

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 2 (District Meeting)

Date: May 4, 2020

Meeting Number: 7 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present: Talmage Layton- *Chairman*; Danielle Adams, *Vice Chairman*; David Harris, *Financial Officer*; Laura Marie Davis, *Secretary/Treasurer*; Mark Dewitt, *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*; Anjali Boyd, *guest*; Terence Priester, *guest*, Jan Cromartie, *guest*; Nancy Herndon, *guest*; Jean-Patrick Gill, *guest*; Dielier Grillet, *guest*; Jillian Riley, *guest*; Allie Dinwiddie, *Central Regional Coordinator*; Diana Irizarry, *NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist*

A regular meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday, May 4, 2020, and called to order at 5:30 pm by the Chairman, Talmage Layton. The meeting was held at Virtually via Zoom.

Minutes– A motion was made by Danielle Adams to approve the minutes from the April meeting. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report- A motion was made by Danielle Adams to accept the financial report. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

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

Old Business

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

- No new updates

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

- No new updates
- Next meeting will be held on May 5

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

- **FY2021 County Budget**- The budget hearing scheduled with the County Manager have been canceled due to COVID-19. The Soil and Water Department is hoping to receive a flat budget for FY20-21.
- **Malware attack on Durham County**- Soil and Water staff has their computers back from the attack and have regained access to our shared files. The County IS&T Department is still

working on fixing a couple of things. Eddie Culberson commended the IS&T Department for all their hard work in getting the computers back up and running after the attack.

- **Leadership Training for NCASWCD-** Eddie Culberson Congratulated David Harris for being accepted into the 2020 NCASWCD Leadership Training.
- **Piedmont Conservation Council (PCC)-** Eddie Culberson is no longer the Chair for the PCC Board. He completed his two-year term at the end of April and the new Chair is Suzanne Goldston from Chatham SWCD.

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

- **Quickbooks/Malware attack-**Durham County was able to recover the DSWCD Quickbook files up to January 2020. Lisa Marochak has entered all transaction from February to present and reconciled them with the bank.
- **Secretary/Treasurer-** A motion was made by David Harris to appoint Laura Marie Davis to be the Secretary/Treasurer for the Durham SWCD Board. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Audit date** – Lisa will send out the audit date to Laura Marie Davis, David Harris, and Talmage Layton. The audit needs to be completed by June 30.

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

Applications for Assistance

A motion was made by Danielle Adams to approve and batch the two applications for assistance listed below. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried

- 32-2020-517 (King) for grassed swale, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score 175.
- 32-2020-518 (Davis) for streambank stabilization, Ellerbe Creek, Neuse River, ranking score 180.

Spot Checks- The deadline for 2020 Annual Spot Checks was postponed until September 30th by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The board decided to move the spot checks to later date.

JAA (informational)

Jessica Perrin applied for Cistern Job Approval Authority, which will be voted on at the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting on May 20th.

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

Application for Assistance:

- A motion was made by Danielle Adams to approve the application for assistance for 32-2020-007 (Mathew Eagle) for manure spreader, ranking score 60. Laura Marie Davis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Contract:

- A motion was made by Laura Marie Davis to approve the contract for 32-2020-007, Mathew Eagle, manure spreader, \$12,600. David Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Spot Checks:

The deadline for 2020 Annual Spot Checks was postponed until September 30th by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The board decided to move the spot checks to later date.

2020 funds- All funds have been encumbered.

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

- **Riverside HS**
 - EEG Grant- submitted letter of intent
 - EEP Grant Funds- A motion was made by David Harris to approve for staff to seek \$382,000 in funding from EEP for pre and post water monitoring and to compare sediment to wetland pond.
- **Grove Park Project**- Piedmont Conservation Council submitted a letter of intent to EEG for this project.
- **Emergency Watershed Protection Program**-75% funding through the Division of Soil and Water. They are now taking bids on construction
- **Funds received and paid to vendors**- Lisa Marochak reported that since the last meeting the district received \$20,000 from DWR for the Marbrey/Jackson Project. \$20,000 was paid to the vendors.

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

- **Agriculture Economic Development (AED) Grant** -The AED grant committee had updated the grant application and it has been approved by the County Attorney. The next step for the committee is to set up a meeting to determine the grant release date for the application and the corresponding dates for the submittal of request from the community.
- **Farmland Protection Advisory Board (FPAB)**- last meeting was February 21. No new update.

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

- **Durham SWCD Environmental Education Conservation Bookmark Contest Entries**- Due to COVID-19 the due date was extended to May 18th at 5:00 pm.
- **Awards Celebration**- Due to COVID-19 the board will not be able to hold their Annual Awards Celebration Dinner. They suggested having a drive by awards celebration, giving the 1st and 2nd place winners a yard sign and the normal cash award. Also, the winners would be publicized on our website and facebook page. Lisa Marochak will contact teachers about the drive by awards celebration and get price quotes for the signs.
- **Pond Clinic**- Due to COVID-19 the 2020 Durham and Orange SWCD Pond Clinic was canceled.

J. Bahama Community Park Committee Update- David Harris and Danielle Adams provided updates:

- Went over what the committee has been working on.
- Danielle Adams reported that currently, there are three supervisors on the committee now that Laura Marie is an official supervisor. Danielle will talk to the committee to ensure that they blind copy everyone on emails and that only two members are present at meetings, so the Board complies with Roberts Rules of Order.

- K. **Central Regional Coordinator-** Allie Dinwiddie provided an NC Division of Soil and Water update to the board and guest.
- L. **NRCS Update-** NRCS Supervisory Soil Conservationist, Diana Irizarry presented a report to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **Public Hearing for 2020-2021 Durham SWCD Budget-** Lisa Marochak presented a draft of the 2020-2021 Budget. The budget will be voted on at the next Durham SWCD Board Meeting (June 1).
- B. **Associate Supervisors-** This item was tabled until the board can meet face to face.
- C. **Kitty fund-** David Harris reported that the board and staff need to think about replenishing the kitty. We have had three people to pass away since March and the district needs money to send flowers, cards, etc. to the families. Everyone agreed to replenish the funds.
A motion was made by David Harris to send a letter in honor of Raymond “Brother Ray” Eurquhart and Lynwood Faison to their families letting them know that we dedicated this meeting to them and had a moment of silence. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: The Chairman adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Durham SWCD Board Meeting – June 1, 2020 at 5:30 pm
(Please check our website for location)

Chairman

Senior Administrative Officer

Approval date