

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)

Date: November 4, 2019

Meeting Number: 4 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Danielle Adams, Vice Chairman
David Harris, Supervisor
Natalie Murdock, Supervisor
Laura Marie Davis, Associate Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Senior Administrative officer
Mike Dupree, Agribusiness & Environmental Services Mngr.
Jessica Perrin, Watershed Conservationist
Emily Bateman, Natural Resources Conservationist
Diana Irizarry, NRCS, Supervisory Soil Conservationist

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, November 4, 2019, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Vice Chairman, Danielle Adams. The meeting was held at Soil and Water Conference Room, 201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701.

Minutes/Financial Report– A motion was made by David Harris to approve the minutes from the October meeting and to accept the financial report. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by David Harris to approve the agenda as presented. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

A. Environmental Affairs Board Update- *Laura Marie Davis reported on the following.*

- The EAB would like someone from staff and/or the board to give a presentation at their next meeting on Durham Soil and Water's Education Programs. Danielle Adams, Lisa Marochak, and possibly Mike Dupree will present at their next meeting on December 4 at 6:00 pm in City Hall.
- Provided EAB update to the Board and staff.

B. Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update- *David Harris reported on the following.*

- The next Path Forward Committee meeting will be November 5 at 9:30 am. The meeting will be held at the Town of Butner Town Hall.
- Provided UNRBA update

C. Directors Report- *Eddie Culberson reported on the following:*

- **Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP)**- one project at Willowhaven on Constitution Drive was approved for funding USDA/NRCS. This project will be contracted out to Piedmont Conservation Council. NRCS will pay 75% and the Division of Soil and Water will pay 25%. Will be drawing up a contract between Durham SWCD and PCC.
- **FY2021 County Budget** will be kicking off soon.

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

- a. **Area IV Fall Meeting-** will be held Thursday, November 21st in Franklin County. Please bring \$25 this week if you are planning to attend.
- b. **Area IV Envirothon Donation-** A motion was made by David Harris to approve the \$150 donation to support the 2020 Area IV Envirothon. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- c. **Farmer Appreciation Dinner-** will be held Monday, November 18th at 6:00 pm. Eddie Culberson reported that the board will be receiving stream restoration Admin fees to help pay for the dinner. A motion was made by David Harris to allow staff to use some of the money to pay for the cost of the dinner. Talmage Layton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

E. Community Conservation Assistance Program- Jessica Perrin reported on the following:

- **Applications for Assistance-** A motion was made by Natalie Murdock to approve the application for assistance for 32-2020-509 (Moyer) for cistern and rain garden, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score 170. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Informational-**
 1. Applied for CCAP Riparian Buffer Job Approval Authority, which will be voted on at the Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting in November.
 2. Durham Public Schools Spark Advocate Nomination: Planning to attend Board of Education meeting for pinning ceremony on November 21st.

E. Agriculture Cost Share Program (ACSP)– Emily Bateman reported on the following:

RFP

- Request for Payment 32-2020-003 for \$9,289 for two heavy use areas. A motion was made by David Harris to approve the contract as presented. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- Commission Meeting- David Harris, Eddie Culberson, and Emily Bateman will attending the November 20 Commission Meeting.

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

- a. **Marbrey/Jackson-** Southern High School students will be planting tomorrow at this project.
- b. **Grove Park Project-**
 - CWMTF Trustees met in September to decide on which applications would be funded. This project was moved to the provisional list.
- c. **Dunbarton Project-** Is 30% complete and should be done by the end of the year.
- d. **Riverside High School Project-** CWMTF Trustees met in September to decide on which applications would be funded. This project was moved to the provisional list.

G. Ag Development/Farmland Protection Advisory Board- Mike Dupree reported on the following:
(Provided handout and gave update)

- **AED Grant program-** All six farms have signed a contract and the preconstruction site visits have been completed. Two of the three schools have signed contracts. The AED Grant Committee selected David Harris to be the Chair of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2019 at 9am in room 512. The committee will revise the application and review the process and make changes for the next fiscal year.
- **Northern High School** had 19 freshman students that visited two agriculture operations on October 30, 2019 from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. They visited one horticulture production operation and one livestock operation. Special thanks to David Harris and Pastor Wilson for the use of the New Red Mountain Church cafeteria as a lunch site and resting area for the teachers and students. The Northern teachers and Career Guidance Counselor would like to schedule another trip in the spring of 2020. These are students that are freshman that have expressed an interest in an agriculture career in their career assessment and are not currently enrolled in an agriculture class.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board-**The FPAB met on Thursday October 17, 2019 at 721 Foster Street from 8am to 10 am. The Board allocated \$1,125 to sponsor three informational breakfast to be held this winter. The dates and topics include: December 19, 2019 at the Bahama Ruritan Center will focus on grant opportunities and cost share programs for farmers; January 16, 2019 at the Bahama Ruritan Center will have a guest speaker regarding Growing Hemp; and February 13, 2020 at the Durham Public Schools Hillandale Staff Development Center the 3rd Annual Creating Opportunities for Minorities in the Local Food System panel discussion.
Other business included adopting a resolution to accept farm donations to the easement program as well as accepting The Herndon farm easement donation of 24 acres.

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

- **Environmental Field Days-** was held October 23-24 at the DPS HUB Farm. Lisa thanked David Harris, Eddie Culberson, Mike Dupree, Cherri Smith, and Jessica Perrin for helping with field days. 173 third graders participated in the two-day event.
- **Big Sweep-** Boy Scout Troop 440 Cleaned-up a portion of Third Fork Creek on November 2. The Big Sweep clean-up events will be winding up in a couple of weeks.

I. Bahama Community Park Committee Update- Danielle Adams and David Harris gave an update to the Durham SWCD Board on the MOU for the Durham SWCD Board to approve. A motion was made by David Harris for the Board to approve the MOU w/changes and questions being answered at the next Bahama Park Committee Meeting on 11/6/19. Natalie Murdock seconded the motion. Motion carried.

J. NRCS Update- Diana Irizarry provided NRCS update to the Board and staff.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – December 11, 2019 at 5:30 pm

The meeting will be held at the Admin II Building (201 E Main St, floor 5, Durham, NC 27701) in the Soil and Water Conference Room. A potluck meal will be served. Lisa Marochak will send out a signup list.

Chairman

Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date