

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (District Meeting)

Date: September 12, 2022

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors and Associate Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Mark DeWitt- *Vice Chair*; David Harris- *Financial officer*; Ken Browning- *Supervisor*. **(Virtual)** Anjali Boyd- *Secretary/Treasurer*.

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative Officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*. **(Virtual)**; Gabriela Velez - *NRCS*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, September 12, 2022, and called to order at 5:31 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was hybrid. Those in person met at the Durham Farm Bureau Bldg. and Virtually via Zoom.

Conflict of Interest– No conflicts of interest

Minutes– A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022, meeting. David Harris 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. Ken 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. Ken 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 report

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- David Harris

- EMC- on September 8th they approved the IAIA (see handout attached)

C. Directors Report- Eddie Culberson reported the following:

- **Bahama Ruritan**- Eddie has been asked to attend the Bahama Ruritan Meeting on October 11th to go over the FY2022 Annual Report.
- Eddie Culberson provided a AgWRAP Presentation during the 2022 Conservation Employees Training
- Chief of Staff, Drew Cummings is leaving Durham County. He has accepted a position with Granville County as their County Manager.
- Ben Ross has resigned as the Durham County DSS Director.

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

- **Area IV Fall Meeting**- Will be held on November 17th in Nash County.
 - **NEW Area IV website**- a new site is being developed that will provide details about upcoming meetings, reminders, and registration.

- **NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Leadership Training for Supervisors-** David Harris is participating in this training September 12-14, 2022, in Raleigh, NC.
- **The NCASWCD Annual Meeting-** will be held January 7th-10th in Cherokee, NC.

E. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
Request for Payment

- **Request for Payment (RFP)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the RFP as presented below for 32-2022-506. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2022-506 for Swale and Downspout, \$3,920, Jordan/Cape Fear, Intercity funds.

Informational Only

- Giving “Green Infrastructure” talk on October 1st at Woodcroft Community.
- Two interns will be starting with Durham Soil and Water in September to help with BETC.
- Looking for sites for potential fall BETC rotations.

F. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer reported on the following:

ACSP

Informational only

- The Division of Soil & Water allocated \$45,657 to the District for FY2023.

Application for Assistance (AFA)

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-001. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-001 for Livestock Exclusion Fencing, Cropland Conversion, and Waterers (piping included), Ranking Score of 105.

AgWRAP

Informational only

- The Division of Soil & Water allocated \$11,000 to the District for FY2023.

Application for Assistance (AFA)

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-801. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-801 for Agricultural Water Storage and/or Collection System, Ranking Score of 75.

Other Informational items

- **2022 Tri-County Pasture Field Day** - Durham SWCD is helping to sponsor and host this year’s event in Durham on September 22 at Van Ellis’ Farm. We have almost filled up all spots for attendance (100 people).
- NRCS has recently gifted Durham Soil & Water with a federal computer.

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

- **Marbrey/Jackson Project-** Eddie provided an update on the easement where the ATVs are causing significant destruction to the stream restoration project. Eddie Culberson is still waiting for a quote from contract to block ATV activity.

- **Ernie Warner Property**- The board would like Eddie to find out who owns the property now and let the new owners know that the property has an easement on it. Eddie will bring back a report to the board at the October 3rd meeting.
- **Southern High School Irrigation update**- Durham Public Schools Maintenance Department has a new person in charge of the irrigation at Southern High School. We are working with the new maintenance staff to get the irrigation hooked up.
- **Grove Park Project**
 - The no rise permit is being pursued with the state and city of Durham. This will delay the start of construction.

H. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Sherry Scully reported the following: Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program (Informational Items)

- **Ag Economic Development Grant** We received thirty-six total applications for the Ag Economic Development Grant (AEDG) Program by August 31 this year. This includes 3 schools, 7 nonprofits, and 26 farmers. (Nonprofit and farmer applications will be ranked among one another. Schools will be ranked separately.) Applications are in the process of being prepared for Committee review and will be provided to them this week. Total funding amount requested was \$200,391. The FY2022 allocation for this program is \$150,000.
 - The AEDG Committee will meet on September 28th to allocate the funds to the top ranked applications. Awardees will be notified by September 30, 2022.
 - One FY22 AEDG project was completed and paid this past month.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - a. **FPAB Meeting** was not held in August.
 - b. Plans are being made for the Farm Tour on October 6. We will be visiting 6 farms and 1 school to highlight many of our programs offered. County Commissioners, County Manager, City Council, Mayor, and the School Board have been invited.
 - c. **Next Meeting** - September 15 at 6:00. The meeting will be held in person at Farm Bureau and will also be available online.

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

- **Rain Barrels**- Lisa reported that the City of Durham is willing to sell the rain barrels to county residence. A motion was mad by Mark DeWitt for the District to stop selling rain barrels, but to promote the barrels that the city of Durham offers on our website. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Tree Seedlings**- The district approved for staff to do a tree seedling sale again this FY.
- **Resolution**- A motion was made by Ken Browning to support and adopt the Resolution "PROVIDE FULL TIME EDUCATION AND OUTREACH POSITION AT THE STATE LEVEL". The resolution will be presented at the Area IV Fall Meeting. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. David Harris abstained from voting. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **2023 Area IV Envirothon**- Durham will be the host for the 2023 Area IV Envirothon
- **NC Foundation Soil & Water Conservation Outdoor Learning Center Grant**- Lisa announced that OELC grant for R.N. Harris Elementary has been completed. The final report will be submitted this week along with the RFP request for \$949.45.
- **NC State Fair**- volunteers are needed to work at the Soil & Water booth October 14-23. New this year the booth will remain open until 10pm so we need more volunteers.

- **Big Sweep-** A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to purchase up to \$200 in supplies for the 2022 Durham Big Sweep. Mark DeWitt seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **2022 Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** October 27th by invitation only. A motion was made by Ken Browning to approve the caterer for the dinner as presented. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
 - Limit to the first 100 people that register

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

- **EQIP-** The proposed deadline for the EQIP program application signup will be October 14, 2022.
 - So far, we have two applications in the system, one for a High Tunnel System and another for Silvopasture related conservation practices. For the silvopasture application, we will be working with Lee Holcomb, Assistance State Conservationist for Field Operation, to assist us with this application. We have a site visit scheduled for September 26.
- **Fiscal Year 2022 Summary:**
 - EQIP
 - We have 5 contracts for High Tunnel System under the Urban Ag Initiative
 - Total amount: **\$71,287.00**
 - CSP
 - We have 1 pre-approved application on forestland
 - Total amount **\$24,846.00**
 - The Obligation deadline for this program is September 9th.

Total conservation program funding for Durham County this fiscal year is **\$96,133**.

K. Regional Coordinator- Lisa Marochak on behalf of 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 has contact the County Attorney’s office to see if they can help draw up an MOA between the district and the Bahama Fire Department.

Items at the district land:

- **Picnic Table (4)-** donate to the Bahama Fire Department
- **Shelters (2)-** A motion was made by Ken Browning to sell the two shelters. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Talmage Layton and David Harris abstained from voting. A roll call was done, and Mark DeWitt, Ken Browning, and Anjali Boyd voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Cistern-** A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to donate the cistern R.N. Harris Elementary pending DPS Maintenance approval. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Outdoor Classroom-** A motion was made by Ken Browning to donate the outdoor classroom and farm bureau benches to the DPS Hub Farm or Glenn Elementary. Mark Dewitt seconded the motion. Talmage Layton and David Harris abstained from voting. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Kiosk**- A motion was made by Mark DeWitt to donate the Kiosk to Riverside High School if the school wants it. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION

- At 7:45 pm a motion was made by David Harris to enter into a closed session to address a personnel issue. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- At 7:53pm Board supervisors unanimously voted to send a letter to NC attorney.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid Meeting on October 3, 2023, 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

10/3/2022
Approval date