

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (District Meeting)

Date: April 3, 2023

Meeting Number: 10 (for State reporting purposes)

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

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

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, April 3, 2023, and called to order at 5:31 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was in person, and they met at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (*Read by Anjali Boyd*) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Minutes**– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from March 6, 2023, meeting (regular meeting). Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 3) **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.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda**- Ken Browning motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Old Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Anjali Boyd
 - Next EAB meeting April 12, 2023
 - EAB retreat- April 13, 2023
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris
 - Provided an UNRBA update and handout to the board.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **County Budget**- The budget hearing with the County Manager was held on March 29th at 11:30 am. Talmage Layton, David Harris, Mark Waller, Eddie Culberson, and Lisa Marochak attended the budget presentation. The department is asking for the following for the 2023-2024 budget. 1) a full time Education and Outreach Coordinator position, 2) \$50K increase for the AED Grant for a total of \$200K, and 3) a slight increase in Dues and Subscription
 - **County Strategic Plan**-Meeting tomorrow with others from goal 4 to discuss changes to the strategic plan.
 - **NC Forever Farms Celebration**- May 19th at the NC fair grounds
 - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **QuickBooks**- Lisa is still looking into possible financial software options the district could use besides QuickBooks.

E. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Lisa Marochak reported the following for Saad Masood:

Application For Assistance: A motion was made by David Harris to batch and approve the two applications for assistance as presented. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- 32-2023-504, Wiggins, ranking score 170. Rip Rap, Swales, and Streambank Stabilization. Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ISIP funding.
- 32-2023-505, Delaney, ranking score 150. Swale, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ISIP and 319 funding.

Contracts:

- A motion was made by David Harris to and approve the contact as presented for 32-2023-504, Wiggins, \$19,000 for Rip Rap, Swales, and Streambank Stabilization. Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, ISIP funding, and ranking score 170. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- A motion was made by David Harris to and approve the contact as presented for 32-2023-505, Delaney, \$1,000 ISIP and \$3,000 319 for a Swale. Ellerbe Creek, Neuse, and ranking score 150. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Informational Only:

- **BETC-** students from NHS will be installing a rain garden on April 22, 2023 at Eno Valley Elementary.

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

- **Grove Park Stream Restoration Project-** 6000 ft of Stream Restoration (1.4-million-dollar project- 4 grants)
 - Phase 2 – This phase has been completed expect for the plantings.
 - Phase 1- has started. Will have about 3 months to complete.
 - Landowner concerns – There has been some concerns from landowners regarding the development off of Holder Road. Stormwater Services has been contacted.
- **Riverside High Project-** Durham Public Schools and NC Land and Water Fund approved the easement language. David Harris made a motion to accept and approve the agreement to monitor the Riverside High easement in perpetuity. Project will be starting this year when school gets out.
- **RN Harris Stream Restoration Signage-** A motion was made by Mark Waller for staff to purchase “Do Not Mow” signs for the RN Harris Stream Restoration Project that cost less than \$250. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

H. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- Dustin Brewer

Informational Only

Spot Check Date- scheduled for April 18th, 2023 at 8:30 am.

ACSP

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the AFA as presented below for 32-2023-004. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- **Contracts-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve contract 32-2023-004 including Livestock Exclusion Fencing (\$8,896) with a ranking score of 90. Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

AgWRAP

- **Supplemental Contract-**A motion was made by David Harris to approve Supplemental Contract 32-2023-803 (\$5000). Supplement to Contract 32-2023-802 including Water Well (\$5,697). Ken Browning seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

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

Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant Program

- FY24 Budget Request was submitted to the County Manager requesting an additional \$50,000 of funding for the Ag Economic Development Grant Program.
- Work is ongoing for FY22 and FY23 projects. No projects were paid this month.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- **Farmer Breakfast Series** – The FPAB sponsored their third Farmer and Landowner Breakfast on February 16th at the Bahama Fire Department. John Lyttle presented to 19 attendees on “Licensed applicator Responsibilities.” Pesticide credits were awarded for those attendees.
- **Next Meeting** – March 16th at 6:00 pm at the Durham Farm Bureau or Zoom.

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

- **Durham SWCD Tree Sale-** The 2023 was a huge success. Lisa thanked Mark Waller for allowing staff to hold the tree sale at Waller Family Farm and for helping with the sale. Also, Lisa thanked the staff for helping.
- **Area IV Envirothon** – Durham Soil and Water hosted the 2023 Area IV Envirothon on March 16th at the West Point on the Eno. Lisa thanked David Harris and the Soil & Water staff for volunteering at the event. Lisa thanked Talmage Layton for loaning his trailer for the staging area. Also, Lisa thanked Farm Bureau for their generous donation to the Area IV Envirothon.
- **NC Envirothon Registration-** Three out the Five teams from Durham placed in the top 7 at the Area competition so they will advance to the state competition. The NC Envirothon registration is \$200 per team. A motion was made by David Harris to pay the registration fee for the three teams. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- **Conservation Contest Awards Celebration-** May 2nd 6pm at Durham Technical Community College on the main campus. The room fee will be less than \$100. Planning to serve pizza and dessert.
- **Bookmark Contest-** deadline is April 18th at 5pm. Bookmarks will be judged on April 19th.
- **Durham and Orange SWCD Pond Clinic-** May 6th at Cornwallis Farm in Durham.
- **NC Foundation Soil & Water Conservation letters of commitment for grant-**A motion was made by David Harris to approve the letters of commitment for a rain fall simulator and a

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

- **Resource Conservation Workshop**- A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve sending up to 2 students to the 2023 RCW. David Harris seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

K. NRCS Update

- A written report was shared from NRCS.

L. Regional Coordinator- a copy of the Regional Coordinators reports was emailed out prior to the meeting.

N. Other Committees/Board Reports

- **Durham Environmental Coalition**- March meeting notes from Durham Soil and Water Contractor Kim Lahman were shared with the board.

6) New Business

- No new business

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned at 7:08 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – Hybrid on May 1, 2023, 5:30pm. Please check our website for the meeting location.

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date