

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (District Meeting)

Date: February 5, 2024

Meeting Number: 6 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer* and 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*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*; Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manager*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, and called to order at 5:31 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 David Harris to approve the minutes from February 5, 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)**- Anjali Boyd reported on the following:
 - No new update
 - Next EAB meeting is on 2/7/2024.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported on the following:
 - Provided update on UNRBA and a handout to those in attendance. New Officers were elected during the last meeting. Durham County Commissioner Wendy Jacobs is the new Chair of UNRBA. Please send all questions to Lisa Marochak.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY2024-2025 Budget Request:** 1) Full Time Contracted Service position for environmental education. 2) 100K for the Green Industry Program/BETC (student stipends, BMP and supply funds to expand the program) 3) Impaired Stream Improvement Program (ISIP) additional \$30K to expand the program.

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

- **Area IV Fall Meeting-** Will be held in Wake County on February 22nd. Registration is \$30. Please let Lisa Know if you are planning to attend.
- **QuickBooks-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve for staff to transition to the online Quickbooks that includes tracking inventory. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

Informational Only

Grant Updates for Charlestowne Project:

- Final Agreement for DWR grant for \$120,000 for (Reinvestment Partners - Streambank Stabilization Project) was executed.
- Final Agreement for 319 grant for \$75,000 for (Reinvestment Partners - Streambank Stabilization Project) was executed.

Other Updates:

- Contract almost finalized for first BETC Raingarden job at a home in N Durham (raingarden to accompany) previous downspout disconnect). Southern High School is growing rain garden plants.
- Conducted 14 site visits that are potential cost- share partners.
- Six are under Engineer Review after TA Visits. Two are looking for contractors now and one is awaiting a survey from the Division.
- Conducted a tour discuss programs at Riverwalk Terrace in North Durham
- 107 W. Main Street is under construction; this is a downtown restaurant that received CCAP Regional Grant for Impervious Surface Conversion in parking lot
- Stacey Blisset Trinity Avenue needs review.

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

- **Woodcroft HOA-** Eddie Culberson and David Harris met with Woodcroft HOA at Grove Park to educate the HOA. The Woodcroft HOA was encouraged to seek a planning grant.
- **StRAP Funding:** Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC) is submitting two StRAP applications for the following Durham Projects: 1) Charles Towne Apartments- \$250,000 and 2)Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project - \$250,000

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

ACSP

Application for Assistance (AFA) Contract supplement- 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 32-2024-004 for Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Pipeline, Heavy Use Area (HUA) and Water Troughs.

AgWRAP (Informational Only)

- Additional funding requested on 2/1 for Contract 32-2024-802

Request for Payment (RFP)

- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the RFP for contract 32-2023-802 and 32-2023-803 (Supplement) David Harris signed the contract in between meetings. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

- NC Agriculture Development and Farmland Protection Trust Fund Grant for farmland plan revision - Grant has been received will be presented to BOCC on February 5th during Work Session.
- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)**
 - The AED Committee met on January 23rd at 8:30 to visit a percentage of projects that are still in their 3-yr contract maintenance period. All projects reviewed were in compliance. Committee then held meeting to determine any adjustments recommended for the upcoming program year. The Committee will meet again in May.
 - FY 23 and FY 24 update – work is ongoing.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - Two VADs approved at the January meeting:
 - Matthew Raymond Kelly – 50 acres on Rougemont Rd
 - Renewal for Jimmy Everett – 30 acres on Coley Rd
 - Farmer Breakfast Series 2024
 - January 18 Breakfast was attended by 36 people.
Topic: Programs offered to farmers and landowners by Soil & Water, NRCS, Open Space, Cooperative Extension, Forestry and Wildlife Resources Commission
 - The next breakfast will be held February 15 at 8am at Durham Farm Bureau
Topic: Estate Planning and other farm law
 - March 21st in the evening; location to be determined.
The topic will be centered around community feedback on the Farmland Protection Plan revision.

Next Meeting – The next FPAB meeting will be held on February 15 at 10:15 am following the Farmer Breakfast.

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

- **Food Land and People (FLP) Workshop** –Durham, Orange, and Brunswick SWCD will be doing a FLP workshop on February 23rd. A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to purchase snacks for the event up to \$50. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Conservation Contests- Due by 5pm on February 15th.** 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- report was distributed prior to the meeting.

L. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – March 4, 2023, 8:00 am.
(1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27701).

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

3-4-2024
Approval date