

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 12 (District Meeting)

Date: December 6, 2021

Meeting Number: 6 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present (Virtual): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Emily Bateman- *Natural Resource Coordinator*, Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Diana Irizarry- *NRCS*; Vernon Cox- *Director of NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation*, Brandy Myers- *Regional Coordinator*, Phoebe Gooding- *guest*, Danielle Adams- *guest*, Leon Holloway- *guest*, Sandi Hiatt- *guest*, Penny Farasino- *guest*, Miles Okal- *Durham farmer*, Kierra Hyman- *guest*, Demarcus Andrews- *guest*, Beth Bakke- *guest*, Anna Wilson- *guest*, Bonita Green- *guest*, Hector Lopez- *guest*, Alexis Luckey- *guest*, Laurie Muzzy- *guest*, George Jones- *guest*, Brett Sheppard- *guest*, Melanie Allen- *guest*, Wilson Salls- *guest*, Shantell Ferrell- *guest*, Connor Kippe- *guest*, Wafa- *guest*, Ebvan- *guest*, Tim McKeown- *guest*, Brooke Philpott- *guest*, Whit McWilliams- *guest*, LeShawn Edward- *guest*, Shanise Hamilton- *guest*, Derrick Jackson- *guest*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, December 6, 2021, and called to order at 5:33 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 November 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 move to accept the financial report as presented. Anjali Boys seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda- David Harris motioned to move item **A. under New Business** to the top of the agenda and 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.

New Business

A. Compliant Letter to the Commission- Anjali Boyd read the Compliant Letter to the NC Soil and Water Commission regarding Gooding, and the Durham SWCD Board accepted public comments. Anjali Boyd will mail a copy of the letter to Vernon Cox, the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation Director, and NC Soil and Water Commission members. Mr. Cox will make sure the Commission receives a copy of the letter.

Old Business

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

- **Provided an EAB update**
- **Presenter from the Triangle Land Conservancy** will present at the January meeting. Also, possibly will speak at the Farmland Protection Advisory Board meeting.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- *David Harris*

- Report was emailed prior to the meeting.
- Next Path Forward meeting: December 7, 2021
- Next Executive Board meeting: January 19, 2022

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

- **FY2022-2023 County Budget Kickoff-** The budget kick-off will be held this Wednesday during the Department Head Meeting. The Goal 4 Budget meeting will take place on January 7th.
- **USDA NRCS Watershed Program Funding Opportunities through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-** is providing funding for watershed programs available through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which help communities recover from the impacts of natural resources. Funding will be available for existing and new projects. A webinar on the funding will be held tomorrow.
- **Piedmont Community Conservation (PCC) Executive Meeting-** The next meeting will be held tomorrow via Zoom.
 - State Legislation approved 1 million dollars to be divided by the ten NC RC&D areas. PCC will receive \$100,000 to conduct community projects.

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

- **Master Agreement Amendment with the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Science-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Master Agreement Amendment with the NC Dept of Ag and Consumer Science. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. The Vice Chair did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Matching Funds Application-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the 2022-2023 matching funds application with the Division of Soil and Water. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. The Vice Chair did a roll call, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** Jan 9-11, 2022 at the Sheraton Imperial RTP. The Early registration deadline was December 1st. You can still register, but it the price has increased.

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

Applications for Assistance:

- 32-2022-505 (Parkwood) for critical are planting, Northeast Creek, Cape Fear with a ranking score of 160. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA for contract 32-2022-505 as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Contract Extension:

- 32-2021-534 (Bankson) approved for rain garden and cistern, contract expires 30-Nov-2021, needs extended to 01-May-2022. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract extension as requested. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Grant Extension:

- **City Interlocal 2019 Grant-** The grant installation of stormwater control measures will expire on 31-Dec-2021, needs extended to 31-Dec-2023. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the grant extension as requested. 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:

Job Approval Authority (JAA)

- Emily Bateman is applying for JAA to the NC Division of Soil and Water Conservation for the following practices.
a) 340 Cover Crop; b) 340 Crop Residue Management; c) 340 Nutrient Scavenger Cover Crop; d) 328 Sod Based Rotation; e) 329 3-year Conservation Tillage System; f) 329 Long Term No-till.
A motion was made by David Harris to approve for Emily Bateman to apply for the six JAA practices. 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 Project-** met today with landowners and stakeholders. Looking forward to the project starting next summer.
- **Riverside High Project-** last week staff was notified that the district will receive \$392,000 from the North Carolina Land and Water Fund. Also, the district will receive \$200,000 from DEQ once the state budget is approved.
- **Southern High School-** We did a site assessment on the project at Southern HS on November 10th with DEQ upper leadership, Fredrick Davis with Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department, and the Principal Leathers. Fredrick Davis assured us that they would hook up the irrigation and maintain the wetland cells.

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

Agriculture Economic Development

- **The FY21 AED Grant Annual Report** was shared with the BOCC and County Manager in November
- **AED Grant Committee-** Met on the 16th of November to discuss plans for the Grant Program in FY2023. Revisions to the program are in process.
- Application for additional funding for this program has been submitted to Z Smith Reynolds.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- **Provided an informational update.**
- **Next Meeting –** December 16th at 6:30. The meeting will be held virtually.

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

- **AR Sandbox –** Staff will be taking the AR Sandbox and setting up a booth at the 2022 NCASWCD Annual Meeting. If you plan to attend the meeting and would like to help staff the booth, please get in touch with Lisa Marochak.
- **Tree Seedling Sale-** The online order form will be sent out next week. The pick-up will be the beginning of March.

K. NRCS Update- Diana Irizarry 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).
Two of the nine applications requested \$78,000 in funding. Diana is still calculating the cost of two of the applications.
- **MOA** has been signed and approved
- **Program Rollout-** December 9th

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

- No new update on the park at this time.
- **Soil over NC Project-** The district could possibly use our land for this project.

M. Regional Coordinator- *Brandy Myers reported the following:*

- Went over some of the highlights in the Regional Coordinator Report.
- **COVID Agricultural Relief Program-** NRCS will be offering additional financial assistance to producers that have installed conservation practices within a NRCS contract or will be installing conservation practices between Jan 1, 2021, and Dec 31, 2021.

N. Other Committee/Board Reports

No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

B. Election of 2022 Officers- A motion was made by David Harris for the Durham SWCD Officers to remain the same for 2022. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

C. Agriculture Economic Development Grant Program Committee- David Harris recommended appointing Mark Dewitt to replace Terrence Priester as the Durham SWCD representative on the AED Grant Committee. Terrence resigned as an Associate Supervisor with Durham SWCD last month. Anjali Boyd Seconded the recommendation. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to adjourn the meeting. The Chair adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – January 3, 2022 at 5:30 pm (Zoom)
(Please check our website for the meeting information)

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

1-3-2022
Approval date