

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (District Meeting)

Date: March 1, 2021

Meeting Number: 9 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present:** Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Laura Marie Davis, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Anjali Boyd, *Supervisor*, Terence Priester, *Associate Supervisor*; Jillian Riley, *Associate Supervisor*; and Jan Cromartie, *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*; Allison Rivera, *guest*; Abby Gostling, *guest- Duke University Grad Student*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, March 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 February meeting. Anjali Boyd 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. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Agenda**- Laura Marie Davis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. David Harris 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.
- Mike Dupree Presented at the last EAB meeting on BETC and other Soil and Water Programs.
  - Next meeting- March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm.
- B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- *David Harris* reported on the following:
- Provided an updated on the UNRBA for the guest on the call.
- C. Directors Report**- *Eddie Culberson* reported on the following:
- **EWP Project (Willow Haven)**- Met with contractor and engineer on February 17<sup>th</sup>. They are slated to get started mid-March. We received an extension on the project to May 31.
  - **MOA with NRCS, Durham County, and the Division of Soil and Water**- NRCS would like to make a minor change to the language. The board agreed to the change.
  - **PCC**- Has a new Executive Director- Ginell Rogers

- **Budget Hearing with County Manager-** March 15<sup>th</sup> 11-11:30 am

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

- **Supervisor checks from the Division** – Some of the supervisor reimbursement checks have been returned to the state. If your bank account has changed please let Lisa Marochak know A.S.A.P.

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

- **Applications for Assistance:** A motion was made by Anjali Boyd to batch and approve the twelve AFA as listed below.
  - 32-2021-514 (Smith) for Rain Garden and Cistern, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 155.
  - 32-2021-515 (James) Cistern, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 145.
  - 32-2021-516 (Herron) Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 160.
  - 32-2021-517 (Jenkins) Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 150.
  - 32-2021-518 (McNeil) Rain Garden & Cistern, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 160.
  - 32-2021-519 (Judd) Rain Garden, Cistern & Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 160.
  - 32-2021-520 (Evans) Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 150.
  - 32-2021-521 (Johnson) Cistern & Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 145.
  - 32-2021-523 (Thompson) Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 150.
  - 32-2021-524 (Brown) Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. Ranking Score 155.
  - 32-2021-526 (Cook) Impervious Surface Conversion to Permeable Pavement, Cistern, Third Fork Creek. Ranking score 155.
  - 32-2021-527 (Yarborough) Riparian Buffer, Third Fork Creek. Ranking Score 170.

Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contacts (for approval):** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the contracts as follows:
  - 32-2021-514 (Smith) for Rain Garden and Cistern, \$2,543, Ellerbe Creek, FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-515 (James) \$2063, Cistern, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-516 (Herron) \$617, Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-517 (Jenkins) \$375 Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-518 (McNeil) \$4191, Rain Garden & Cistern, Ellerbe Creek. FY21 ISIP funds.
  - 32-2021-519 (Judd) \$4345, Rain Garden, Cistern & Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal, SSCF & ISIP funds.
  - 32-2021-520 (Evans) \$3848, Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. FY21 ISIP funds.
  - 32-2021-521 (Johnson) \$4,523, Cistern & Grassed Swale, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal, SSCF, and ISIP funds.
  - 32-2021-523 (Thompson) \$391, Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-524 (Brown) \$508, Rain Garden, Ellerbe Creek. FY19 City Interlocal & SSCF funds.
  - 32-2021-512 (Sullivan) for Rain Garden and Structural Stormwater Conveyance, \$4,246, Little Lick Creek, FY19 319 funds

Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **FY21 Spot Checks-** need to be completed by June 1 and there will be no extension this year. Jessica will setup the spot check date for May.

**F. Agricultural Water Resources Program (AgWRAP)–** Emily Bateman

- **FY21 Spot Checks-** need to be completed by June 1 and there will be no extension this year. Emily will setup the spot check date for April.

- Additional AgWRAP Funds- submitted application for additional \$13,000 in AgWRAP for Jason Bzdula's Micro-irrigation.

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

- **Grove Park**- Received the DEQ agreement for the second DWR grant on the Grove Park Project. A motion was made by Laura Marie Davis to enter into the agreement. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Riverside Stream Restoration Project**- A grant application for \$392,000 with Land & Water Trust was submitted. Eddie Culberson is going to meet onsite with Justin Mercer on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

*(Provided handout and gave update)*

**Ag Development**

- **The NACD** grant requesting \$50,000 for Urban Agriculture Initiatives was submitted. Letters are expected to be mailed in March for those selected to be awarded.
- **BETC**- The City Interlocal Agreement for \$188,000 was approved by the City Council on February 15<sup>th</sup> and the BOCC reviewed it on March 1, 2021 and is scheduled to approve it on March 8. The next step will be to go before the Board Of Education. Dr. Julie Pack, Career & Technical Education Executive Director will be administering the teacher and student stipends and is arranging the meeting. Teacher and student teams hope to start implementing projects in April.

**Farmland Protection Advisory Board**

- Met virtually on February 18 at 8am.
- **NEW meeting time**- Next meeting scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (Zoom)

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

- **Tree Seedling Sale**- The contactless pick-up will be held on March 3rd. Please let Lisa know if you would like to help sort the trees and load them into vehicles. A motion was made by David Harris to approve up to \$100 to buy staff and volunteers a boxed lunch. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contest Judges**- Lisa thanked Melissa Rooney, Anjali Boyd, Jillian Riley, Terence Priester, Eddie Culberson, Cherri Smith, and Emily Bateman for helping to judge the 2021 Conservation Contests. The Bookmark is open for K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade from today-April 9<sup>th</sup>. The 2021 bookmark theme is RECYCLING.
- **Yard Signs**- A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to spend up to \$400 on signs for the Conservation Contest winners. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Area IV Envirothon** – Will be held virtually on March 18th. Kyleene Rooks and Jessica Perrin are assisting Lisa Marochak with the test writing. Laura Marie, Eddie Culberson, and Emily Bateman volunteered to help Proctor the teams.

- J. Central Regional Coordinator-** Allie Dinwiddie provided a NC Division of Soil and Water update to the board and guests.
- **Conservation Contests-** send in the district winners by March 10<sup>th</sup> to Johnston SWCD.
  - **Technical Assistance for FY22-** Durham had about \$1,000 increase.
  - **CET Planning-** working to plan the trainings for the CET in August.
  - **Area 4 Piedmont Rep on the Commission-**
  - **Winter/Spring Training Series** – Registration is open for the Winter training series running from Jan. to Mar. Registration for the Spring training series running from April to June will open in mid-March. All Staff and Supervisors are welcome to attend seminars.
  - **NC Envirothon-** April 16-17 (Virtual)
  - **The Piedmont (Areas 3, 4 and 7) is due to nominate a supervisor to serve on the SWCC.** Any individual serving officially as either an elected or appointed District Supervisor shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the State Commission. Each district may nominate one supervisor to serve as the Piedmont representative on the SWCC. Written nominations should be submitted to the respective Area Chairs at least 10 days prior to the Area 3, 4, and 7 Fall Meetings.
- K. NRCS Update-** Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry Provided an update to the board.
- L. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris provided an update.
- **Draft MOU Agreement-** The Durham County Attorney, Mr. Darby, is in the process of contacting the attorney that originally drafted the agreement.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Board Retreat overview-** *Talmage Layton and David Harris did a brief recap of the retreat. A follow-up retreat will be schedule after the Area IV Envirothon.*
- B. Three to five-year goal plan-** tabled to next meeting
- C. Abby Gostling-** will be interviewing David Harris and Lisa Marochak on how the organization works and what their roles are with Soil and Water.

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 7:07 pm.

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

Talmage Layton  
 Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
 Senior Administrative Officer

4-5-2021  
**Approval date**