

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (District Meeting)

Date: September 14, 2020

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present: Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; Danielle Adams, *Vice Chairman*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Laura Marie Davis, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Mark DeWitt, *Supervisor*; Anjali Boyd, *Associate Supervisor*; Jillian Riley, *Associate Supervisor*; Melissa Rooney, *Associate Supervisor*; Terence Priester, *Associate Supervisor*; Becky Emmons, *Associate Supervisor*.

Others Present: Eddie Culberson, *Director*; Lisa Marochak, *Senior Administrative Officer*; Jessica Perrin, *Watershed Conservationist*; Mike Dupree, *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Mngr.*; Emily Bateman, *Natural Resources Conservationist*; Kyleene Rooks, *Environmental Education Contractor*; Jan Cromartie, *guest*; Allie Dinwiddie, *Central Regional Coordinator*; Diana Irizarry, *NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, September 14, 2020, and called to order at 5:32 pm by the Chairman, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held Virtually via Zoom.

Minutes– A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to approve the minutes from the August meeting. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Acceptance of the Financial Report- A motion was made by David Harris to accept the financial report as presented. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the agenda as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

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

- **Environmental Education Assistant**- Lisa Marochak introduced Kyleene Rooks who started on August 31. She will be working as a contractor 1 day a week to assist staff with education. Kyleene introduced herself to the board and others in attendance.
- **Big Sweep**- After consulting with the county attorney's office, Durham County Human Resources, and with the Durham County Public Health Director, we were advised not to participate or promote the 2020 Big Sweep event due to the ongoing pandemic.
- **Education meeting with some of the Associate Supervisors**- scheduled for September 30th.
- **Virtual Field Day Event**- working on creating videos

B. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB) Update: Laura Marie Davis reported that the EAB hasn't met since the last Durham SWCD Board Meeting.

- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for October 7th at 6:00 pm.

- C. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update-** *David Harris* gave an update on the UNRBA and what they are working on.
- The next UNRBA meeting will be September 16th.
- C. **Directors Report-** *Eddie Culberson* reported on the following:
- **EWP Training-** The training was initially scheduled to occur in September but moved to October 13th (virtual) and October 14th (Willowhaven on Constitution Drive). Supervisors can attend, but the Division of Soil and Water is asking everyone to sign-up online.
 - **Durham SWCD Annual Report-** encouraged everyone to share the report with their contact list.
- D. **Administrative Report-** *Lisa Marochak* reported on the following:
- A. **NCASWCD Resolutions for Area 4** – The resolutions are due by October 8th.
- B. **Memory books-** deadline extended to October 4th. Please contact Lisa if you have any questions.
- E. **Community Conservation Assistance Program-** *Jessica Perrin* reported on the following:
- **Applications for Assistance:** A motion was made by *Davis Harris* to approve the application for assistance listed below. *Mark DeWitt* seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 1. 32-2021-507 (*Musick*) for streambank stabilization, critical area planting, and cistern. Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score of 175.
 - **Contracts:**
 1. A motion was made by *Danielle Adams* to approve contract 32-2021-502 (*Pomeroy*) for \$5,000 for streambank stabilization, *Ellerbe Creek*, Neuse River, ranking score of 190, FY19 319 funds. *David Harris* seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 2. A motion was made by *David Harris* to approve contract 32-2021-503 (*Belfield*) for \$5,000 for streambank stabilization (phase 2), *Northeast Creek*, Cape Fear, ranking score of 190, FY19 319 funds. *Danielle Adams* seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Spot Checks-** The 2020 CCAP Spot Checks were conducted on September 2, 2020. The following board members (*David Harris* and *Mark DeWitt*); associate board members (*Terence Priester* and *Jillian Riley*), and staff (*Jessica Perrin*, *Eddie Culberson*, and *Lisa Marochak*) inspected the six active contracts. Two of the contracts were found in compliance with no maintenance needed, three of the contracts were found in need of maintenance (weeding and mulch), and one was found out of compliance (items need to be removed from vegetative area). Notification letters for each project have been prepared and are ready to sign. A motion was made by *David Harris* to extend the maintenance deadline from 30 days to 90 days due to COVID-19 related financial hardship for two rain gardens under contract 32-2015-529. This was not a cost-share contract that was processed by the Division, only Durham SWCD. *Mark DeWitt* seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

F. Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) and Agricultural Water Resources Program (AgWRAP)–

Emily Bateman reported on the following:

- **Spot Check date:** The Ag Cost-Share and AgWRAP spot checks were conducted on August 17th. The following board members (Talmage Layton and David Harris); associate board members (Terence Priester and Anjali Boyd), and staff (Emily Bateman and Eddie Culberson) inspected the nine active contracts. Only one of the contracts was out of compliance because they need to add gravel (Rougemont Sport Horse). Notification letters for each project have been prepared and are ready to sign.
- **Carbon Farm Planning Training-** A motion was made by David Harris to support Emily Bateman attending the Carbon Farm Planning Training. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Informational only**
 - **RFP-Signed out of Board Meeting** – 32-2020-801, Tierra Negra Farm, water Supply Well \$10,065
 - **Received FY2021 Allocation**

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

1. **CWMTF Trustees** are meeting this Tuesday and Wednesday. Eddie is planning to call into the meeting. Durham SWCD currently has an application pending for the Riverside High School Project and PCC has one pending for the Grove Park Project.
2. **Triangle JCOG-** need to submit a new application this week for the Grove Park Project.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Mike Dupree report the following:
(*Provided handout and gave update*)

1. **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)Grant** - The grant application was released on July 23, 2020; Application Deadline: **August 31, 2020 at 5:00 pm**; The AED grant review committee received 21 farm applications and one school application. The committee received grant request of \$83,737 for 22 projects with an estimated project cost of \$157,555. Durham County allocated \$50,000 that will fund 12 farm projects and one school project for fiscal year 2021. All the applicants will receive letters the week of September 15, 2020 outlining the committee's decision. A complete list of projects types and locations will be released as public record after the contracts have been signed between the applicants and the County Manager. This information will be released in a report prepared by the Durham Agriculture Economic Development Committee by the end of November 2020.
 - The AED grant committee will meet the first week of October 2020 to review the FY2022 AED application and ranking system.
2. **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)-** The September meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 8:00 am via Zoom.

I. Central Regional Coordinator- Allie Dinwiddie provided a NC Division of Soil and Water update to the board and guests.

- All reappointments need to be submitted to the Division by October 30th.
- JAA draft comments are open until November 2.
- The Area 4 Fall Meeting will be held virtually and there is going to be no registration fee to attend.

- The CET was held virtually the end of August.
- The Division of Soil and Water has a new Ag WRAP Coordinator, Sydney Mucha.

J. NRCS Update- NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry presented a report to the board.

- **EQIP Applications-** One of the two applications from Durham for seasonal high tunnels got funded.
 - The EQIP contract was signed and obligated this morning.
 - The 2020-2021 EQIP Application deadline is November 13th.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Associate Supervisor Expectations Form- David Harris reported that the committee met and made some changes to the Expectations of a Durham SWCD Associate Supervisor document. Also, the list committee’s and boards has been updated. Lisa Marochak will email the form to everyone to review. The board will be voting on the form at the next board meeting on October 5th.

Associate Supervisors: Please review the list of committees and boards on page 2 of the attachment and let me know if you are interested in serving as the Soil and Water representative on any of them. I will need your responses by October 1st. The board will be selecting the representatives at the October 5th meeting.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – October 5, 2020 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)
 (Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton
 Chairman

Lisa Marochak
 Senior Administrative Officer

10-5-2020
Approval date