

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: October 4, 2021

Meeting Number: 4 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present (Virtual): Eddie Culberson, *Director*; Lisa Marochak, *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully, *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood, *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Diana Irizarry (*NRCS*).

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, October 4, 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 2nd 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- The report was accepted.

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)- Lisa Marochak presented the EAB report for Jillian Riley

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

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

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

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

- **New Employee**- New Employee- Saad Masood started today as the Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager for our Soil and Water Department.
- **EWP**- Regional training was held in Durham County recently. Three of the department's staff attended this training on surveying damage through the EWP program. Emily Bateman has volunteered to travel to Haywood County for 1 week to help survey from the recent storm damage
- **RC&D Meeting**- RC&D Meeting- was held in the mountains. They discussed possibly funding in the near future RC&D's.

- E. Administrative Report-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Area IV Fall Meeting-** November 18th in Johnston County. Registration is \$30 and is due by November 5th. Please bring a check or cash to Lisa by Nov 1st if you are planning to attend.
 - **Secondary Employment Form-** a motion was made by David Harris to approve the Secondary Employment Certification forms for Saad Masood. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - **Division Report-** Lisa Marochak went over some of the updates from the Division Report.
 - **NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting-** Jan 9-11, 2022 at the Sheraton Imperial RTP.
- F. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Eddie Culberson gave an informational update on the CCAP Program.
- G. ACSP and AgWRAP Programs-** Lisa Marochak gave an informational update on the ACSP and AgWRAP Program balances in the absence of Emily Bateman.
- H. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects –** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project –** the stream design has been completed. Construction will start summer 2022. The Southern High School students will be doing the planting for the project.
 - **Riverside High Project-** the district received \$250,000 from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund. Waiting to hear back from DWR on the funding request. Hoping to get \$200,000 or more from DWR.
- I. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board-** Sherry Scully reported the following:
- Agriculture Economic Development**
- **Ag Economic Development Grants-** On September 15th, the Ag Economic Development Grant Committee met virtually to allocate \$75,000 to ranked applications. 14 Farmers, 5 Nonprofit Organizations and 4 Schools were funded. Emails were sent out to all applicants on September 15th. I am conducting site visits for each contract. Lisa is in process of completing all grant contracts and county vendor information for each applicant. Some applicants are ready to start work!
 - **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)-**
 - **Provided an informational update.**
 - **Next Meeting –** October 21st at 6:30. The meeting will be held virtually.
- J. Environmental Education Report-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- **Area 4 Envirothon donation -** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the \$150 donation request to support the 2021-2022 Area 4 Envirothon Program. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - **National Conservation Foundation (NCF) diversity grant-** We received the final reimbursement payment from NCF for the AR Sandbox.
- L. NRCS Update-** Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry provided an update.
- **EQIP deadline-** Oct 29th
 - **Grassed Land Conservation Initiative-** deadline is Oct. 15th.

M. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris

No new business to report. Still working on Amendment #4 of our property deed.

N. Other Committee/Board Reports

- **NC State Fair-** David Harris gave an update on the NC Soil and Water booth at the fair. He asked if anyone was interested in volunteering at the fair.
 - **New Building-** NC Soil & Water Conservation and the NC Forest Service have a new building that was just completed this month. There will be a ribbon cutting for the building on October 19th

NEW BUSINESS:

A. NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Executive Meeting- David Harris gave an update:

- **NCASWCD Annual Meeting** registration should be sent out in next 2 weeks.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)-** Bill Yarborough encouraged districts to send staff that was trained in EWP to the mountain counties to assist with assessments of storm sites. David Harris thanked the Durham staff for sending someone to assist with EWP.
- **Next Executive Committee Meeting-** November 16th at the NC fair grounds in Troxler's new building.
- **Area 2 Piedmont Commission Seat Representative-** David Harris reported that he has decided to seek reelection in 2022 for Durham SWCD Supervisor. Also, he is interested in running for the Area 2 Piedmont Soil & Water Commission Seat Representative. A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to support David Harris in the nomination for the Piedmont Commission Seat of the NC Soil & Water Conservation Commission in the upcoming election. Anjali seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

B. NC Soil & Water Commission update- Talmage Layton read a letter from the NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation District Director Vernon Cox regarding the Supervisor appointment to the Durham SWCD Board. The Commission voted on Sept 22, 2021, to approve Kenyon Browning to the vacancy position of Laura Marie Davis.

Adjourn: The Vice Chair adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – November 1, 2021 at 5:30 pm (Zoom)
(Please check our website for login information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

10/4/2021
Approval date