

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (District Meeting)

Date: May 6, 2024

Meeting Number: 9 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present (In-person): David Harris- *Financial officer*; Kenny Browning -*Secretary/Treasurer*; and 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*, Jack Brown- *Agri Business & Environmental Services Manager*; Alex Kissinger- *Livestock Agent for Durham & Orange*. **(Virtual)** Olivia Plant- *NRCS*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, April 1, 2024, and called to order at 8:06 am by the Financial Officer, David Harris. The meeting was in person and held at 1901 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 David Harris to approve the minutes from April 1, 2024. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 4) **Acceptance of the Financial Report**- A motion was made by Kenny Browning to accept the financial report as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- 5) **Approval of Agenda**- Approved agenda by common consent as printed.
- 6) **Business**
 - A. **Environmental Affairs Board (EAB)**- No report.
 - B. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update**- David Harris reported the following:
 - Next meeting is May 13th at 9:30am.
 - Provided an update on what UNRBA is working on.
 - C. **Directors Report**- Eddie Culberson reported the following:
 - **FY24-25 County Budget**- We should hear the County Manager’s recommended budget on May 13th.
 - **New Livestock Agent**- introduced Alex Kissinger who is the new Livestock Agent for Durham & Orange Counties.
 - **Breakfast for Commissioners**- Staff will work on finding a date and time that works for most.
 - D. **Administrative Report**- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **Election Term**- Anjali Boyd’s elected term will end on the last day of November 2024. The filling period to run for the position is June 5-July 4, 2024. Also, Talmage Layton’s appointed term ends on the last day of November 2024. The Durham SWCD Board will need to send in the reappointment form to the NC Soil & Water Commission by the beginning of October.

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

- **Application for Assistance (AFA)-** A motion was made by Kenny Browning to batch and approved the following 5 contracts as presented. Anjali Boyd seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 32-2024-515 got vegetated swale/conveyance.
 - 32-2024-516 for stormwater conveyance.
 - 32-2024-512 for a raingarden.
 - 32-2024-513 for a raingarden.
 - 32-2024-514 for stormwater conveyance and a raingarden.
- **Contracts**
 - 1) A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2024-512 for \$1760 for raingarden (BETC) EPA 319 grant funds: ranking 110. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 2) A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2024-513 for \$1152 for raingarden (BETC) EPA Interlocal grant funds: ranking 120. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - 3) A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2024-514 for \$6000 for stormwater conveyance & raingarden (BETC) Interlocal grant funds: ranking 130. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Request For Payment (RFP)-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve 32-2024-510 for \$24,202 for Impervious surface conveyance – CCAP Regional Grant. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **BETC (informational only)**
 - Finished first round of Spring BETC training and installation.
 - Hands-on training at Carrington Middle School 4/13
 - Students installed first Raingarden at DPS Hub Farm 4/27
 - Advanced Studies Students calculated and shaped two residential Raingardens on site 5/18
 - Will install raingardens on 5/18; Southern High students growing all plants (400)
 - Awards Ceremony for BETC students at Southern High School – May 30th at 1pm

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

ACSP

- **Application for Assistance (Supplement)-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the AFA for 32-2024-006 (Supplement to contract #32-2023-001) for Livestock Exclusion Fencing, ranking 105. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Contract (Supplement)-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the contract for 32-2024-006 (Supplement to contract #32-2023-001) for \$900. Livestock Exclusion Fencing, ranking 105. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
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AGWRAP

- **Informational Only** – Projects under construction

Informational Only

Advantage Outdoors LLC, chosen as the 2024 Area IV Farm Family of the Year winner. They will be invited to the Area 4 Fall Meeting and move on to compete in the Regional Competition.

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. On April 16th Eddie Culberson and Sherry Scully met with staff from NC Land and Water Fund to walk the project.
 - **Funding:** Division of Water Resources (\$200,000 – Due the end of December) (Next due date is end of June) and Central Pines Regional Council (applied and received \$506,000).

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

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Committee –**
 - **FY 23 – 7 of 27 contracts remain open; all but one are in final stages of completion.**
 - **FY 24 – 9 of 30 contracts are complete; all other projects have been started with the exception of 5.**
 - **IT has agreed to help staff create an online form for the grant Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board**
 - Four school ag development projects are being funded with FPAB remaining funds.
 - Orange/Durham Livestock agent will start work on April 1st.
 - Next meeting – April 19th at 6:00 at Farm Bureau, 1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham
 - Farm Campus Focus Group will meet on May 2nd at 6:00 at Farm Bureau to hold a conversation with Farm Campus Feasibility Study contractor.
 - Farmland Plan revision contract is in process of being signed by all parties involved.
- **Easement monitoring and reporting is in progress for easements held by Soil & Water**
- **NACD grant requesting support for BETC program has been submitted.**

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

- **2024 NC Envirothon** – two teams from Durham competed at the state competition April 26-27 and they place 6th and 11th out of 49 high school teams.
- **2024 Durham SWCD Conservation Awards Celebration-** Will be held on May 14th 6pm at Durham Technical Community College. Please let Lisa know if you are planning to attend.
- **Resource Conservation Workshop (RCW) applicants**—This year, we received 5 applications, which were sent to the board members for review prior to the meeting. Mark Waller made a motion to pay the way for applicant #2 to attend the 2024 RCW at NCSU. Kenny Browning seconded the motion, which carried.

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

- **CSP-** renewal deadline May 3rd
- **CSP Ranking deadline-** June 14th
- **NRCS is currently servicing the following in Durham County**
 - 6 active contracts, over \$135K in obligations.
 - EQIP applications – 2 pasture preapprovals
 - 2 Eligible CSP applications- All small urban farms
- **LWG-** Olivia thanked everyone for participating.

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

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

L. Other Committees/Board Reports – No reports

7) New Business

- a. **2024 Spot Check Form-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to approve the 2024 Spot Check Form as presented by Dustin Brewer and Jack Brown. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. **FY2025 Strategic Plan** - A motion was made by Kenny Browning to accept the FY2025 Strategic Plan as presented by Dustin Brewer, Jack Brown, and Lisa Marochak with the additional information added to the CCAP Ranking Form. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. **BMP Certification (program audit 2021-2023)-** A motion was made by Mark Waller to accept the BMP Certification as presented. Kenny Browning seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:46 am.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – June 3 at 8:00 am. (1901 Hillandale Rd, Durham, NC 27705).

*The meeting time change- to the first Monday of each month at 8:00 am. (effective 5/6/2024)

Talmage Layton
Chair

Lisa Marochak
Senior Administrative Officer

June 3, 2024
Approval date