

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (District Meeting)

Date: September 13, 2021

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (Virtual):** Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Anjali Boyd, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Jillian, *Associate Supervisor*; Melissa Rooney, *Associate Supervisor*; and Terence Priester, *Associate Supervisor*.

**Others Present (Virtual):** Eddie Culberson, *Director*; Lisa Marochak, *Senior Administrative Officer*; Emily Bateman, *Natural Resources Conservationist*; Sherry Scully, *Ag Development Coordinator*; Phoebe Gooding, *guest*; **(Virtual)** Diana Irizarry (NRCS).

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, September 13, 2021, and called to order at 5:32 pm by the Vice Chair, Mark DeWitt. The meeting was held Virtually via Zoom.*

**Conflict of Interest Statement**– read by Anjali Boyd.

**Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the August 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

#### Old Business

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

- Provided an EAB update to the Durham SWCD Board and staff.

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

- Provided a handout and UNRBA update for the staff and board members.
- Next Path Forward meeting: October 5, 2021

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

- **New Hire**- Saad Masood will be starting on October 4<sup>th</sup> as the Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager for Soil and Water. He is an engineer and has experience working with CCAP, Ag Cost Share, and Ag WRAP.
- **Passing of long-time farmer**- Eddie announced that Mr. Bill McFarland passed away. The board asked staff to send a card to his family from the district board and staff.

**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 all the Supervisor appointments until the next Commission meeting in September.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)**- Eddie Culberson, Emily Bateman, and Lisa Marochak completed a training last week to prepare the Field Data Reports and Damage Survey Reports (DSRs) for potential EWP sites resulting from the storm sites and future natural disasters. This training was promoted by NRCS as a national pilot that will potentially enable similar arrangements in other states.
- **Secondary Employment Form**- a motion was made by David Harris to approve the Secondary Employment Certification forms for Sherry Scully. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Division Report**-
  - Lisa Marochak went over some of the updates from the Division Report.
    - **Area IV Fall Meeting** will be held on November 18<sup>th</sup> in Johnston County.
    - **NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting**- January 9-11, 2022 at the Sheraton Imperial RTP.
    - Supervisor, David Harris talked about the Nominations for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and the NC Soil and Water Commission.

**F. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

**Applications for Assistance (AFA):** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the two AFA as listed below.

1. 32-2022-501 (Reinvestment Partners) for streambank stabilization, Little Lick Creek, Neuse.
2. 32-2022-502 (Durham Community Land Trustees) for cistern, Goose Creek, Neuse.

Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**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. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- Advantage Outdoors LLC, three years of Cover Crops and three years of No-till.
- Jereme Walker, Ag Well.

**Agricultural Cost Share Program (ACSP)-** Emily Bateman

- **Application for Assistance (AFA):**

Advantage Outdoors LLC, Cover Crops, and three years of No-till (ranking 85). David Harris made a motion to approve the AFA listed above. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contract Request:**

32-2022-001, Advantage Outdoors LLC, Cover Crops, and three years of No-till, \$33,999. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

## Ag WRAP

- **Application for Assistance (AFA):**

Jereme Walker, Ag Well (ranking 110). David Harris made a motion to approve the AFA listed above. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contract Request:**

32-2022-801, Jereme Walker, Ag Well, \$7,500. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. Anjali Boyd 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 Stream Restoration Project** – Gave update on project.

David Harris made a motion to approve the DWR Extension request for funds received in 2018 for the Grove Park Project until August 2022. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Riverside High Project-** North Carolina Land and Water Fund will meet next week to decide on funding.

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

#### Agriculture Economic Development

- **AED Grant- (Informational Items)**

AED Grant Committee held three Informational Training Sessions for the Grant Program. They were well attended virtually. Thirty-two applications were received by the August 31 deadline: 20 farmer, 4 school and 8 nonprofit applicants. Total funding amount requested was \$109,289. Applications have been ranked and funds will be allocated on September 15. The FY2022 allocation for this program is \$75,000.

- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**

1. **FPAB Meeting** held on August 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

- Celeste Burns with Open Space reported Easements are in progress with Scotty McFarland, Douglas Day, Len Needham, and Michael Garrett
- Four Voluntary Ag District (VAD) applications approved - 297.214 acres
- Videos are being made for viewing in lieu of farm tours due to COVID.
- **Next Meeting** - September 16 at 6:30. The meeting will be held virtually.

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

- **FY22 FLP (Food, Land & People)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the \$100 donation request to support FLP. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Outdoor Environmental Learning Center (OELC) grant-** We received the final reimbursement payment from the NC Soil & Water Foundation for the Carrington Middle School OELC.

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

### M. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris

No new business to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1) **David Harris** will not be seeking reelection in 2022
- 2) **Area 4 Treasurer-** Since David Harris isn't seeking reelection in 2022, the Area 4 Treasurer position will need to be filled by a Supervisor in Area 4. Please let David Harris know if you are interested.

**Adjourn:** The Vice Chair adjourned at 6:34 pm.

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

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

10/4/2021  
**Approval date**