

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (District Meeting)

Date: April 5, 2021

Meeting Number: 10 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present:** Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; Mark DeWitt, *Vice Chair*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Laura Marie Davis, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Anjali Boyd, *Supervisor*; Terence Priester, *Associate Supervisor*; Jillian Riley, *Associate Supervisor*; Melissa Rooney, *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*; Jarrod Ambrose, *guest*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, April 5, 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 March meeting pending adding the CCAP addition. 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**- Talmage made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mark DeWitt 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.

- Next meeting- April 7th at 6:00 pm.

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

- Provided an history update on the UNRBA for the guest on the call.
- Yearly presentation to the EMC will be done on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

- **Reopening County Departments-** No more than 50% of staff working in the office. Employees are encouraged to work remotely when possible.
- **District Conservation implementation Report from NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.**
  - Durham SWCD is #1 in state for outside funding
  - Durham SWCD is #6 overall for conservation on the ground.

- **PCC-** Full Council meeting will be held tomorrow.
- **Budget Hearing with County Manager-** Eddie Culberson reported that Lisa Marochak and he did a presentation to the County Manager on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Eddie thanked Mark DeWitt, David Harris, and Anjali Boyd for attending the Budget Hearing.
  - Received positive comments on the budget presentation.

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

- **HR Newsletter** – Jessica Perrin was featured in the Durham County HR newsletter. She did a great job representing our department!
- **Hall of Fame** nomination deadline is August 1<sup>st</sup> to the NCASWCD.

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

- **Applications for Assistance:** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the four AFA as listed below.
  - 1) 32-2021-525 (Johnson) for a rain garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 150.
  - 2) 32-2021-528 (Wallace) for two rain gardens, Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear River, ranking score of 155.
  - 3) 32-2021-529 (Conrad) for a rain garden and structural stormwater conveyance, Eno River, Neuse River, ranking score of 140.
  - 4) 32-2021-530 (Steitler) for a critical area planting and rain garden, Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear River, ranking score of 170.

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-** May 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am- noon.

**F. Agricultural Spot Check Program (ACSP)-** Emily Bateman

- **Application for Assistance:** Neil frank, 3 GWW, Riparian Buffer, and exclusion fencing (ranking 105). David Harris made a motion to approve the AFA listed above. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contract Request:** 32-2021-002, Neil frank 3 GWW, Riparian Buffer, and exclusion fencing, \$7,824. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. 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-** April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am

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

- **FY21 Spot Checks-** April 6<sup>th</sup> at 8am
- **Application for Assistance:** Jason Bzdula, Micro-irrigation (ranking score- 80). David Harris made a motion to approve the AFA listed above. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contract Request:** 32-2021-802, Jason Bzdula, Micro-irrigation, \$16,545. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

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

- **Grove Park**
  - Started surveying
  - Construction should begin late winter
  - The Grove Park HOA President is excited about this project.

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

**J. Agriculture Economic Development**

- **AED Grant Program**

March 15 was the deadline for AED Grant recipients to send in a report and to begin their project. As of March 15<sup>th</sup>, all 13 farm contracts and the 1 school contract had been executed. In regard to the 13 farm contracts, all of the projects had been started, 8 have been completed with 5 in progress. The one school contract has been approved and the project has been started. The AED Grant Committee will be meeting in May with the date TBD to review the application, the ranking form, and the draft report for the FY21 program year. This meeting will be held after the manager makes his budget recommendation to the BOCC.
- **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**
  - The March meeting was cancelled
  - Next meeting scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm (Zoom)

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

- **Tree Seedling Sale-** Lisa Marochak thanked David Harris, Terence Priester, and staff for helping sort the plants and assist during the contactless pick-up days.
- **Bookmark Contest –** Please continue to promote the contest to any Durham student in K-2<sup>nd</sup> grade. The contest deadline is April 22.
- **Environmental Field Days** will be held virtually this year. The filming will be held at the Hub Farm on April 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have two college interns assisting with the event.
- **NC Envirothon –** It will be held virtually on April 16th-17th. Good luck to the Marvelous Maples from the NC School of Science and Mathematics competing in the State competition.
- **OELC Grant-** Should be wrapping up the project by the end of the month.

**L. Central Regional Coordinator-** Lisa Marochak gave the NC Division of Soil and Water update to the board and guests that was provided by Allie Dinwiddie.

- **District Confidentiality-** The Division has organized an upcoming training session on district protocol for presenting cost share items to boards. The training will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm as part of their Spring training series.
- **Conservation Farm Family-** are due to Area 4 leadership by June 1.
- **Strategic Plans-** due by June 1.

**K. NRCS Update-** Emily Bateman gave the NRCS update on behalf of Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry.

**EQIP**

- As of today, a total of 3 applications Seasonal High Tunnels. for Fiscal Year 2022.
- 5 EQIP applications for Fiscal Year 2021
  - The ranking deadline is April 16.
  - We only rank those applications that are high priorities.
    - Right now, there are only three applications that are high priority.

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- Sign-up deadline was March 26
- Received 1 application, forestry.

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

- **Draft Joint MOU Agreement-** The Durham County Attorney, Mr. Darby, Eddie Culberson, Lisa Marochak, and the Triangle Community Foundation are working on the draft agreement. Progress has been made on the agreement, but we are on version 9.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Long Range Planning-** *Tabled until next month.*

**B. Laura Marie Davis-** Announced that she will be resigning from her position because she is moving. Laura's last meeting will be on June 7, 2021.

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 6:45 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – May 3, 2021 at 5:30 pm (ZOOM)**

(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Lisa Marochak

Senior Administrative Officer

5/3/2021

**Approval date**