSP Funding-** All ACSP Funding has been allocated for the YR.

### AgWRAP

- Additional funding requested on 2/1 for Supplemental Contract 32-2024-802. Found out today that we will be receiving an additional \$12,000 for AgWRAP.

### ACSP and AGWRAP (Informational Only)

- Creating a list of future landowners interested in ACSP and AgWRAP with resource concerns at present.
- FY24 Spot Checks- April 1<sup>st</sup> following the monthly board meeting.

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

- NACD Urban and Community Conservation Grant Application
  - Request for support to apply for National Association of Conservation District (NACD) grant. Deadline is April 1, 2024. This grant proposal requests an increase in contractor position hours/funding to support BETC program expansion and translation of brochures. The proposal also includes funding for BETC program student stipends and signage. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the grant proposal for \$60,000 and the letter of support from the Durham SWCD Board.

### Informational Items

- NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Protection Trust Fund Grant for farmland plan revision
  - Grant was included in the February 26th BOCC Consent Agenda and was approved. The contractor's (Foothills Regional Commission) contract has been provided to county attorney for review.
- Agriculture Economic Development (AED)
  - FY 23 and FY 24 update – work is ongoing.
    - Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)
  - Farmer Breakfast Series 2024
    - February 18 Breakfast was attended by 23 people.
  - Topic: Estate Planning
  - Farm Campus land at Orange Factory Rd and Roxboro Rd scheduled to close on February 27
  - Interviews held for Orange/Durham Livestock agent.
  - Next meeting - March 21st at 6:30 at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham.

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

- **Food Land and People (FLP) Workshop** –Durham, Orange, and Brunswick SWCD hosted a FLP workshop on February 23rd. There were 25 people in attendance.
- **Conservation Contests- Due by 5pm on February 15<sup>th</sup>.** Let Lisa know if you would like to judge any of the entries.
- **Durham Farm Bureau Donation-** Lisa thanked Durham Farm Bureau for the \$500 donation to support the Area IV Envirothon program.
- **Informational Only-** Paid \$150 dues to the Area IV Envirothon

#### **K. NRCS Update-** Olivia Plant reported on the following:

- Angela Dobbins is on FMLA leave. Don't have a date of when she will return.
- 10 active EQIP contracts and 4 CSP applications
- EQIP- 3 EQIP application from Durham were received for Ranking 1 and none for ranking 2

- CSP- March 8<sup>th</sup> deadline
- Upcoming training: fence training on April 9<sup>th</sup> and training on composter sizing April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**L. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports**

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned at 9:29 am

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – April 1, 2024, 8:00 am.**  
(1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27701).

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

4-1-2024  
Approval date