

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (District Meeting)

Date: July 11, 2022

Meeting Number: 1 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (Virtual): Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; Anjali Boyd- *Secretary/Treasurer*, Melissa Rooney, *Associate Supervisor*; Jan Cromartie, *Associate Supervisor*. **(In person)** Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; David Harris- *Financial Officer*; Ken 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)** Diana Irizarry- *NRCS*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, July 11, 2022, and called to order at 5:31 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.

Conflict of Interest Statement— read by Anjali Boyd.

Minutes— A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the June 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 motioned to approve the agenda as printed. 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 reported

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- David Harris provided a handout and update on the UNRBA.

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

- **District Land** – Eddie Culberson reported that he has received a couple of quotes for someone to mow the land.
- **FY2022-2023 Budget Request**- new Soil & Water position request for FY2022-2023 was not approved. The department received \$75,000 in additional funding for the AED Grant and an increase in Travel and Training.
- **TJCOG**- is working with Durham County to assist departments with seeking grants and administering them.
- **RC&D**- received \$100,000 in additional funding for a total of \$200,000. The funds will be used for projects in PCC communities.
- **Hydrilla**- Started treatment on 6/27 (Orange Co to 15-501) in the Eno River.
- **Drones**- Criminals have been using drones to fly over Agricultural properties and steal equipment during the middle of the night.

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

- **Conservation Employees Training (CET)**-Durham SWCD Supervisor, David Harris will be presenting on Roberts Rules of Order at the 2022 CET on August 17th in Cherokee
- **NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation**- The Annual meeting will be held January 8-10 in Cherokee.

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

- **Contract:** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract listed below. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2022-506, for \$4,000. Swale and Downspout, Jordan, Cape Fear, ranking score 150.

Informational Only

– Request for payments signed outside of meeting

CONTRACT	NAME	BMP	WATERSHED/BASIN	RANKING	GRANT	AMT
32-2022-505	Parkwood	Critical Area Planting	Northeast Creek/Cape fear	160	EPA 319	\$4,910
32-2022-509	Parkwood	swale	Northeast Creek/Cape fear	160	EPA 319	\$4,500
32-2022-508	Sundramoorthy	Cistern, rain garden	Ellerbe/Neuse	160	SSCF & 319	\$966 \$5,000
32-2022-514	Smith	swale	Ellerbe/Neuse	155	SSCF	\$2,517
32-2022-513	Lipscomb	swale	Ellerbe/Neuse	160	SSCF and ISIP	\$50 \$1,700
32-2022-515	Odon	Downspout, swale	Ellerbe/Neuse	150	SSCF	\$6,683
32-2022-516	Delaney	Swale	Ellerbe/Neuse	160	319, ISIP	\$909 \$3,465
32-2022-517	Brunson	swale	Ellerbe/Neuse	160	319, SSCF	\$1,816 \$2,934
32-2022-518	Green	Downspout, rain garden	Ellerbe/Neuse	160	SSCF	\$2,310

F. AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer reported on the following:

Informational Only

- **Contract Extension** #32-2020-804 has been approved. Nobody from the District Board or Staff needed to attend Commission Meeting.

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

- **Grove Park Project**
 - Waiting on flood plain permit from City. Will start construction as soon as we receive the permit
 - DWR Grant Extension- Received an extension until 3/31/2023.

- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Eddie Culberson reported that he received quotes to fence the easement where the ATVs are causing significant destruction to the stream restoration project. The quotes range from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Eddie has an appointment with a local contractor to get another quote. He plans to bring the quote back to the next meeting.
- **Riverside High School Project**
 - Engineers will be at Riverside HS tomorrow surveying the project.
 - Will be discussing vegetation that the students will be growing and planting for the project.

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

Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program

- The BOCC allocated \$150,000 to the FY 2023 Ag Economic Development Grant Program. This is an increase of \$75,000. Applications are being accepted through August 31st at 5pm. Please help us spread the word to those eligible for this opportunity.
- A special called meeting was held by the AED Grant Committee to determine new caps for the grant program. Farmer grants are now capped at \$7,500 and School grants at \$1,500.
- Two hybrid training sessions have been held with 13 participants in attendance. Thank you, David Harris for being a part of these sessions! The third training session is scheduled for July 12th at the North Regional Library and online.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)- did not meet in June. Their next scheduled meeting is for July 21st at 6 pm in hybrid format from the Farm Bureau Bldg.

USDA Grant- a motion was made by David Harris for the board to write a letter of support for staff to apply for a USDA grant for funding to help pay for teachers and student interns for the BETC program. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried

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

- **Rain Barrels-** Lisa will check with the city to see if they sell to County residents.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW)-** Lisa announced the four HS students that the district sponsored to attend the 2022 Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU have been asked to attend the August 1st board meeting to provide an update on the workshop.
- **Ornaments for the White House Christmas Tree-** A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to purchase 12inch wood circles for students in Durham to make ornaments for the tree. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried
- **Contest-** Lisa Marochak reported that the Education Committee for the NCASWCD voted to change the ages for the 2022-2023 Conservation Contests. A motion was made by Ken Browning to let the Environmental Education Coordinator add 2 additional contest awards to this year's contest. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried

J. NRCS Update- Diana Irizarry with NRCS provided an update to the board.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Applications for the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative that were not funded thru EQIP Classic had been evaluated thru EQIP Urban Initiative.

- Six applications evaluated
- Only five applications were ranked. Those applications are in the NC Urban Priority Area.
- Total funding requested \$47,500
- One person interested to learn more about EQIP and Silvopasture
 - Meeting this Wednesday, the 13th

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- One application for CSP for forestry-related conservation practices, prescribed burning, and tree planting.
 - The total amount of funding requested for this application is approximately \$22,000
 - The ranking deadline was extended to July 8th. So, we should know who gets selected for funding in the next week or so.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- National accepted a CRP offer in Durham County. This land will be enrolled for CP2, Establishment of Native grasses and forbs.
- NRCS and the District 5 Wildlife Conservation Biologist will meet this Friday, the 18th, to develop a conservation plan.
- The CRP offer is for 13.6 acres.

K. Regional Coordinator- Brandy Myers – *Regional Coordinator*

- Provided an update to the board. A copy of the Regional Coordinator’s report was emailed to the District Board prior to the meeting.

L. Bahama Community Park update- David Harris reported that the Bahama Community Park Committee recommends for the District Board to deed the 48-acre property over to the Bahama Fire Department. The committee contact the County Attorney’s office to see if they can help draw up an MOA between the district and the Bahama Fire Department.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid Meeting on August 1, 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

8/1/2022
Approval date