

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 8 (District Meeting)

Date: August 2, 2021

Meeting Number: 2 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person):** Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Jillian, *Associate Supervisor*. **(Virtual):** Mark DeWitt, *Vice Chair*; Anjali Boyd, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Melissa Rooney, *Associate Supervisor*; and Becky Emmons, *Associate Supervisor*.

**Others Present (In-person):** Eddie Culberson, *Director*; Lisa Marochak, *Senior Administrative Officer*; Mike Dupree, *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Mngr.*; Emily Bateman, *Natural Resources Conservationist*; Sherry Scully, *Ag Development Coordinator*; *Phoebe Gooding, guest*; **(Virtual)** Diana Irizarry (NRCS); Gabriela Velez Rodriguez (NRCS).

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, August 2, 2021, and called to order at 5:34 pm by the Financial Officer, David Harris. The meeting was held Virtually via Zoom and In-person at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705.*

**Conflict of Interest Statement**– reviewed by Talmage Layton

**Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the June 28th 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**- David Harris made a motion to approve the agenda as altered. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### Old Business

#### **A. Staff changes**

- The board and staff thanked Mike Dupree for his years of service. His last day is August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Sherry Scully the Ag Development Coordinator** joined the Durham Soil and Water staff on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Sherry introduced herself to the board.
- **NRCS**- Diana Irizarry introduced the new Team 10 staff member Gabriela Velez Rodriguez

#### **B. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- *Jillian Riley reported on the following*

- Tabled until next meeting. Jillian will attend her first EAB meeting tomorrow night.

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

- No new updates.
- Gave background on the UNRBA for all the new staff and board members on at the meeting.
- Next Path Forward meeting: August 3<sup>rd</sup>

- D. Directors Report-** *Eddie Culberson reported on the following:*
- **Recruitment-** We have started the recruitment process for the Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager position with Soil and Water and are working with our HR representative to get it posted later this week. This position will be vacant after August 5th.
  - **Durham County Manager-** Claudia Hager is the Interim County Manager. Durham County has hired a consulting firm to hire the County Manager.
  - **PCC Project Manager-** The Piedmont Conservation Council has hired Kim Lahman as the new Project Manager.
- E. Administrative Report-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Area IV Representative on the CCAP Committee** (one of the NCASWCD Standing Committees) – There is a vacancy for Area IV on the CCAP Standing Committee. Laura Marie Davis used to represent the area on this committee. Supervisors, please let Lisa know if you are interested in serving on this committee.
  - **The NC Soil and Water Commission (Supervisor Appointments)-** The Commission tabled the Supervisor appointments until the next Commission meeting in September.
  - **Division Report-** Lisa Marochak went over some of the updates from the Division Report.
- F. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Eddie Culberson reported that there was no new business to report.
- G. ACSP and AgWRAP Programs-** Emily Bateman
- Conservation Plans-** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the two conservation Plans and presented below. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- Jason Bzdula, Micro-Irrigation 1 ac
  - Super Rad, LLC Micro-Irrigation 2 ac
- Information Only**
- ACSP: Cover Crop, Residue and Tillage Management, and Sod-Based rotation no longer incentive, but full BMP and can be cost-shared as many times as needed.
  - A 9.8% increase to cost share component amounts has been approved for all NEW contracts
  - AgWrap: New Livestock Water Storage BMP has been approved
  - AgWrap Regional Application is Due Nov 19
  - FY2021-2022 Allocations (ACSP) \$48,115 and (AGWRAP) \$7,500
- H. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects –** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project –** Gave update on project.
    - DWR Extension request for funds received in 2018 was approved and extended until August 2022. We are still waiting on the paperwork from DWR.
  - **EWP Project at Willowhaven.** Approval needed to close the complete project. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the closer of the amendment as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**I. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board-** Sherry Scully report the following:

**Agriculture Economic Development**

- **AED Grant-** the FY2022 application was released in July with information sessions on August 10th, 12th, and the 17th. The deadline for applications to be turned in to Soil and Water is August 31, 2021 at 5pm. The program will have \$75,000 to allocate to applicants.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board**
  - The last meeting wasn't held due to no quorum. Next meeting scheduled for August 19th at 6:30 pm (Zoom)

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

- **NCF Diversity Grant-** The District received \$4000 to build and Augmented Reality Sandbox. The AR Sandbox has been completed and the final report has been turned into the NC Foundation for Soil & Water Conservation. We were able to complete the project thanks to the volunteer help we received from an IS&T employee. He helped assist staff with setting-up the computer equipment and software on weekends and his days off.
- **Environmental Education at Schools-** Staff learned this week that we might not be allowed to go to the schools this year to teach environmental education. We will follow up to see if Durham Public Schools is allowing visitors or not at the schools.

**L. NRCS Update-** Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry provided an update.

**M. Bahama Community Park update-** David Harris shared the letter received from Triangle Community Foundation. Eddie Culberson recommended that the board turn the District land back over to the Bahama community. The Bahama Fire Department needs training facilities and could use the extra land.

- Tabled until the next meeting.

**N. Board Retreat-** August 30<sup>th</sup> (4pm-8pm)

This will be a hybrid event. Anyone that attends in-person will get a boxed meal. Please RSVP to Lisa if you haven't already. Michelle Lovejoy has graciously agreed to be the facilitator for the retreat.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) AR Sandbox-** David Harris made a motion to recommend providing a stipend of \$200 to Dan Nosbusch for all the time he spent volunteering to working on the sandbox. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 2) Facilitator Donation-** A motion was made by David Harris to give Michelle Lovejoy a \$100 stipend for facilitating the two retreats. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chairman adjourned at 7:25 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – September 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm**  
(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

9-13-2021  
**Approval date**