

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: December 17, 2020

Meeting Number: 6 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present: Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; Mark DeWitt, *Vice Chairman*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Laura Marie Davis (not sworn into officer yet); Anjali Boyd, *Supervisor*; Terrence Priester, *Associate Supervisor*; Sheena Mathews, *Associate Supervisor*; Melissa Rooney, *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*; 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, December 7, 2020, and called to order at 5:31 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 November 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 Mark DeWitt to accept the financial report as presented. David Harris 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 making a modification to #2 on the agenda. 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): *Laura Marie Davis* gave an EAB update to the board.

- The next EAB meeting is scheduled for November 10th.
- Continuing to work with the City and County on carbon renewal.

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

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

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

- **Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC)**- The Executive Director for PCC resigned. The council is in the process of hiring a new Director. Eddie Culberson along with the rest of the hiring

committee will be reviewing the ten application later this week. Durham Soil and Water has been a member since 2008.

- **County Budget for FY22-** The department has been asked to do a budget exercise showing a 3%, 5%, and 7% reduction in our overall budget line item. This exercise is due by January 8th.
- **Merit Pay-** Employees will not receive merit pay this year.

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

- **New Supervisors-** This morning Anjali Boyd got sworn in as a Durham County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Supervisor. She took the Oath of Office on the Durham County Admin building's front steps and will begin serving her four-year term today. Congratulations, Anjali Boyd!
- **Master Agreement with the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Science-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve entering into the Master Agreement with the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Science. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. The chairman did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Supervisor Disclosure Forms-** Supervisors please call Lisa to arrange a time to sign the Supervisor Disclosure form for 2021.
- **NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** Will be held virtually January 4th and 5th. The registration cost is \$35 and is open until December 15th. Lisa Marochak will register any Associate Supervisor that would like to attend. Please send her an email by December 12th.
- A motion was made by David Harris to provide a \$35 refund to Mark DeWitt for the NCASWCD Annual Meeting registration that she paid. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. The chairman did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **NACD Annual Meeting –** Will be held virtually January 4th and 5th. The registration cost is \$50
- **NC DEA Membership -** Please contact Lisa Marochak if you would like to become a member of the NC District Employees Association. The cost for Supervisors and Associate Supervisors is \$10 per year.

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

- 1. Request for Payment (RFP) Informational Only, signed outside of Board Meeting-** 32-2021-503 (Belfield) for \$5,000 streambank stabilization (phase 2), Northeast Creek, Cape Fear, ranking score 190. FY19 319 funds. This completes the work under this contract and \$0 remain to be returned to the District.
- 2. Regional Application Update-** Keedy application (32-2021-508) for FY21 Regional CCAP funds was awarded a total of \$10,000 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission in late November. Working on finalizing the designs to prepare Division and FY19 319 cost-share contracts for DSWCD Board approval.
- 3. Contract Extension (Moyer)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve a 6-month extension request for contract 32-2020-509 to cost-share contract due to delays from COVID-19. FY19 319 funds. Two rain gardens and cistern. Installation deadline would be updated to June 11, 2021. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- F. Agricultural Water Resources Program (AgWRAP)**– Emily Bateman reported on the following:
Request for Payment (RFP) - A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP for 32-2020-801 (Walker), Pump House, \$315. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. 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). Also, Culberson has been working with TJ COG on an MOU for these funds.
 - **Riverside Stream Restoration Project**- David Harris made a motion to relinquish the \$200,000 DWR grant since the funds will not be utilized by the end of the contract. The district hasn't received enough funds to complete the project and the DWR contract was expiring. The board plans to reapply next year. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board**- Mike Dupree report the following:
(Provided handout and gave update)
- 1) Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Update**
- **Program year FY20:** One school, Northern High Ag Ed still has an open contract.
 - **Program year FY21:** All thirteen farm projects have approved contracts and have begun to implement their projects. The one school contract for Jordan High is in process. The AED grant committee will meet in January a time TBD to review the application for the next fiscal year.
- 2) Farmland Protection Advisory Board**
- Met virtually on November 19th.
 - Next meeting scheduled for December 17th at 8am (virtually)
- I. Environmental Education Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Rain Barrels**- We received the 15 Ivy Rain Barrels to replenish our stock last week.
 - **Area IV Envirothon Dues**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve staff to pay the \$100 dues to the Area IV Envirothon. Mark DeWitt 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.
- **Next Soil and Water Commission Meeting**- January 20, 2021
 - Agenda items due by January 4, 2021
 - **Division of Soil and Water Training Sessions (virtual)**- Allie thanked Lisa Marochak for presenting at one of the Fall training sessions. Additional trainings will be offered this winter.
 - **Careers in Conservation Scholarship**- The NC Foundation Soil and Water Conservation is now accepting application for the Careers in Conservation Scholarship.
 - Allie discussed Supervisor training credits and the School of Government Training.

- K. NRCS Update-** NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry presented a report to the board.
 - **EQIP-** received 5 applications from Durham (2 seasonal high tunnel applications, 2 forestry applications and 1 CSP application).
 - **Conservation Plans for easements-** need to complete 2 for Durham.

- L. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris provided an update on the NC Land Water Fund amendment for the District Land.
 - Surveying the land now
 - MOU will need to be developed between the District, the Bahama Fire Department, and Land Matters.
 - Laura Marie Davis has agreed to serve on the Bahama Community Park Committee since we only have one supervisor serving on the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Election of Officers for 2021-

- **Chairman** A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to nominate Talmage Layton for the 2021 Board Chairman. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Vice Chairman-** A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Mark DeWitt for the 2021 Board Vice Chairman. There being no further nominations. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Financial Officer-** A motion was made by Anjali Boyd to nominate David Harris for the 2021 Financial Officer. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Secretary/Treasurer-** It was tabled until the next meeting after Laura Marie Davis takes the Oath.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – January 4, 2021 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)
 (Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton
 Chairman

Lisa Marochak
 Senior Administrative Officer

1-4-2021
Approval date