

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (District Meeting)

Date: June 6, 2022

Meeting Number: 12 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (Virtual):** Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*. **(In person)** David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Kenyon Browning- *Supervisor*.

**Others Present (In person):** Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Saad Masood- *Agribusiness & Environmental Services Manager*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*. **(Virtual)** Melissa Rooney- *Associate Supervisor*; Diana Irizarry- *NRCS*.

*A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, June 6, 2022, and called to order at 5:40 pm by the Vice Chair, Mark DeWitt. The meeting was hybrid. Those in person met at the Durham Farm Bureau Bldg. and Virtually via Zoom.*

**Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the May meeting. Kenyon Browning 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. Kenyon Browning 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 approve the agenda as printed except to move B under new business to A. Kenny Browning 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 reported

**B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris provided an update on the EAB.

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

- **District Land** – Eddie Culberson reported that he spoke with United Land of America who was inquiring about purchasing the Midland Terrace District Land. The parcels contain wetlands so United Land of America is no longer interested in purchasing the land.
- **FY2022-2023 Budget Request**- new Soil & Water position request for FY2022-2023. Staff went before the BOCC last Thursday to present on the new position request. The position was not in the County Managers recommendation for FY2022-2023. The BOCC is scheduled to vote on the FY2022-2023 budget on June 13<sup>th</sup>.
- **The Natural Resources Coordinator position**- Eddie Culberson introduced Dustin Brewer to the board. He started on May 16<sup>th</sup>.

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

- **Secondary Employment Certification-** Lisa presented the FY21-22 Secondary Employment Certification form for Dustin Brewer. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the Secondary Employment Certification as presented. Kenyon Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Rain Barrels-** Lisa will check on the number of rain barrels that are sold on a palet and email the findings to the board.

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

- **Request for Payment:** A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the three RFPs listed below.

32-2022-511 (SSCF) for \$634 and (ISIP) for \$4,550 for a Swale, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 160

32-2022-520 (ISIP) for \$4,450 for a Downspout Disconnect and Swale, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 160.

32-2022-507 (SSCF) for \$202 and (ISIP) for \$1,548 for a Downspout Disconnect, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, with a ranking score of 160.

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

- **Regional Application:** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the receipt of the two regional applications listed below. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

– 32-2022-501, for \$50,000. Streambank Stabilization, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ranking score 175.

– 32-2022-510, for \$50,000. Permeable Pavement, Little Creek, Neuse, ranking score 155.

**Informational Only**

– **BETC Update**

- Second rotation of 10 students and 3 teachers was completed on May 21<sup>st</sup>, installed a rain garden.

**G. ACSP and AgWRAP Programs-** Dustin Brewer reported on the following:

**AgWRAP**

Application for Assistance (AFA)

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AgWRAP AFA as follows: 32-2022-802 for water supply well. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Contract Supplement

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AgWRAP Contract as follows: 32-2022-802 for water supply well \$7,999. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only

- Division of Soil & Water Conservation allocated an additional \$8,000 to the district for AgWRAP.
- **Contract Extension Request-** 32-2020-804 water supply well & pump request. The department submitted extension form to the Division for the upcoming July 20<sup>th</sup> Soil & Water Commission meeting. One District Board member must attend with staff.

## **Ag Cost Share**

### Informational Only

- Request for Payment for 32-2022-001 (\$13,683) signed by David Harris in between meetings.
- Request for Payment for 32-2022-002 (\$4,914) signed by David Harris in between meetings.

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

- **Grove Park Project**
  - Waiting on flood plain permit from City.
  - DWR Grant Extension- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the DWR grant extension request. The grant is expiring the end of August so staff will request an extension till March 31, 2023. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Cherri Smith and Eddie Culberson reported that there has been significant stream restoration destruction from ATV's.
  - **Fencing or Cable quote-** We received one quote back and it was more than the \$2000 that the board approved last month. The one quote was \$3,279.96. The board asked staff to get at least two additional quotes.

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

- **Agriculture Economic Development**
  - AED Grant update-**
    - Ag Economic Development Grant committee met on May 17 to finalize the upcoming year details. Three grant trainings will be held: June 23, 8 am at Farm Bureau; June 30, 6 pm at Cooperative Extension; July 12, 6 pm at North Regional Library. Application deadline will be August 31 at 5 pm. Applications will be reviewed, ranked and applicants will be notified by September 30, 2022.
    - Active FY 21 and FY 22 contracts are moving along. Deadline for FY 21 contracts is June 30. There is one farmer grant contract remaining to be completed and is due to finish soon. The school grant remaining will unfortunately not be completed due to two teachers and bookkeeper resigning. That money will have to be returned to county. FY 22 contracts are all in progress.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting-** Met on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6 pm (hybrid).
  - **Farm Tour** has been scheduled for October 6, 2022. Tour schedule will be 8am-1pm with lunch.
  - **The Fencing School** was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm. The 18 people who attended the event.
- **Other**
- **The Comprehensive Plan team** has published draft policies for the Comprehensive Plan. Carl Kolosna, Durham Planner, has requested feedback on these policies. J.

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

- **Conservation Awards Celebration** –Was held on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:00 pm. Lisa thanks Mark DeWitt and David Harris for helping to present the awards. Also, Lisa thanked the Soil & Water Staff.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)-** Lisa announced the names of the four HS students that the district sponsored to attend the 2022 Resource Conservation Workshop at

NCSU. The four students have been asked to attend the August 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting to provide an update on the RCW.

- **Pond Clinic-** Durham & Orange SWCD held their annual pond clinic on May 14 at the Garrett Farm. Despite the rain we still had a great turnout. Lisa Marochak thank Durham Farm Bureau for graciously sponsoring the event.

**K. NRCS Update-** Gabriela Velez with NRCS provided an update to the board.

- **EQIP** – Durham received one application that was approved for a total of \$33,289. The application is for livestock exclusion and pasture renovation.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)-** Received one CSP application for forestry-related practices, prescribed burning, and tree planting. The total amount of funding requested for this application is estimated to be \$22,000. Should know by July 8<sup>th</sup> if the application is excepted.

- **Staffing**

Emily Brake, a student trainee in Wake County, got a full-time job with NRCS. She starts in August in Elizabeth City (team 14). Her last day with Wake SWCD is May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

New Student Trainee- started on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. His name is Zuhad Gul, and this is his second summer with NRCS.

**L. Regional Coordinator-** *Informational only*

- A copy of the Regional Coordinator’s report was emailed to the District Board.

**M. Bahama Community Park update-** No report.

## **NEW Business**

**A. FY2023 Durham SWCD Budget (Public Hearing)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the FY2023 Durham SWCD Budget as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**B. Employee Awards Program-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve giving \$500 to each of the five Durham Soil & Water staff. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjourn:** The Chair adjourned at 6:43 pm.

**Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting** – Hybrid Meeting on July 11, 2022, at 5:30 pm (In-person 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham and Virtual- Zoom) Please check our website for the meeting information.

Talmage Layton  
Chairman

Lisa Marochak  
Senior Administrative Officer

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Approval date