

**Durham Soil and Water Conservation District
721 Foster Street
Durham, NC 27701**

Meeting Number: 04 (District Meeting) Date: May 1, 2006
Meeting Number: 10 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chairman
Ray Eurquhart, Secretary/Treasurer
Tom Davidson, Supervisor
Brenda Howerton, Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lynwood Faison, Soil Conservationist
Millie H. Tilley, Office Manager
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist
Brent Bogue, District Conservationist
Barton Robertson, Piedmont RC&D Coordinator
Rudy Langley, Piedmont RC&D Council

1. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5: 35 PM.
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Supervisor Tom Davidson to approve the Minutes and receive the Financial Statement. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
 - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – No Report.
 - B. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Director Eddie Culberson reported the Advisory Board toured the Kings Mill II Dairy Farm at their last Farmland Protection meeting on April 21. Culberson stated the Farmland Protection Advisory Board is interested in doing tours of other agricultural operations in the near future. Culberson reported the County Commissioners, at their meeting, accepted the application for the Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program for Bill McFarland’s farm to sell the development rights on his 913 acres; and the Federal part of 50% is approximately 2.3 million dollars. Culberson reported that Mr. McFarland will be donating 25% and the County will be paying out approximately 1.15 million. Culberson reported we have a grant to pay for the breakfast and lunch at our Farmland workshop on May 20 at the Bahama Ruritan; we have also solicited door prizes for this event, and have some good speakers lined up.
 - C. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Rosenthal reported that the Board was discussing whether Durham was going to join the Urban Environmental Accords or Green Cities Declaration of the United Nations.
 - D. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison presented nine Sediment and Erosion Control Plans: Eight were adequate as follows: Wood Chapel Subdivision-Phase 2, Southpoint Urgent Care, Advance Auto Parts, Duke Basketball Practice Facility, The Woodlands Preserve Phase 2, Sec.1, NC 55 + Alexander Drive, Southern Oaks, and Imperial Point. One was inadequate as follows: Security Self Storage Phase II.
 - E. **Agricultural Cost Share Program** – No Report.

F. Stream Restoration – Culberson reported Clean Water reviewed our Lick Creek application on April 9th and 10th, and the only word we received was that it remains eligible. We also submitted our grant for construction on the RN Harris project on March 30 to Clean Water. Culberson stated that he and Jennifer would be working on a 319 Grant for stream restoration in front of the school. Culberson reported we have a new stream restoration project that is beginning in Bahama on Gerald Thacker’s property and we will be submitting a grant on June 1 with Clean Water. Culberson reported he would be drafting a letter to the Homeowners Association of the Forest Hills stream restoration project to inquire what their intentions are as far as completing the project. After some discussion, Rosenthal made the motion for Culberson to prepare the letter. Davidson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

G. Forestry – Not present.

H. Environmental Education – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported the Envirothon was held this past weekend for the State competition and our middle school team placed seventh and our high school team placed ninth. Brooks stated the Earth Day Booth didn’t do very well this year since it was raining. Brooks reported she has a rain barrel sale scheduled for June 3 at the Agricultural Building in the parking lot from 9:00 AM – 12 Noon and is taking orders now for anyone who wishes to buy a rain barrel. Brooks stated the 65-gallon barrels will cost \$83 each; retail price is \$147.00. Brooks reported she had received an application from a student for the RCW Workshop. Brooks stated they need counselors and wanted to know if the Board would pay for her to attend this one. After some discussion, Davidson made the motion for her to attend as a counselor. Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

I. NRCS Report – District Conservationist Brent Bogue reported he had been in conversation with Dick Fowler about the McFarland farm and stated that instead of spending the complete two million this year; they may fund a portion of McFarland’s track this year and fund the rest next year. Bogue reported he, Faison, and Culberson went to Kings Mill Farm last week because they want to expand their operation. Bogue stated we are trying to get them permitted for this. Bogue stated he had been in conversation with Mike Giles regarding an easement that will not happen in Durham and that money can be used toward another suitable site instead of returning the money.

J. Director’s Report – Culberson reported the Board had asked him to check into getting a conservation easement on the property that Bahama Fire Department owns adjacent to our donated property and they cannot do this, since that have an FHA loan on the property.

Culberson stated that we hope to close on the four tracks (six acres) this month. Culberson stated the attorney needs to acquire a gift deed and title insurance from the attorney representing Clayton Homes.

Culberson stated he had been in touch with Michael Whitehead of McGregor Development and he has indicated he has 7 ½ acres he wants to close on sometime in November or December.

Culberson reported they had gotten the bids back in on the Lake Vista project. One bid was for \$300,000 and the other for \$200,000. Culberson stated they went back to DOT and asked them to redesign it to use less concrete in the culverts and DOT obliged them and now they have resubmitted to the contractors to re-bid it.

Culberson stated that we had originally requested \$325,000 on the Green Roof project but only received \$100,000; therefore we have redeveloped the budget and now we will cut the amount of square footage down to two three thousand square foot sections on two different buildings.

Culberson reported that it is time for us to revisit the Annual Plan of Work and look at the objectives and see if we want add to or take away from it.

Culberson reminded the Board that we have a full board tonight and asked if they wanted to discuss the Employees Award Program. After some discussions, Howerton suggested that each staff make a recommendation and then they would compile them by the next board meeting on June 5.

4. New Business

K. RC&D Council – Culberson introduced out guest speakers, Barton Robertson, Piedmont RC&D Coordinator, based out of Graham and Rudy Langley, Councilman of the Piedmont RC&D Council. Culberson stated that Layton was elected Chairman for our proposed area and we were calling it the Tar-Neuse RC&D Council. We submitted an application three years ago and funding has not been there nor will it be there; therefore, we're asking the Piedmont RC&D Council to adopt us into theirs.

Mr. Rudy Langley stated that across the United States, there is a lot of pending RC&D Councils applied for and they are not going to be approved. Langley stated the outlook is even bleaker than it was a year ago because of the budget situation.

After some discussion, Davidson made a motion for us to be adopted into the Piedmont RC&D Council. Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

L. NCACSP Strategy Plan – Faison reported he had completed the Strategy Plan for next fiscal year's cost share program and we are requesting \$152,410 and asked the Board for their approval. Davidson made the motion to approve. Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Layton reported he had met with Henry Lancaster who is in the process of setting up a meeting with the legislative staff to meet with the governor. Layton reported they had discussed dividing the tent up into eight areas and have the counties listed in each area, so when the legislator comes in they will know which part of the tent to come eat. Layton stated the Conservation Awareness Day will be held May 31 from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM.

With no further business, Davidson moved the meeting be adjourned at 7: 00 PM. Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent

Next Meeting:

Monday June 5, 2006 at 5:30 PM

Agricultural Building, Upstairs Conference Room

Talmage Layton

Robert Rosenthal

Chairman

Vice Chairman

State Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Department of Environment and Natural Resources,
PO Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611-7687