

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (District Meeting)

Date: March 4, 2019

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
David Harris, Supervisor
Natalie Murdock, Supervisor
Curtis Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer
Laura Marie Davis, Associate Supervisor
Mark Dewitt, Associate Supervisor
Melissa Rooney, Associate Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Senior Administrative officer
Mike Dupree, Agribusiness & Environmental Services Mngr.
Jessica Perrin, Watershed Conservationist
Kyle Gentry, Natural Resources Conservationist
Sheena Mathews, citizen
Rupaniali Karthik, Duke Law School, LLM student
Yan Sun, Duke University student

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, March 4, 2019, and called to order at 5:33 pm by the Chairman, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held at Soil and Water Conference Room, 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Minutes/Financial Report– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2019 meeting. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.
A motion was made by David Harris to accept the Financial Report as presented. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

A. EAB Update- *Laura Marie Davis reported on the following:*

- No meeting since the last Soil and Water meeting. The next EAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6 at 6 pm.
- Light Rail- Duke University announced that they will not support the Light Rail.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues and Soil and Water Commission- *David Harris reported on the following:*

- No new update to report.
- Harris provided a summary of what has been happening with UNRBA to the two guests in attendance.

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

- **FY19-20 Budget Hearing with Manager**
 - The departmental budget hearing is scheduled for Friday, March 22 at 9:30 am.
- **FY19-20 Budget request-** 1) new FTE employee (Community Outreach Coordinator), 2) \$25,000 Increase for the Ag Economic Development Grant Program.
- **No-till Drill inspection-** A representative from the Commissioner of Ag came to inspect the district's no-till drill. No issues were found with the drill.

- **Dr. Robert's Environmental Education Park-** Staff has been contacted by Jeff Masten and Heidi Hanapel about exploring the idea of walking trails on the district's land. An advisory committee will be formed and will meet over the next three months, once a month.
 - The committee is proposing for the Bahama Fire Department to be the administer of the walking trails/park.

D. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Jessica Perrin reported on the following:

- **Applications for Assistance:** 32-2019-525 (Coscolluela) for streambank stabilization and rain garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ranking score 195. FY19 ISIP funds. A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve the Application for Assistance as presented. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Special Requests:** Extension Request: 32-2018-541 (Duncan) for rain garden repair, \$474 (2016 319 funds), with a current installation deadline of 5/30/19. Due to family health issues, they are requesting an extension until 6/30/19. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 6/30/19 extension request as presented. Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **CCAP Spot Checks:** Will be done on April 10, 2019. Natalie Murdock, David Harris and Eddie Culberson volunteered to go on the spot checks.
- **Grant Administration-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **FY16 319 Grant Funds-** Restrictions on obtaining last \$10K of grant funds and how to proceed. A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve using the money from the Jordan Account and the Stormwater Account to pay the 10k in funds that are being obtained for the FY16 319 grant funds. The funds will be returned to the two accounts once the FY16 319 grant is closed. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Interlocal Agreement:**
City of Durham sent latest draft of agreement to their attorneys for review. Plan is to have agreement for District Board to vote on at the April board meeting.

E. Agriculture Cost Share Program- Kyle Gentry reported on the following:

- **Applications for Assistance:** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the four applications for assistance as presented below. Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 1. 32-2019-801 (Bill McFarland) for \$25,000 (max amount allowed) for a Pond Dam Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR)
 2. 32-2019-002 (Neil Frank) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR)
 3. 32-2019-003 (Patricia Russell) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR)
 4. 32-2019-004 (Patricia Russell) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR)

- **Contracts:** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the four contracts as presented below. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 1. 32-2019-801 (Bill McFarland) for \$25,000 for a Pond Dam Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR); Ranking score: 60
 2. 32-2019-002 (Neil Frank) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR); Ranking score: 70
 3. 32-2019-003 (Patricia Russell) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR); Ranking score: 70
 4. 32-2019-004 (Patricia Russell) for \$7,500 for a Non-field Farm Road Repair, Flat River, Neuse River Basin, FY19 Disaster Funds (FFR); Ranking score: 70
- **Special Request Update** (*informational only*)
32-2010-005 (Steve Shepherd) Out of Compliance, prorated amount owed \$19,034. A certified letter was mailed and received by Steve Shephard on 2-16-19. Kyle has spoken with Mr. Shepherd and he is planning to repay the money.
- **Ag Cost Share & AgWRAP Spot Checks-** will be held on April 4, 2019. Please let Kyle know if you would like to attend.
- **Novel Endophyte Fescue Field Day-** Will be held on April 25th 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at Caywood Farm (2306 Moores Mill Rd, Rougemont, NC 27572). Please RSVP to Imarochak@dconc.gov or 919-560-0558 by April 17.

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

- a. **Walker-** the project is six weeks into the construction phase. Despite all the rain we have had the project should be finished in one and half months. Northern High School students are growing the plants/trees for the project.
- b. **Marbrey Jackson Project and Walker Project-** landowner is satisfied with the easement language that was proposed and is ready to sign.
- c. **Dunbarton-** Eddie Culberson attended the Dunbarton HOA meeting on February 19 and they are ready to start the project.
- d. **Riverside-** CWMTF application submitted in February 2019. The Division of Water Resources awarded \$200K toward the project.

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

- a. **Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** The board discussed having a special dinner for the farmers in the fall and all agreed that it was a great idea.
- b. **CCAP funds-** since the last meeting \$11,908 has been paid for approved Request for Payments.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Mike Dupree reported on the following:

a. Ag Development

- **Grants to Pursue-** NIFA Secondary Education Classroom Challenge Grant SPECA Program. Collaborative grant between Piedmont Conservation Council, Durham Soil and Water Conservation District and Durham Public School Career Technical Education. Request can be from \$50,000 to \$300,000. A motion was made by David Harris to support moving forward with seeking the grant. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program (AED).

- The **AED Grant Committee** approved 15 contracts this fiscal year to four schools and 11 farms. To date: all four school projects have been completed; Five farms have completed their projects; four of the projects are in the process of being completed and two projects haven't begun but the landowners have stated the projects will be completed this spring.
- **Committee recommendations** for the FY2019-2020 AED Grant program for Board approval:
 - Increase grant program implementation timeframe from one year to two years
 - Add a 3-year maintenance clause to the contract
 - Add a 6-month interim reporting requirementA motion was made by Curtis Richardson to approve the committee recommendations as presented above. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c. BETC

The Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC) was awarded a USDA NIFA Grant with Educational Research Division. The grant funding will expand the BETC program into surrounding counties. This is a collaboration with the. The project will train 40 teachers in Durham during the weeks of June 24- 27 and July 8-11.

The BETC program was highlighted during an Alliance for Innovation Live Webinar on February 13, 2019

d. Regulatory Compliance with Falls Rules

The Durham County Local Advisory Committee met on February 21, 2019 at 7am. The LAC documented the collective compliance requirement for Durham farmers with the Falls Lake Reservoir Nutrient Management Strategy. The LAC will report a 74% reduction in nitrogen from the baseline of 2006. This is well above the 20% requirement for stage one and above the 40% of stage two. The SWCD is verifying buffers in the District as part of the collective compliance effort.

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

- Area IV Envirothon-** Will be held on March 21 at the Glasshouse at Kerr Lake.
- Bookmark contest-** Is underway and ends on April 26. A copy of the flyer was handed out to everyone in attendance.
- CreekWeek Clean-up-** Staff is planning a clean-up for City/County staff on March 20.
- Contest-** Contest judging took place on February 20 for poster essay and ppt entries.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Ag Day-** David Harris and Talmage Layton discussed Ag Day at the NC Fair Grounds on April 20.
- **NC State Fair/Soil and Water booth-** David Harris reported that a building for Soil and Water & Forest Service is in the process of being built. A meeting to discuss the building will be held on March 19 with the Soil and Water Commission.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – April 1, 2019 at 5:30 pm

The meeting will be held at the Admin II Building (201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701) in the Soil and Water Conference Room.

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

April 1, 2019
Approval date