

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (District Meeting)

Date: November 2, 2020

Meeting Number: 5(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*; Jillian Riley, *Associate Supervisor*; Sheena Mathews, *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*; Allie Dinwiddie, *Central Regional Coordinator*; Diana Irizarry, *NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*; Matt Safford, *Environmental Specialist with Division of Soil and Water Conservation.*

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, November 2, 2020, and called to order at 5:36 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 October meeting. Mark DeWitt 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**

David Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as presented after adding under New Business “The Do’s and Don’ts of New Supervisors.” Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. The chairman did a roll call, 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 November 12th.
- The EAB is working on Community issues:
  - Mold in the community and tree plantings

**B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update-** *David Harris* reported on the following:

- UNRBA has been working on legal community bylaws.
- The Path Forward Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

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

- **EWP Project at Willow Haven-** partnering with Bass Engineering who has been collecting data. Staff plans to meet soon with the construction company. The project is slated for completion March 2021.

- **Local Workgroup-** Staff will work on getting input from landowners
- **Durham County Board of County Commissioner Work Session (BOCC)-** An update on the Durham County Stormwater fee was provided during today's BOCC Work Session.

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

- **NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** Will be held virtually January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The registration cost is \$35 and is open until December 15<sup>th</sup>. Lisa Marochak will register any Associate Supervisor that would like to attend. Please send her an email by December 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Area IV Fall Meeting –** Will be held virtually on November 19<sup>th</sup>.
  - **Partnership Reports and Supervisor Training Credits-** Lisa Marochak reported that Supervisors are being asked to review the partnership reports prior to the Area IV Fall Meeting. All reports have been emailed to the Durham SWCD board and staff. During this meeting Allie Dinwiddie shared the partnership report (video) from the NC Foundation of Soil and Water Conservation. Durham SWCD Supervisors in attendance received Supervisor training credits.

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

**1. Application for Assistance (AFA)**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2021-509 (Sellars) for streambank stabilization, Little Lick Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 185. ISIP Funds. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2021-510 (Kirschenfeld) for rain garden, structural stormwater conveyance, and cistern. Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear River, ranking score of 180. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2021-511 (Doughman) for streambank stabilization and riparian buffer. Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 160. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2021-512 (Sullivan) for rain garden, structural stormwater conveyance. Little Lick Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 160. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**2. Regional Application Update-** Submitted Keedy application (32-2021-508) for FY21 Regional CCAP funds for a total of \$10,000. If awarded, then \$5,000 of FY19 319 funds could potentially be used as match to cover the rain garden, cistern, and streambank stabilization project at 75% cost-share (based on average cost-list and draft designs). Decisions regarding funding will be made at the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting in November.

**3. Contract Maintenance Extension**

- **Revere Run Townhome HOA-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve a 30-day extension request for contract 32-2016-509 to implement maintenance needed that was

identified during the 2020 Spot Checks. The request was made due to delays with their landscaping company. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contract 32-2015-529-** was granted a 90-day maintenance deadline after the 2020 Spot Checks due to COVID-19 related financial hardship. The maintenance on that contract has been completed.

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

Emily Bateman reported on the following:

**Conservation Plans**

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Conservation Plan for Jason Bzdula, Pond Sediment Removal. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Conservation Plan for Miles Okal, South Winds Produce Agricultural Water Supply Pond. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**AgWRAP**

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)**

- a. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for 32-2021-801 (Bzdula) for pond sediment removal. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. Ranking score 85. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Regional Application**

- **Letter of Support-** David Harris made a motion to approve a regional application letter of support for 32-2021-801 (Okal) for Agricultural Water Supply Pond. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. Ranking score 90. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

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

- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project-** We have received all the funding for the project. Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC) will be executing the contract shortly with NC Land and Water Fund (formally Clean Water Management Trust Fund).
- **Marbrey/Jackson Stream Restoration Project-** This week the engineering firm will be repairing a BMP in the stream plus removing some of the trees that have died.

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

*(Provided handout and gave update)*

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant –**

- **Program year FY20:** Only two of the funded projects have work yet to be completed or receipts are pending. One school, Northern High Ag Ed still has an open contract. These contracts expire on June 30, 2021.
- **Program year FY21:** Staff have prepared contracts and have visited the sites for the preconstruction conference. Twelve of the fourteen projects have approved contracts and will begin to implement their projects. This batch of funded projects have until June 30,

2022 to be completed. A report summarizing the projects will be available in the spring of 2021. The AED grant committee will meet in January a time TBD.

- **BETC Program/ELISS Grant:** Piedmont Conservation Council received a grant from the state of NCSDPI for \$24,000 to support Durham teachers at Northern and Southern High schools. The grant will provide at risk youth extended learning and STEM training.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)-** Provided an update from the last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2020 at 8:00 am via Zoom.

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

- **Conservation Creativity Contest-** all entries are due by January 15, 2021. Please share the contest flyer. A link to the flyer is on our website and it has been posted on Facebook and Twitter.
- **Rain Barrels-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve staff to purchase 15 Ivy Rain Barrels to replenish our stock. We are currently sold out of all barrels. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Hats to giveaway-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve staff to purchase 2 dozen ball caps with the district logo. Staff can choose the style of hat. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

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

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

- **EQIP-** Applications due by November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- **NRCS Civil Rights and EEO Discussion-** Reviewed
  - Can give name of applicant verbally during closed session only

**L. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris reported that Jeff Masten with Land Matters submitted the deed amendment to the NC Land Water Fund (formally CWMTF) and are waiting to hear back from them.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. The Do's and Don'ts for New Supervisors-** David Harris went over the "Do's and Don'ts for New Supervisors".

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 7:52 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – December 7, 2020 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)**

(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

12-7-2020  
**Approval date**