

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 11 (District Meeting)

Date: November 1, 2021

Meeting Number: 5 (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*; Kenyon Browning-*Supervisor*; Melissa Rooney- *Associate Supervisor*; and Jan Cromartie- *Associate Supervisor*.

Others Present (Virtual): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Gabriela Velez Rodriguez- *NRCS*; Jeff Masten- *Land Matters*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, November 1, 2021, and called to order at 5:32 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. 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 October 4th meeting. 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 David Harris to move to accept the financial report as presented. Mark DeWitt 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. Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)- *No report. Tabled till next meeting*

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: November 5, 2021
- Next Executive Board meeting: November 15, 2021

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

- **New Central Regional Coordinator**- Brandy Myers is the new Central Regional Coordinator. She started with the Division of Soil and Water on October 25th, and she is planning to attend our December Board meeting.
- **Hydrilla Report**- The Hydrilla Task Force Group would like to eradicate the hydrilla in the Eno River. They want to treat the river from Ben Lake Rd to 15-501 and are asking for a 2-year commitment from Durham County at the cost of \$9,000.
- **PCC Executive Meeting**- The next meeting will be held tomorrow via Zoom.

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 tomorrow. Please let Lisa know if you are planning to attend.
- **NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting-** Jan 9-11, 2022 at the Sheraton Imperial RTP. The Early registration deadline is December 1st.
 - Standing Committees- Went over the 8 standing committees and the vacancies.
- **Petty Cash-** we currently on have \$2.38 remaining in petty cash. A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to transfer \$50 from the main checking account to petty cash. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

F. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Saad Masood reported on the following:

Applications for Assistance:

- 32-2022-503 (Soffera) for a rain garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score of 145. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for contract 32-2022-503 as presented. Mark Dewitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 32-2022-504 (Moran) for streambank stabilization, Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear, with a ranking score of 150. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for contract 32-2022-504 as presented. Mark Dewitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Contracts:

- 32-2022-502 for DCLT, 1100-gallon cistern system for \$2,223. Ranking score 145. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Contract Extensions: A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the four contract extensions as listed below. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

1. 32-2021-504 (Best) approved for streambank stabilization, contract expires 30-Nov-2021, needs extended to 01-May-2022.
2. 32-2021-529 (Conrad) approved for rain garden and stormwater structure, contract expires 30-Nov-2021, needs extended to 31-Dec-2021.
3. 32-2021-531 (Fennimore) approved for rain garden and stormwater structure, contract expires 30-Nov-2021, needs extended to 31-Dec-2021.
4. 32-2021-532 (Dunnegan) approved for streambank stabilization, contract expires 30-Nov-2021, needs extended to 01-May-2022

Request for Payment:

- 32-2021-526 (Cook) for \$1,773 for a 500-gallon cistern system, Third Fork Creek, Cape Fear, with a ranking score of 155. FY19 City Interlocal Funds. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented. 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 reported on the following:

Contract Supplement

- 32-2022-002, Neil Frank, Supplement to 32-2021-001, 3 GWW for \$1,907.00. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract supplement as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Request for Payment (RFP)

- **32-2021-002** Neil Frank 3 GWW for \$2,093.00. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **32-2022-002** Neil Frank 3 GWW for \$1,907.00. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented for the contract supplement. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **EWP Site Assessments in Haywood County-** Emily thanked the board for allowing her to help last month with the storm damage site assessments in Haywood County. She talked about the devastation she saw from the storm damage and how much work was still needed.

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

- **Riverside High Project-** the district received \$250,000 from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund and \$200,000 from DEQ. We still need \$150,000 to complete the project, but the staff is planning to apply for a couple more grants.
- **Southern High School-** We will be doing a site assessment on the project at Southern HS with DEQ staff, Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department, and the school Principal on November 10th.

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

Agriculture Economic Development

- **Ag Economic Development Grants-** All approved applicants (23) except for one have completed their preconstruction site visit. Lisa has completed all contracts and Durham County vendor information and trainings for all but three applicants which are in process.

One contract, for specialized equipment, has already been purchased, used and receipts turned in for payment. Others are starting soon.

- **The Ag Economic Development Committee** plans to meet on the 16th of November to discuss plans for Grant Program in FY 2023.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- **Provided an informational update.**
- **Next Meeting –** November 18th at 6:30. The meeting will be held virtually.

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

- **Field Day Events –** This year the field events will be held outside at individual schools. This will allow presenters and students to social distance.
- **Tree Seedling Sale-** The online order form will be sent out next week. The pick-up will be the beginning of March.

- L. NRCS Update-** Gabriela Velez Rodriguez with NRCS provided an update.
- **EQIP deadline-**was Oct 29th. Received a total of 9 EQIP applications in Durham (2 of the 9 applications were deferred from last year).
 - **Conservation Technical Assistance-** Diana Irizarry and Emily Bateman met with a producer that is interested in goats.

M. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris report the following:

- No new update at this time.

N. Other Committee/Board Reports

State Fair- David Harris reported that NC Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the N.C. Forest Service has a new James Robert “Bob” Stanfield Natural Resources Center. The building walls inside are made up of 29 different major tree species native to NC. A ribbon cutting for the building took place on October 19th.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Guidebook on the Law and Practice of Soil and Water Conservation in NC- David Harris reported that he has obtained two copies of the guidebooks. The books will be available for Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, and staff to checkout. Please contact staff if you are interested in reserving a copy of the book.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – The date time of the December board will be decided later this month.

(Please check our website for the meeting information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

12-6-2021
Approval date