

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 8 (District Meeting)

Date: October 2, 2023

Meeting Number: 3 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): Talmage Layton- *Chair*; Anjali Boyd- *Vice Chair*; Mark Waller- *Supervisor*; and David Harris- *Financial officer*

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*; Ken Parks- *Regional Coordinator*. **(Virtual):** Angela Dobbins- *NRCS*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, October 2, 2023, and called to order at 5:32 pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was in person and held at 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC with some joining online.

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (*Read by Anjali Boyd*) No conflicts of interest.
- 2) **Statement of Professionalism** – was read by Supervisors in attendance.
- 3) **Minutes** – A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the minutes from September 11, 2023, meeting (regular meeting). Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by David Harris to accept the financial report as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- Anjali Boyd had no updates; the EAB meets Wednesday, October 4.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported on the following:
 - Provided update on UNRBA with documentation sharing overall description of UNRBA. Stage I has been implemented.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **Staffing** – Interviews have been held for the vacant Agribusiness and Environmental Services Manager position. Human Resources will be handling the offer to the chosen applicant.
 - **Piedmont Conservation Council Meeting** – PCC will hold their meeting on October 3, 2023 at the Grove Park Clubhouse. Members will have the opportunity to see the completion of 6000’ of linear Stream restoration and conservation easement project that their organization has been involved with. Eddie requested that the Board fund the cost of the meal for the group estimated at \$175. Mark Waller made motion to approve up to \$200 to provide meal for PCC meeting. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

- D. Administrative Report-** Sherry Scully (on behalf of Lisa Marochak) reported on the following:
- **Area IV Fall Meeting-** Will be held in Vance County on November 16th. Registration information will be sent out in October.
 - **Annual Meeting** – will be held January 7th -9th at the Sheraton Imperial RTP. Registration is due by December 10th.
 - **Secondary Employment Forms** – District staff have completed secondary employment forms required by Division.
- E. Community Conservation Assistance Program-** Eddie Culberson reported that he and Dustin have been following up with contracts. Lauren Page, who has contract to stabilize stream that borders her property. Neighbor is questioning the project and how it will affect his property. Question on liability and future of the project. Follow-up from Ken Parks and with Durham City may answer some of these questions.
- G. Stream Restoration and Stormwater Projects** – *Eddie Culberson reported the following:*
- **Eagle/Honeycutt Stream Restoration Project** – (Ellerbe Creek) Total project cost will be \$1.1 million. This funding will be requested by several donors: Land and Water Fund (\$400,000 – due February) , Division of Water Resources (\$200,000 – Due December) and Central Pines Regional Council (\$500,000 – Due October 15). Eddie requested approval to proceed with these applications for funding. This request was submitted in form of a motion by David Harris. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Further discussion included that as in past applications, Eddie was including additional \$20,000 to be provided to District to aid in administrative support. Talmage Layton abstained from this vote. A roll call was done, and all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- H. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP-** *Dustin Brewer*
- ACSP**
Dustin Brewer reported that the Division has allocated \$51,559 in ACSP funds for this fiscal year.
- AgWRAP (Informational Only)**
Division’s CS2 program has malfunctioned. Dustin will have applications for assistance at the next Board meeting.
- Other (Informational Only)**
- Tri-County Pasture Field Day was held September 26th with 61 people in attendance.
 - 2023 Farmer Appreciation Dinner- November 14th at Coffey Grounds Ranch
 - Farm Family and Farm Heritage Hall of Fame winners will be announced at the dinner.
 - Lithos Carbon Company would like to present to Durham Farmers on October 31 from 10-1pm at the Farm Bureau meeting room. Lunch will be provided.

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

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)**
 - \$250,000 has been allocated to 30 applicants. Sherry and Lisa Marochak are in the process of meeting with all applicants, making them a Durham County Vendor and writing contracts.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
 - The BOCC made a request of the FPAB to comment on the Urban Growth Boundary changes in the proposed Comprehensive Plan. Carl Kolosna provided updates at this meeting. Nicole Connelly is compiling FPAB comments to provide to BOCC at next meeting.
 - VAD Update- the following applications were presented and approved at the September meeting:
 - Tim McCreight – Coley Rd with 41.8 acres
 - John Cowan – Kepley Rd with 76 acres
 - Farm Campus Feasibility Study will begin soon as contractor has been hired.
 - Next Meeting – The next FPAB meeting will be held on October 19 at 6:00 pm at Farm Bureau or online.

J. Environmental Education Report - Sherry Scully (on behalf of Lisa Marochak) reported on the following:

- **2023 Environmental Field Days** – On September 15th, 106 students participated in field day at Voyager Academy Elementary. Lisa and Elicia Senff provided hands-on instruction along with other organizations scheduled by Lisa.
- **Big Sweep**- Durham SWCD is sponsoring a County wide Employee clean up event at Drew Ganby Park on November 1st.
- **Food Land and People Workshop** - Lisa has been asked by NC Office of Environmental Education and Public Affairs to host a workshop with a NCCU student. This will be held on December 6th in Durham.
- **NC State Fair/Soil & Water Booth**- The Durham District will be staffing the Fair booth on October 17th, 9am-3pm. David Harris plans to join. Sherry offered tickets to other who may like to join.

K. NRCS Update- Angela Dobbins reported on the following:

- **EQIP**- Application deadline is November 3rd.
- **USDA Disaster Relief** – Farm Service Agency County Executive Director, Tina Miller, is requesting information and photos as evidence of straight line winds that have issued damage throughout the area. This proof is needed to declare disaster and opportunity for funding.
- Talmage Layton requested information be provided to District if NRCS staff or contractors will be visiting farm without previous/recent notification. Angela stated that a plan would be formed to make this happen.

L. Regional Coordinator Update – Ken Parks shared his Regional Coordinator Newsletter with the

board prior to the meeting.

- The Area meeting packets and registration will be coming out soon.
- NCDA will be updating their payment system. These updates are expected to cause some delays.
- Sharepoint training will be offered on October 16th.

M. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

7) New Business –

A. Next Meeting Date - Sherry Scully requested Board to consider moving the next meeting date from November 6th to earlier in October due to staff availability and possible need to discuss and plan upcoming Farmer Appreciation Dinner. Members opted to hold the meeting after the Lithos Carbon discussion at 1pm on October 31st at 1901 Hillandale Rd.

B. Increased Spending Authorization for Director - Anjali made motion to raise Eddie Culberson's authorization of spending to \$500 from account. Mark Waller seconded the motion. A roll call was taken; all voted yes in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:08 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – October 31 at 1:00pm. (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27701).

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Ag Development Coordinator

10/31/2023

Approval date