

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (District Meeting)

Date: August 3, 2020

Meeting Number: 2 (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*

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*; 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, August 3, 2020, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chairman, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Minutes– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the July meeting. Danielle Adams 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. Danielle Adams 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. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

A. 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 August 5.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- *David Harris* reported that the EAB hasn't met since the last Durham SWCD Board Meeting.

- UNRBA has been working on business items.

C. Directors Report- *Eddie Culberson reported on the following:*

- **Personnel announcement-**

- Soil and Water didn't receive the environmental educator position. The department has contracted Davis Technical Staffing to use some of the contracted services money to hire a part time educator that will work 7 ½ hours a week. Kyleene Rooks is scheduled to start on

August 31st. Also, Jillian Riley and Anjali Boyd have offered to assist with education needs. Lisa Marochak will set-up a meeting with herself, the two Associate Supervisors, and Kyleene Rooks at the beginning of September.

- **Durham Cooperative Extension new positions-**
 - ❖ Small Farms and Local Foods position
 - ❖ Food Security Officer
- **Tom Bonfield-** City Manager, Tom Bonfield announced his retirement from the City of Durham.
- **County reopening-** The NC Governor will announce his decision on remaining in phase 2 or moving to phase 3 on August 8.

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

A. NCASWCD Resolutions for Area 4 – The resolutions are due by October 8th.

B. 2nd Vice President nominations-

- It's Area 4 & Area 7's turn.
- Each district may nominate one supervisor.
 - Nominee shall be in their second term or subsequent term.

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

- **Request for Payment-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve 32-2020-518 (Davis) for \$20,000 for streambank stabilization, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 200, FY20 ISIP Funds. This RFP completes the project and meets the extended deadline for completion. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Spot Check date-** The deadline for the 2020 Annual Spot Checks was postponed until September 30th by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The board will conduct the CCAP Spot checks September 2nd starting at 8:30 am. David Harris, Mark DeWitt, and Jillian Riley are planning to attend.

F. Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP) and Agricultural Water Resources Program (AgWRAP)– Emily Bateman reported on the following:

- **Spot Check date:** Staff is required to give a 10-day notice to landowners prior to the spot check date. The board will conduct the Ag Cost-Share and AgWRAP spot checks on August 17th starting at 8:30 am. Talmage Layton and David Harris are planning to attend.

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

- A. CWMTF Trustees-** Is meeting in September. We currently have a couple of applications pending.
- B. EWP (Willowhaven)-** The District voted to be a sponsor for Willowhaven. Soil and Water staff has looked at the project with several engineers and NRCS staff. Funding has come up short from what was initially estimated. Culverts have been compromised. 75% of the funding for this project is through NRCS. We are in the process of applying for additional funding with NRCS. The Division has 25% of the funding if we receive the funding from NRCS.

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

(Provided handout and gave update)

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant** -The FY21 grant application was released on July 23, 2020. The application deadline is August 31, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Award recipients will be notified by letter no later than September 15, 2020.
Grant writing information sessions will be held virtually on August 11, August 13 and August 18. Registration is required- contact Lisa Marochak 919-560-0558 or lmrochak@dconc.gov to register.
Durham Soil and Water staff will be contacting farmers this month and offer to provide one on one assistance to individuals in preparing applications for the grant program.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**- The board didn't meet in July. The next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2020 at 8:00 am via Zoom.
- **Black Farmers Market update**- The market is open 1 day a month in Durham and 1 day a month in Raleigh. Currently, they have 15 vendors.

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

- **Annual Environmental Field days**- Field days will be moved to the spring to align with the standard course of study for third grade.
- **Big Sweep**- Lisa Marochak and Jessica Perrin will be meeting with staff from the City and Keep Durham Beautiful in mid-August to discuss the possibility of having Big Sweep Cleanups in 2020.

J. 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. Deadline to file to run for an elected position was July 6.
- The Soil and Water Commission is scheduled to meet on August 5 to consider the allocations for FY21.
- There will be one regional batching period until the budget is approved.
- The Area 4 Executive committee met last week and decided to hold the Area 4 Fall Meeting virtually.

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

- Still working on two applications from Durham for seasonal high tunnels.
 - NRCS received many applications this year.

L. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris reported that the park committee can't do anything until the deed is amended. A meeting with CWMTF will be held in September.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. MOU-** Danielle Adams presented the draft copy of the MOU with the committee recommended changes. A motion was made by Danielle Adams to accept the committee approved changes and include Allie Dinwiddie's recommendation regarding IV General Provisions; Section D. Records. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
Lisa Marochak will make the changes and have the District Chairman sign the MOU. After the

district signs, it will be submitted to NRCS. Durham County will sign last.

- B. Memorial Items-** The board discussed the memorial items for Ray Eurquhart and Lynwood Faison’s families. Staff will order a memorial blanket and make a memory book for the Faison family. Staff will make a memory book for the Eurquhart family. Also, the education field at the Bahama Community Park will be named after Ray.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – September 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)
(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

9-14-2020
Approval date