

## MINUTES

**Durham Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**721 Foster St.**  
**Durham, NC 27701**  
(second floor conference room)

Meeting Number: 6 (District Meeting)

Date: June 1, 2015

Meeting Number: 11 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present:**

Talmage Layton, Chairman  
Ray Eurquhart, Financial Officer/Supervisor  
Katie Locklier, Secretary/Treasurer  
Danielle Adams, Vice Chairman  
David Harris, Associate Supervisor  
Melissa Rooney, Associate Supervisor  
Mark Dewitt, Associate Supervisor

**Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Director  
Jennifer Brooks, Soil Conservationist/EE Coordinator  
Mike Dupree, Ag Development/Watershed Conservationist  
Matthew Kinane, NRCS- District Conservationist  
Willie Darby- Senior Assistant County Attorney

*The regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, June 1, 2015, and called to order at 5:33 pm by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street.*

**1. Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to accept the financial statement and approve the minutes. Katie Locklier seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Upper Neuse River Basin Association Issues Update-** David Harris reported on the following:  
a. Continuing to monitor.

**B. Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Mark Dewitt reported on the following:

- New members to the board were presented at last Wednesday's meeting
- Urban Forestry report presented
- Urban Open Space plan discussed
- Dry Cleaner spill being investigated by NC DNRE (spill flowing under Northgate mall)

**C. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** - Jennifer Brooks reported that since the last meeting they have had 4 plans. 3 were adequate as follows: Durham Polaris Showroom, The Corners at Brier Creek, Duke University West Quad Renovations. One was inadequate due to no seeding plan as follows: Durham Ultimate Storage Building

**D. Director's Report** – Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

- **Senior Assistant County Attorney-** Eddie Culberson introduced Mr. Darby to the Board and Mr. Darby discussed the district land with the Board. The Board would like to look at some sites with similar level spreaders and topography in the county. Mr. Darby recommended having an independent engineer review the BMP design to see if it would be adequate to prevent downstream sediment delivery to Lake Michie regardless of the County's current S&E building requirements given the lay of the land and the proposed land use. A motion was made by Ray to direct Mr. Darby to compose a list of questions, concerns and requirements to present to NJAA on behalf of the Board. Katie seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- **Co. Managers Budget-** FY15-16 department budget gives SWCD 1 additional FTE, Hydrilla funds for Eno River treatment and additional money for fuel. SWCD has to present proposed budget to BOCC at worksession on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30pm. Board Supervisors are encouraged to attend, please let Eddie know if you can.
- **White Paper-** Eddie and Mike attended City/Co Managers meeting to discuss White Paper. City Manager Bonfield asked County Manager to hold off presenting paper to BOCC and instead consult with city/county resource staff for review/feasibility of white paper's proposal. Board can approach BOCC members on their own to ask to get white paper on BOCC agenda.
- **Piedmont Rep needed for SWCC** – Election for the Piedmont seat on the Soil & Water Conservation Commission will be held at the 2016 Annual meeting in January. Nominations from Supervisors interested from Areas 3, 4 or 7 are due in writing to their Area's chair 10 days prior to the Fall meeting.
- **Farm Bureau Meeting** – At the last Durham County Farm Bureau meeting the Board received a donation of \$3000 for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Eddie proposed as a thank you that the SWCD Board and staff prepare a meal for the June Farm Bureau meeting and asked for funds to supply the sides and drinks. Katie Locklier moved to fund the sides and drinks for the June Durham County Farm Bureau meeting. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. The meeting and meal will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Roxboro St Farm Bureau office. Rudy Langley is frying fish on site as the main dish.

**E. Agricultural Cost Share Program-** Jennifer Brooks reported the following:

- **Request for Payment** – A RFP for contract 32-2015-007 for \$5,079 was presented to the Board for Advantage Outdoors LLC.
- **Annual Spot Checks** – annual spot check tour was conducted on May 27<sup>th</sup> for ACSP and AgWRAP. 7 sites were inspected and all were adequate.

**F. AgWRAP**

- **Application** – no new business to report.

**G. CCAP** – Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **Blue Waters Day-**Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>- Southern High School, Collaboration between DSWCD/RBC Centura Bank and the Southern High BETC program. Volunteers are coming to Southern High to do a stream cleanup and install a rain garden. RBC has agreed to give the School \$500 to support the program and they are also giving the district \$500. Mike asked the Board to consider giving the OCS teachers that work during the summer this donation as a stipends to supplement their lost income since at this time the DPS has not agreed to pay them for summer work. Ray made a motion to give \$500 RBC donation to SHS OCS teachers. Katie seconded the motion. Motion failed 2 to 1.
- **City RFP** – The City of Durham released their RFP for small scale residential stormwater features in Durham. Mike asked the Board if they wanted the District to pursue submitting a bid. Danielle made a motion that a bid should be submitted partnering the District with Southern High BETC. Ray seconded. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Approval of Contract** - Has 1 contract 32-2015-539 impervious conversion and a cistern for \$2587, ranking score of 185, using Durham SWCD 319 funds. The site is located in Ellerbe Creek watershed of the Falls Lake watershed. A motion was made by Katie Locklier to approve the contract as presented. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Request for Payment** – Mike presented the following RFPs to the Board:
  - A. #32-2015-521 for \$4950 for streambank stabilization, Durham SWCD 319 funds.
  - B. #32-2015-521 supplement for \$203 for a Rain garden, City Of Durham Funds.
  - C. #32-2015-519 for \$3960 for streambank stabilization, Durham SWCD 319 funds.
  - D. #32-2015-527 for \$4568 for streambank stabilization, Durham SWCD 319 funds.
  - E. #32-2015-512 for \$3508 for a rain garden, Durham SWCD 319 funds.
  - F. #32-2015-513 for \$6160 for rain gardens and streambank stabilization DCo ISIP funds.

Danielle Adams made a motion to batch the 6 RFPs and accept them. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

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

- **Southern High School Stormwater Project**- Presented plan to DPS School Board Committee on May 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Ward Project** – CWMTF grant decision expected in June
- **RN Harris** – repair work to stream needed. Riverworks to be on site tomorrow to repair.

**I. Environmental Education**- Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:

- **Awards Celebration** – Had a great turnout on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Ray, Katie, Danielle and David for helping me hold the event.
- **Dig It! Secrets of Soil Smithsonian Exhibit** – at the NC Museum of Natural Science from May 16 – Aug 16, Free admission.

**J. NRCS** – Matthew Kinane reported on the following: (see attachments)

- **New Delivery Service Model** – listening session upcoming in Hillsboro, NC, July 7<sup>th</sup>
  - **EQIP** – 2 contracts funded and ready to implement BMPs

**K. Durham Farmland Protection**- Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **Farm to School Grant** – submitted \$98,800 for Hub Farm/District
- **USDA Education Outreach Grant** – notice expected in September on award

**New Business**

- A. State Budget** – Jennifer presented the 2016 State Budget to the Board. Danielle Adams moved to accept the budget pending discussed changes. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- B. Office Relocation** – Eddie Culberson shared with the Board that the County plans to renovate the old Judicial Building on Main St and SWCD is one of the departments slated to move to the renovated offices. He will be meeting with firm contracted to develop floor plan for the renovation and receive Soil & Water’s proposed floor plans. The Board expressed concerns about this move and Danielle moved that a letter to the County Manager expressing their opposition to the move be written. Ray seconded. Motion passed without dissent.
- C. Grant proposal** – Katie Locklier presented an idea to the Board to submit a Grant to research and revamp the Cost Share programs ranking/batching systems and asked for letters of support from Board and staff. Ray moved that this be submitted as a grant project and that Danielle and Eddie should write letters of support on behalf of the Board and staff for this. Danielle seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- D. Letter of Concern** – Danielle Adams presented a letter that she prepared expressing her concern with the working relationship between the City of Durham and the Durham SWCD Board. She moved that the Board support the letter with discussed wording changes and present it to the City of Durham mayor. Katie Locklier seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 8:12pm.

**Next Meeting: Monday, July 6, 2015 at 5:30pm-** 721 Foster St Durham, NC 27701

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Katie Locklier  
Secretary/Treasurer

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Approval date





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## Durham SWCD Supervisors June 01, 2015 Board Meeting NRCS REPORT

### □ Information

#### 1. Proposed New Service Delivery Model:

As I had mentioned to you're at previous Board meeting, NRCS is looking at a change in staffing field offices and has proposed a "New" Service Delivery model. . On May 19, 2015, I forwarded to all District Supervisors a letter from Tim Beard, North Carolina State Conservationist. Mr. Beard is inviting all Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors and District staff to attend one of four information meetings that he is hosting across the state. The closest meeting to Durham is scheduled for Tuesday July 07, 2015 at 12:30 PM at the Whitted Human Services Center Complex in Hillsborough. A copy of the letter is being provided to each supervisor for your information.

The planned Service Delivery model will divide the state into 18 work units. The Durham Office will be part of a 5 county work unit consisting of Chatham, Durham, Lee, Orange, and Wake Counties.

#### 2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

##### a. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):

- i. All application periods offered for FY-2015 have closed. Applications received now will be considered for the FY-2016 funding cycle. Staff is currently working with several producers to develop conservation plans for possible enrollment in EQIP
- ii. Two applications from the January 16, 2015 ranking period from Durham County have been developed and funded. The participants have received copies of their contracts and have been authorized to begin implementing their conservation practices. One contract is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) for Transitioning to an Organic System and the other is for the installation of a Micro-Irrigation System.
- iii. There is a possibility that an application submitted during the second ranking period (March 20, 2015), has been "Pre-Approved". As soon as I receive confirmation, I will be contacting the applicant about contract development. This contract will be for A CAP to Transition to an Organic System.
- iv. The District will need to host a Local Work Group Session this summer for the program Year 2016. The purpose of the meeting is to identify and prioritize the resource needs and concerns of the county.

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b. **AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):**  
**(AKA – FARM AND RANGLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM (FRPP))**

- i. Completed the Annual Reviews for the following Stewardship Easements;
    1. W. A, McFarland Farm
    2. Roger Tilley
    3. Neil Frank Farm
  - ii. Completed the Annual Reviews for the following Non-Stewardship Easements
    1. Van Ellis Farm
    2. Roger Tilley
    3. Carrington Family Farm
  - iii. Annual Reviews to be completed this month:
    1. Poole Farm Holdings, LLC
    2. Patricia P. Russell Farm
  - iv. Annual Reviews to be completed prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary closing date:
    1. David Krabbe Farm – November 2015
    2. Barry C. Blalock Farm – February 2016
3. **USDA Conservation Compliance Reviews:** NRCS in North Carolina has started conducting the annual conservation compliance reviews. There are no Random Compliance Reviews schedule for Durham County for Crop Year 2015.
4. **Conservation Client Gateway:** Providing each District Supervisor with a copy of Fact Sheet for Client Gateway. Client Gateway is an NRCS website that provides secure access to conservation plans, practice implementation schedules, financial applications and contracts, documents and payment information.
- a. Conservation Client Gateway is Voluntary
  - b. Using Conservation Client Gateway can reduce the amount of trips to visit the local field office
  - c. Conservation Client Gateway is only available to agricultural producers at this time.
  - d. To begin using Client Gateway visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/clientgateway)
5. **Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) opportunity in North Carolina during federal Fiscal Year 2016:** Matt Flint, Assistant State Conservationist-Technology, has sent out an email regarding CIG opportunities in North Carolina for FY-2016. This is a request for your input and awareness about the potential CIG opportunity that could become available. **This is not a solicitation for proposals.** CIG is a competitive matching grant program. Using Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds to award competitive grants, CIG leverages non-federal funds to address priority conservation needs. CIG is intended to stimulate the demonstration and adoption of innovative natural resource conservation practice technologies, as well as to demonstrate approaches that increase adoption of conservation practices on farms and forest lands that NRCS is not already supporting with financial assistance, or easement programs. Non-Federal government departments, non-governmental organizations, Tribes, and individuals are eligible to receive CIG awards. The NRCS has authority to conduct national-level and state-level CIG grant competitions. The state-level opportunity provides greater access to the CIG program

for applicants that might not compete effectively at the national level. The maximum NRCS contribution for a state-level CIG award is \$75,000. Collection and reporting of data about the effects of activities implemented using a CIG award is an important aspect of every competitive CIG proposal. All CIG activities must be completed within three years of the award.

The NRCS would use state-level CIGs in 2016 to support innovative on-the-ground conservation pilot projects and field demonstrations that advance conservation in the following six priority areas:

- Soil conservation for crop rotations that include conventionally-tilled and bedded crops.
- Soil health improvement innovations for grain crops and cotton.
- Soil health improvement for grazing systems.
- Restoration of aquatic species habitat or reptile/amphibian habitat.
- Restoration of declining forest ecosystem/community.
- Pollinator and beneficial insect habitat development within a working landscape.

Offering a state-level CIG opportunity is at the discretion of the State Conservationist. The State Conservationist's decision regarding a state-level CIG will be based on funds availability, national instructions, and feedback received from stakeholders like you. If a state-level CIG opportunity is offered in federal Fiscal Year 2016, the request for proposals will be made sometime after October 1, 2016. Historically, NRCS in North Carolina has made up to \$150,000 available for CIG awards in a year.

Your recommendations and questions concerning NRCS state-level CIG are welcome. Please direct inquiries about the state-level CIG to the attention of Ms. Julie Elmore, Program Specialist at [Julie.Elmore@nc.usda.gov](mailto:Julie.Elmore@nc.usda.gov) , or (919) 873-2106.

