

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: February 1, 2021

Meeting Number: 8 (for State reporting purposes)

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

**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*; Matt Kopac, *guest*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, February 1, 2021, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held Virtually via Zoom.*

**Conflict of Interest Statement**– read by Laura Marie Davis

**Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the January 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. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. The Chair 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 EAB Annual Report will be presented to the City Council this week
- Mike Dupree will be present at the next meeting on BETC and other Soil and Water Programs.

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

- No new updates

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

- **County Budget for FY22**- 1) asking for additional funds for hydrilla treatment for 501 N to Falls Lake. 2) asking for an additional \$25,000 to increase the Ag Economic Development Grant Program for farmers and schools.

- **EWP Project (Willow Haven)**
  - Waiting on permits to come back.
  - Meeting with Contractor on February 17<sup>th</sup>
  - HOA is in favor of the project
  - The deadline for the project is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Planning to request a 60-day extension

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

- **Area IV Spring Meeting (virtual)** – The Spring meeting will be held virtually on February 25th. The registration cost is \$15. Please let Lisa know if you are planning to attend.
- **Area IV Dues-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve paying \$150 to Area IV for the 2021 Area IV Dues. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Secondary Employment Forms for the Division of Soil and Water-** David Harris made a motion to approve the forms as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. The Chair did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Virtual Board Retreat-** Will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Pre-homework is due by February 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

- Gave an update on the remaining balances to be allocated.
- **Requests for Payment (for approval):** A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2021-502 (Pomeroy) for \$5,000 for streambank stabilization, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 190. FY19 319 funds. This completes the work under this contract. Laura Marie Davis 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

- No Report this month

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

- **Dunbarton Project-** The Annual walk-thru of the project will take place on February 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.
- **Riverside Stream Restoration Project-** The \$200,000 DWR grant contract has been terminated with the understanding that we would resubmit an application.

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

- **Item for Consideration:** The NACD is offering up to \$50,000 for Districts that want to expand technical assistance to improve or enhance Urban Agriculture Initiatives. The District had received this grant in 2016 and is eligible to apply in this request for proposals. The final submission is due no later than February 15, 2021. The grant application requires that the District Board pass a resolution regarding the application. Staff have prepared a resolution for consideration and request the District Board to approve the application and the resolution. There are two attachments: the draft grant proposal and the draft

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

1. **AED Grant Program year FY22:** The AED grant committee met on January 26th at 9am to review the application for the fiscal year FY22. The committee voted to ask the Chair of the committee to send a letter to the County Manager requesting an increase in the funding for the program from \$50,000 to \$75,000. The committee also approved the dates of three information sessions for farmers in August and the deadline for applications to be August 31, 2021.
2. **Farmland Protection Advisory Board**
  - Met virtually on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 8am.
    - Elected the 2021 officers as follows: Nicole Connelly, Chair; Mark Waller, Vice Chair; and Kenny Browning, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair.
  - Next meeting scheduled for February 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am (Zoom)

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

- **Tree Seedling Sale-** ends February 11th.
- **Contest Judges-** Jillian, Terence, Melissa, and Sheena will be helping to judge some of the contest entries.
- **Area IV Envirothon –** Will be held virtually on March 18th. Kyleene Rooks and Jessica Perrin are assisting Lisa Marochak with the test writing.
- **Area IV Envirothon Dues** David Harris made a motion to amend the motion to pay \$100 for the Area IV Envirothon Dues that were made at the December board meeting. The new motion is to pay \$150 to the Area IV Envirothon for the FY2021 dues. Laura Marie 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.

- **Division of Soil and Water Winter Training Sessions (virtual)-** trainings for Supervisors and Staff will be offered this winter through March.
- **NC Envirothon and National Envirothon Competitions-** moving to a virtual event
- **Area IV Audit Committee-** Meeting Friday.
- **Supplemental Allocation-** AgWRAP and Ag Cost-share.
- **2021 Spot Check-** no extensions anticipated

**K. NRCS Update-** Emily Bateman presented the NRCS report for Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry.

- Provided an update to the board
- **EQIP-** Received 6 applications from Durham

**L. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris provided an update.

- **Operational Agreement-** The committee received and reviewed the operational agreement and made some changes. The OA has been submitted to the Durham County Attorney's Office to review.
- **Going before Council of State tomorrow.** If approved the design will start March 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Election of Secretary/Treasurer- *Talmage Layton***

A motion was made by David Harris to nominate Laura Marie Davis for the 2021 Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation to keep the officer the same. There being no further nominations. Motion passed without dissent.

**B. Matt Kopac-** introduced himself to the board and stated he would like to see our CCAP and BETC programs receive local funding through the city and county governments. He further stated that these programs were receiving praise throughout committees and communities.

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 6:54 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – March 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)**

(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Lisa Marochak

Senior Administrative Officer

3-1-2021

**Approval date**