

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: December 11, 2023

Meeting Number: 5 (for State reporting purposes)

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

Others Present (In person): Eddie Culberson- *Director*; Lisa Marochak- *Senior Administrative officer*; Sherry Scully- *Ag Development Coordinator*; Dustin Brewer- *Natural Resources Coordinator*; Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manager*; Olivia Plant- *NRCS* and Ken Parks *Regional Coordinator*.

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, December 11, 2023, and called to order at 12:43pm by the Chair, Talmage Layton. The meeting was in person and held at 1811 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC.

- 1) **Conflict of Interest**– (*Read by Sherry Scully*) 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 October 31, 2023. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by David Harris to accept the financial report as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- David Harris motioned to approve the agenda as printed. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- No report.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - The last meeting was held on November 15th.
 - Provided an update on the Nominating Committee and Personnel Committee.
 - Contact David Harris if you have any questions.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **Conservation Technical District of the Year**- The Durham SWCD Board and staff will receive the “Conservation Technical District of the Year award on January 8th during the 2024 Annual Meeting of the NC Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
 - **FY24-25 Budget Request**- The department is planning to ask for the following: 1 Full-time Outreach Education Coordinator, 1 additional vehicle (electric), and an increase in ISIP funds and an \$100,000 for the green industry program (BETC).
 - Durham County made an offer on a 148-acre property in Northern Durham (Terry Sandford Jr. property) to turn it into a farm campus.

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

- **Secondary Employment forms-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the secondary employment forms for Jack Brown. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Jack Brown reported the following.

- **Request for Payment (RFP)- Informational Only**
 - RFP signed between the meetings for contract 32-2024-510, ranking score 165. Stormwater Conveyance and Rip Rap. Ellerbe/Nuese, 319 funding; paid \$7,500.
 - RFP signed between the meetings for 32-2024-501, ranking score 140. Stormwater Conveyance, Swale and Riprap. Cape Fear, Jordan, 319 funding; paid \$7,500.
- **Project and site visit Updates- Informational Only**
 - Home Place IV – Waiting on Engineer for plan. (*Jack is meeting with the Engineer is week.*)
 - Staff have conducted 12 site visits since last meeting.
- **Bionomic Educational Training Center (BETC)**
 - Jack has reached out to several schools including Northern High and Southern High. The future plan is to incorporate a middle school.

F. Ag Cost Share and AgWRAP- *Dustin Brewer*

AgWRAP

Contracts

- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract listed below. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Requesting Approval for Contract 32-2024-801 (Pond Sediment Removal), ranking score of 95; \$8,400.
- A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract listed below. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - Requesting Approval for Contract 32-2024-802 (Water Well), ranking score of 85 for an additional \$1,600 (additional funding will be asked for when available in February as a supplemental contract).

ACSP (Informational Only)

- Have already spent ½ of our allocation for the year.

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), Applying for Division of Water Resources (\$200,000 – Due the end of December) and Central Pines Regional Council (applied and received \$506,000).
- **Charles Town Project Funding** to stabilize the stream (with Reinvestment Partners): Regional Application with NC Division Soil & Water Conservation- \$50,000; EPA 319 \$75,000 and DWR \$120,000 grant \$230,000. We plan to submit a StRAP application through Piedmont Conservation Council for \$250,000.

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

Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Committee - will meet on January 23rd to perform maintenance checks on active contracts. They will hold a meeting after the spot checks to review past and future program plans.

Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)

- The FPAB met on November 16th at 6:00 pm.
- **Voluntary Ag District's (VAD)**– two were approved at the November meeting.
- **GIS layer**- Durham City/County GIS has created a GIS layer for the Voluntary Ag Districts. This layer is not viable to citizens but that is the future plan. Sherry will be responsible for maintaining the layer.
- **Breakfast Series:** The next FPAB breakfast series will be held on January 18th at 8:00 am at the Durham Cooperative Extension Building. (hybrid)
- **Next Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting** – The next FPAB meeting will be held on January 18th at 10:00 am at the Durham Cooperative Extension Building. (hybrid)

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

- **2023 Environmental Field Days** – We held a Field Day event at Glenn Elementary on December 7th for all the 3rd graders.
- **2024 Durham SWCD Tree Sale**- runs through February 13th or until we sell out.
- **Education Donation**- A motion was made by David Harris to approve a \$100 donation to the NCASWCD to support the education programs. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

K. NRCS Update- Olivia Plant provided an NRCS update.

- **CSP**- application deadline January 12th
- **EQIP** Eligibility Deadline/ACT NOW Ranking deadline- December 22nd.

NRCS is currently servicing the following in Durham County

- 11 active contracts, over \$171K in obligations.
- 13 EQIP applications
- 2 CSP applications

L. Regional Coordinator- Ken Parks Reported on the following:

A copy of the Regional Coordinator report was shared with everyone in attendance

- New Payment Processing- Cost Share Contracts may be delayed due to the new system.
- January 7 is the next NCASWCD Commission Meeting dates.

M. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

7) New Business

- A. **Election of Officers for 2024**- Election of the 2024 Durham Soil and Water Conservation District (Durham SWCD) Board officers. A motion was made by David Harris for the Durham SWCD Officers to remain the same for 2024. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:18 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – February 5 at 5:30pm. (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705).

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

2-5-2024
Approval date