

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 5 (District Meeting)

Date: July 13, 2020

Meeting Number: 1 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present: Eddie Culberson, *Director*; Lisa Marochak, *Senior Administrative Officer*; Jessica Perrin, *Watershed Conservationist*; Emily Bateman, *Natural Resources Conservationist*; Jan Cromartie, *guest*; Allie Dinwiddie, *Central Regional Coordinator*; Diana Irizarry, *NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*; Ryan Eaves, *Durham County Stormwater*; McKenzie Myers, *Durham County Stormwater*; Lauren Neaves, *Durham County Stormwater*; Inga Kennedy, *PEQ*; Katie Cromwell, *Raftelis*; Mark Senior, *WK Dickson*; Jeff Masten, *Land Matters*; Heidi Hannapel, *Land Matters*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, July 13, 2020, and called to order at 5:59 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 June meeting. 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 Laura Marie Davis to approve the agenda as presented. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Stormwater Utility Fee-** Ryan Eaves, McKenzie Myers, Lauren Neaves, Ingra Kennedy, Katie Cromwell, and Mark Senior gave an update to the Soil and Water Board on the County Stormwater Utility Fee.
- B. Bahama Community Park update-** Jeff Masten and Heidi Hannapel provided an update on the park to the Soil and Water Board.
- C. Associate Supervisor-** A motion was made by David Harris to accept Jillian Riley and Terence Priester's application for Associate Supervisor. 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 provided an update to the Soil and Water Board.
 - Laura Marie Davis is the new Chair of the EAB.
 - EAB received a presentation from "Green New Deal for Durham". Anjali Boyd is on this Board.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- *David Harris provided an update to the board and staff*

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

- **FY2021 County Budget-**
 - Soil and Water didn't receive the environmental educator position. Staff is planning to use some of the contracted services money to hire a part time educator that will work 7 ½ hours a week.
 - Durham Cooperative Extension received a new Agriculture Agent position for Small Farms and Local Foods
- **MOU Committee-** Eddie Culberson, Diana Irizarry, Lisa Marochak, Jillian Riley, Anjali Boyd, Danielle Adams, and Emily Batmen will serve on the committee.

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

- A. Audit date** – The audit of the district books was done on June 16. Lisa Marochak thanked Laura Marie Davis, David Harris, and Talmage Layton for conducting the audit.

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

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the six FY20 applications as presented to rollover to FY21. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

32-2020-511	32-2021-501	Ehling
32-2020-512	32-2021-502	Pomeroy
32-2020-514	32-2021-503	Belfield
32-2020-515	32-2021-504	Best
32-2020-517	32-2021-505	King
32-2020-519	32-2021-506	Bot

- **Spot Check date-** tabled until the next meeting

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

Emily Bateman reported on the following:

- **Funding:** Haven't received yet the FY21 allocation
- **Spot Check date:** tabled until the next board meeting

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

- A. Grove Park Project-** Staff was notified today that the district received another DWR grant for \$200,000 for the Grove Park Project. Total cost of this project is 1.3 million.
- B. Marbrey/Jackson Project-** There is a problem with twenty of the hard woods dying in the flood plains. The contractor has agreed to come back and fix the issue at no cost to the district.
- C. EWP (Willowhaven)-** funding estimate has come up short from what was initially estimated. 75% of the funding is through NRCS.
 - **Training-** Indoor training has been postponed, but they are still planning to hold field visits in Durham.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Lisa Marochak report the following on behalf of Mike Dupree:

(Provided handout and gave update)

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant** -The FY21 AED grant application will be released July 21, 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 information sessions will be held virtually (times and dates will be announced next week). Durham Soil and Water staff will provide one on one assistance to individuals in preparing applications for the grant program.
- **Southeastern Sustainability Directors Network Grant** (informational only)- The grantor has provided a one-year extension for the summers of 2021 and 2022. The BETC team will not be working this summer.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**- last meeting was June 18, 2020 (Mike provided an update). The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2020 at 8:00 am via Zoom.

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

- **Field days**- potentially will be held virtually
- **In-classroom or virtual trainings**- waiting to see if students will be back in the classrooms this year. If not, staff will need to convert education trainings to online.

J. Central Regional Coordinator- Allie Dinwiddie provided an NC Division of Soil and Water update to the board and guest.

- 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 NC Farm Act passed with a couple of provisions.
- Area IV Soil and Water Committee representatives- Laura Marie Davis volunteered to put her name in for the Community Conservation Committee. Danielle Adams announced that the Legislative Seat will be available because she isn't running for office this year.

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

- Still working on two applications for seasonal high tunnels.
 - Several potential applicants have recently contacted her

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – August 3, 2020 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)

(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Lisa Marochak

Senior Administrative Officer

08-03-2020

Approval date