

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (District Meeting)

Date: April 6, 2024

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*; Ken Browning -*Secretary/Treasurer*; 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*. **(Virtual)** Olivia Plant- *NRCS* and Ken Parks *Regional Coordinator*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, and called to order at 8:06 am by the Financial Officer, David Harris. The meeting was in person and held 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 Kenny Browning to approve the minutes from March 4, 2024. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by Kenny Browning to accept the financial report as presented. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- Kenny Browning motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- No report.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - The last meeting was held on March 20th.
 - Provided an update.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY24-25 Budget Request**- Eddie Culberson, Lisa Marochak, Talmage Layton, David Harris, and Mark Waller met with the County Manager on March 22nd. The county is short 15 million dollars before any department requests for FY24-25. Every department was asked to give a 5% and 10% reduction scenario. The Soil & Water Department proposed cuts evenly across all of our operating line items.
 - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **Strategic Plan update and BMP Certification**- will be on the agenda for next month.
 - **FY24-25 Budget**- is due by June 30th.
 - **Awards Celebration**- Lisa will reserve the room at Durham Technical Community College for May 7th or May 14th.

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

- **Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC)**
 - Five BETC rain garden jobs are lined up for April-May with Northern and Southern High School participating in installations.
 - Southern High School is currently growing 400 + native plants for rain gardens.
- CCAP updates
 - Finalizing contract with Jubilee Homes cisterns (2)
 - 107 W. Main Street project is complete, impervious conversion
 - 1009 Berkley Street (streambank stabilization project) waiting on engineer design. Collaborating with Ellerbe Watershed Association for funding.

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

- **Spot Checks today-** nine sites for Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP and 6 sites for CCAP
- **ACSP**
 - Additional funding of \$900 for a supplement to contract #32-2023-001 was approved at the March 27th Commission meeting.
- **AGWRAP**
 - **Contract** - A motion was made by David Harris to approve an additional \$1,600 for Contract 32-2024-802 (Water Well). The total funded will now be \$13,600 (with approval of \$12,000 additional funds being approved by the Division on 3/1). Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Informational Only** – Additional funding requested on 2/1 for contract 32-2024-802 and was approved for \$2,000

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

- **Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project** – (Ellerbe Creek) Total project cost will be \$1.1 million. This funding will be requested by several donors: Land and Water Fund (\$400,000 – due February), Applying for Division of Water Resources (\$200,000 – Due the end of December) (Next due date is end of June) and Central Pines Regional Council (applied and received \$506,000).
- **Charles Town Project Funding** to stabilize the stream (with Reinvestment Partners): We have \$195 thousand secured for the project- EPA 319 \$75,000 and DWR \$120,000 grant. Waiting to hear if we received the StRAP funding through Piedmont Conservation Council for \$250,000. Meeting with John R. McAdams on Wednesday

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

Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Committee –

- **FY23-** 7 of 27 contracts remains open; all but one are in the final stages of competition.
- **FY23-** 9 of 30 contracts are complete; all other projects have been started with the exception of 5.
 - **AED Grant Application** - IS&T has agreed to help staff create an online form for the grant.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- Four school ag development projects are being funded with FPAB remaining funds

- Orange/Durham Livestock agent will start work on April 1st
 - Next meeting – April 19th at 6:00 at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham
 - The Farm Campus Focus Group will meet on May 2nd at 6:00 at Farm Bureau to hold conversation with Farm Campus Feasibility Study contractor.
 - Farmland Plan revision contract is in process of being signed by all parties involved.
- Easement monitoring and reporting is in progress for easements held by Soil & Water
 - NACD grant requesting support for BETC program has been submitted.

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

- **2024 Envirothon** – two teams from Durham will be advancing on to the state competition April 26-27. Last month the board approved paying the registration fee for both teams.
- **2024 Durham SWCD Tree Sale**- This year’s tree sale was a huge success. We made a profit of \$2,625.18 for the Durham SWCD Environmental Education Program.
- **Bookmark Contest for K-2nd grade**- due by 4/17 at 5:00 pm.
- **Pond Clinic**- June 1st at Blackwood Farm Park in Orange County.

K. NRCS Update- Olivia Plant provided an NRCS update.

- **CSP**- renewal deadline May 3rd
- **EQIP** signup #2 ranking deadline – May 17th
- **CSP Ranking deadline**- June 14th

NRCS is currently servicing the following in Durham County

- 6 active contracts, over \$135K in obligations.
- 3 eligible EQIP applications for signup #1 and 3 eligible EQIP applications for signup #2
- 4 CSP applications

L. Regional Coordinator- Ken Parks Reported on the following:

A copy of the Regional Coordinator report was shared with everyone in attendance.

- Next NCASWCD Commission Meeting- May 15th.
- Local Work Group meeting- May 1

M. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

7) New Business

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – May 6 at 8:00 am. (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705).

- The meeting time has been changed to the first Monday of each month at 8:00 am. (effective 5/6/2024)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

5-6-2024
Approval date