

MINUTES

**Durham Soil and Water Conservation District
721 Foster St.
Durham, NC 27701**

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: November 14, 2016

Meeting Number: 4(for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Danielle Adams, Vice Chair (*via phone*)
Raymond Eurquhart, Supervisor
Curtis Richardson, Supervisor
Mark Dewitt, Associate Supervisor
David Harris, Associate Supervisor
Melissa Rooney, Associate Supervisor
Becky Emmons- Associate Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Senior Administrative officer
Jennifer Brooks, Natural Resources Coordinator
Mike Dupree, Agribusiness & Environmental Svc. Manager
Heather Dutra, Watershed Conservationist
Matthew Kinane, NRCS- Resource Conservationist
Rob Matheson, Contractor
Kevin Curry, Contractor
Louise Hart-Regional Coordinator

The regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, November 14, 2016, and called to order at 5:32pm by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.

Minutes/Financial Report– A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve the minutes from the October meeting. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Danielle Adams to accept the financial report. Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Old Business

A. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues update- David Harris reported on the following:

- Path Forward Committee met on October 26th. The following was items discussed at the meeting: Monitoring Program update; Nutrient Credit Development update; Modeling and Regulatory Support Meeting review and Sediment Study Presentation Review.
- The next meeting will be held on November 16th for Board of Directors and December 14th for Path Forward Committee.

B. Environmental Affairs Board update- Mark Dewitt gave an update on the EAB Board and reported that their Annual Retreat was held on November 2.

C. Sediment & Erosion Control Plans- Jennifer Brooks reported on the following: that since the last meeting they have had 6 plans and 3 were adequate as follows: Scottsman Storage Yard; Durham ID North, South Building and P1 Parking Garage; 3508 Tri Center Blvd. There were 3 inadequate for no seeding plan as follows: Hillsborough Road Storage Facility; Sikh Gurduwara Building Addition and Parking Expansion; Roberts Collision Center.

D. Environmental Education– Jennifer Brooks report on the following:

- **2016 Big Sweep**- Ended on October 31st. There were 23 cleanups, 590 volunteers, 178 bags of recycled material, 380 bags of trash and 12,720 pounds of trash picked up.
- **3rd grade Environmental Field Days**- Jennifer thanked supervisors and staff that helped with field days. The 2016 Field Day events were rescheduled and held October 12th and 13th at several elementary schools. We had to move field days due to rain.

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

- **New BOCC Orientation** –An orientation for the new BOCC will be held on November 16 and 17. Each Department Director will be allowed to give a brief presentation. Our time slot is on November 17th at 4:10pm.
- **Judicial Building**- Renovations are beginning.
- **Length of Service**- Jennifer Brooks and Lisa Marochak will receive their 10 year length of service award from Durham County on November 30th.
- **Staff meeting with GM**- Jay Gibson came over and met with the staff on November 2. We had originally planned to take him on a tour of some of our projects, but we ran out of time. We will reschedule the tour for a later date.

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

- No contracts but have been doing a great deal of surveying work.

G. AgWRAP- Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:

- Still in batching period. Will bring contracts to the December meeting.

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

- 1) **Southern High Project/Phase II**- Received a \$90,000 grant from DWR
- 2) Since the last meeting Lisa Marochak reported that she has paid out a check for \$169,971.51 to Civil & Engineering Consultants, Inc.
- 3) **Marbrey/Jackson Project**- received a \$200,000 DWR grant and a \$450,000 grant that was in Piedmont Conservation Council's name to restore 600 ft. of stream.
- 4) **Walker Project**- received a \$400,000 grant from CWMTF to restore 3,000 ft. of stream.

I. CCAP– Heather Dutra reported on the following:

- 1) **Duke Energy Grant**- Extension request (due to potential delays from Hurricane Matthew and permitting) approved by Duke Energy Water Resources Fund. Final report due Feb 1, 2017. At this time, all funds are anticipated to be expended and grant deliverables exceeded.
- 2) **Signed RFPs**
 - a. 32-2016-510: Fortman - \$966 for critical area planting.
 - b. 32-2017-511: Castoe - \$5,000 for streambank stabilization.
 - c. 32-2016-530: Hamlin - \$1,251 for a cistern (returned \$202 to EPA 319).
 - d. 32-2017-530: Myer - \$5,000 for streambank stabilization.
 - e. 32-2016-520: Angerer - \$2,121 for streambank stabilization.
 - f. 32-2017-528: Adkins- \$2,277 for a grassed swale.

3) Applications for Assistance-A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to batch and approve the following 2 Application for Assistance. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- a. 32-2017-548: Sieber for cistern, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ranking score 160 (pending VNRP participation).
- b. 32-2017-549: Belfield for streambank stabilization, Northeast Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 190.

4) Contracts- A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve the following contract as presented. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- a. 32-2017-510: Conner for \$3,746 for streambank stabilization, Third Fork Creek, ranking score 200. (EPA 319).

5) RFP- A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve the following RFPs as presented. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- a. 32-2017-536: Downing Creek Community Association for \$5,000 for streambank stabilization, Little Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 190.
- b. 32-2017-528: Myer for \$5,000 for streambank stabilization, New Hope Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 180.

6) Cancelled contract

- a. 32-2017-547: Anika James Foundation for \$3,080 for 2 cisterns at Jordan HS campus.

7) Contract Supplement (3) A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to batch and approve the following 3 Contract Supplements. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- a. 32-2016-533: Sullivan for (additional) \$252 for cistern, Sandy Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 195 (Duke Energy).
- b. 32-2017-515: Quammen for \$2,035 for cistern, Northeast Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 190 (EPA 319).
- c. 32-2017-547: Jordan HS PTA for \$3,080 for 2 cisterns, New Hope Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 210 (Duke Energy).

J. Administrative Report – Lisa Marochak reported on the following;

- a. **Area IV donation-** A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to donate a rain barrel for the Area IV silent auction. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- b. **NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** Registration closes on December 1st for the NCASWCD Annual Meeting. Also, the main hotel is sold out under the group rate. The overflow hotel is across the street from the main hotel.
- c. **Standing Committees** the following Standing Committee members will be approved at the Area IV meeting on November 17th. Danielle Adams-Legislative Committee, Ray Eurquhart-Finance Committee and Katie Locklier-CCAP committee.
- d. **Tree Seedlings-** a motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to allow staff to purchase 100 tree seedlings to sell. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

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

- 1. **Ag Development-** A meeting was held to discuss a local food purchasing agreement with the Durham County Detention center. The goal is to introduce local products into the detention facility. Commissioner Jacobs & Neal Curran were present. The jail shared a price list for any producers that have an interest in growing produce for the detention facility.

2. **NACD Grant**-The farmer training breakfast was held at the DPS Hub Farm on November 10, 2016. New farmers were present and received information about state and federal resources. The next breakfast is scheduled for January 19th from 8am to 10am on Hillandale road at the Hill Center.
3. **NC Growth** is supporting a Project- *Assessing the benefits of a Locally Sourcing Food Policy in Durham County*. Savannah Onwochei a Duke MBA student will be serving as the analyst. The work will research case studies and will examine the cost benefit analysis of the beneficiaries.
4. **GAP Certification** trainings will be offered this winter December 6, 2016, January 12, 2017 & February 7, 2017 for those farmers interested in participating.
5. **Durham Food Policy Council**- The Durham Farm & Food Network hosted a candidate's forum on October 26th at the Hayti Heritage Center at 804 Fayetteville Street, Durham. They had 9 elected officials that served on the panel. Commissioners stated the need for the formation of a Food Policy Commission.
6. **USDA Grant opportunity**- Reinvestment partners and Farmer Food Share are applying for a Community Food Project grant to help fund infrastructure needs for farmers. They would like a letter of support from Durham SWCD.

L. **NRCS Report**

1. **CUSTOMER CLIENT GATEWAY:** (See hand-out for additional information)
Conservation Client Gateway will give producers 24/7 access to all of their conservation plans as well as being able to better manage their contracts more efficiently, with on-line signatures for all contract documents, applying for conservation programs and self certification of conservation practices and signing the 1245 (Request for Payment). In addition producers will also be able to submit requests for routine technical assistance as well.
2. **NASS AND NASDA SURVEYS:** (See hand-out for additional information)
Again this year, NASS (National Agricultural Statistic Service) and NASDA (National Association of State Departments of Agriculture) enumerators will be conducting the 2016 Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Survey in the 48 CONUS states.
3. **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP):**
Eligible and unfunded FY-2016 EQIP applications have been rolled-over to FY-2017. The Durham Delivery Point Office currently has 7 applications (Cropland, Beginning Farm, Limited Resource, and Organic funding pools) for the current fiscal year. Staff is presently assessing the resource concerns and developing conservation plans while waiting for final rules and guidance for the Program Year 2017.
4. **CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM (CSTP):**
NRCS is urging all eligible producers and landowners to consider enrolling in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP). CStP is a program that provides financial incentives to continue to implement and maintain their Resource Management Systems (RMS) on their cropland, pastureland and forestland.
5. **AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAM (ACEP):**
Began scheduling with the staff Durham Open Space and Real Estate to start the process of conducting an Annual Review of easements that utilized USDA funds to purchase the Permanent easement. The first of 10 easements to be monitored during fiscal year 2017 has been scheduled.
 - David Krabbe Conservation Easement has been scheduled for Wednesday November 16, 2016
 NRCS will be working with Durham Open Space and Real Estate to update the conservation plans on several of the current easements and proposed ease

6. CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE REVIEWS:

All persons (owners, farm operator, and other producers) associated with the tract (according to FSA records) received a letter to notified them of the final status of their compliance review.

7. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):

Agreement Number A-4532-14-013 was adopted by all signatories on March 10, 2014.

Each year we take time to review this agreement and discuss any updates that will be needed to the agreement. This agreement is in effect for a period of 5-years after the final signature date. The process to update this agreement will need to begin by December 31, 2018.

8. NRCS STAFFING UPDATES/CHANGES- Matt passed out a list of staff changes to the board and staff.

M. Regional Coordinator- Louise Hart reported on the following:

- **Supervisor Training-** will be required to do 6 hours annually (NC Farm Act 2016).
- Bryan Evans started today as the new Executive Director for the NCASWCD.
- **NC State Fair-** Louise thanked the staff and supervisors that volunteered at the State Fair.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rob Matheson & Kevin Curry- *Smith Richardson Foundation grant*

A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to enter into the agreements with Rob Matheson and Kevin Curry to do research for the Smith Richardson Foundation Grant. Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:16pm

Next Meeting: Monday, December 13, 2016 at 12:30pm – A motion was made by Raymond Eurquhart to move the December meeting to the 13th at 12:30 and have it off site at a restaurant. The Durham SWCD Board will pay for the meal for staff. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

11-13-16
Approval date