

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

Meeting Number: 3(District Meeting) Date: April 4, 2011
Meeting Number: 8(for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chairman
Danielle Adams, Secretary/Treasurer
Ray Eurquhart, Supervisor
Curtis Richardson, Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer
Jennifer Brooks, Soil Conservationist/EE Coordinator
Mike Dupree, Ag Development/Watershed Conservationist
Matthew Kinane – NRCS- District Conservationist

The regular monthly meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Monday April 4, 2011, and called to order at 5:33 pm by the Vice Chairman. The meeting was held at the Soil & Water office, the Vice Chairman was present.

1. Minutes and Financial Report – A motion was made by Danielle Adams to accept the financial statement Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Danielle Adams to approve the minutes. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

2. Old Business

Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update – Danielle Adams reported on the following:

- Missed last meeting (March) due to scheduling conflict.
- UNRB is in the process of hiring a nationally recognized consultant.
- Workgroup- Is going to make a recommendation to the UNRBA board to discuss the hiring of the new consultant

A. Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update –Robert Rosenthal reported on the following:

- EAB did not have a full board meeting since the last Soil & Water Board Meeting.
- Work session was held to discuss the NC Save Plan. The majority of EAB members are not in favor of this plan.

C. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans –Jennifer Brooks reported that since the last meeting they have had 6 plans and all 6 plans were adequate as follows: Greystone Baptist Church, Coulter Jewell Thames, NC 54 Veterinary Clinic, Kitt Creek Commons- Outparcel B, Smart Sustainable Sites- Duke Smart House, and Family Dollar.

D. Agricultural Cost Share Program- Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:

- **Spot Check** – need to do the annual spot check sometime in June. Lisa Marochak will send out possible dates to the board.
- **Contract Oversight**-
 - Found a contracting error
 - Farmer reimbursed the state. Payment has been submitted to the Division of Soil & Water

E. CCAP – Watershed Conservationist, Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- Has 1 Application for Assistance for Creek Side Elementary PTA for a rain garden. A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to approve the Application of Assistance as presented. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent

- The Division of Soil & Water had \$80,000 in Clean Water funds that needed to be reallocated to districts. Durham SWCD received \$14,872 of these funds. The projects with these funds will have to be completed by December 31st 2011.
- **Projects currently being engineered** Patton Stream Bank/ estimate \$13,000
Greenberg Diversion \$5,000
- **CCAP funds for FY2012** – Durham SWCD will receive \$7,117 in EEG Grant funds July 2011.

F. Administrative Officer– Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

- **Conservation Sale**- On April 9th Marochak will hold a Conservation Sale in conjunction with the County sustainability office's Lawn-mower/yard equipment trade-in event. The event will take place at Northern High School from 10am-3pm.
- **Awards Banquet**- Neil Frank confirmed that the Bahama Ruritan is available on Thursday, June 2nd. Lisa is still working on a caterer for the event.
 - **Giveaway items**- Staff would like to purchase rain gauges with our name, address, and website and phone number. A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to purchase 250 rain gauges at \$1.85 each. Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Pond Clinic**- Date has been set for Saturday, June 11th 9am-12pm.
- **Red Wigglers**- Marochak reported that she is doing a lot of Vermicomposting classes in the schools and would like to have a worm bin to keep in the office. A motion was made by Danielle Adams to allow Marochak to spend up to \$30 on materials for a worm bin. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

G. Environmental Education- Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:

- **Envirothon** –The Area IV Envirothon was held March 25th at Johnston Soil & Water. Durham had 3 teams to place in the top 7 and they will be advancing on to the State Envirothon competition on April 29th-30th.
- **Poster Contest/Essay/Public Speaking** –Area IV held their Public Speaking competition on March 9th and Durham came away with the 8th grade 1st place winner. The State Public Speaking contest will take place in Raleigh on May 13th and the 1st place winner from Durham will advance on to this competition. We had several winners in the Area IV poster contest: 1st place 3rd grade poster winner, 4th grade 2nd place winner and 6th grade 1st place winner!
- **R.N. Harris Field Day** - Will be held April 13th at R.N. Harris Elementary School.

H. Durham Farmland Protection- Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

- **Comprehensive Plan**- Kathleen Snyder attended the last meeting and went over the Comprehensive plan with the Board. A subcommittee of the Farmland Board is planning to meet on April 6th at 8am to discuss updates to the Comprehensive Plan.
- **Next meeting**- The next meeting date is scheduled for April 21st at 8am.

I. Stream Restoration – Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

- **Sandy Creek Phase V**
 - ❖ Met with Christy Sokol FEMA Flood representative for Durham County on March 30th. A plat review is needed and will cost around \$700.
- **Stirrup Iron Creek**
 - ❖ Kevin Boyer with CWMTF caught a mistake on the Amendment for the Stirrup Iron Creek Project (CWMTF project # 2008-402). A new Amendment is in the process of being drafted up by CWMTF. A motion was made by Danielle Adams to allow a Durham SWCD Board Supervisor to sign the amendment between meetings. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

J. Watershed Rules – Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **Falls Monitoring meeting-** Next monitoring meeting is canceled for April. TJ Cog has to go back to the 205j contract to see if DWQ will fund the Monitoring group since the groups directive has changed
 - a. Reasons for Change
 - The UNRBA work group is recommending to the UNRBA board that a “Nationally recognized Watershed Consultant” be hired to review monitoring data
- Registration for Agriculture producers in the Neuse river basin began January 15th 2011. Ag producers will have twelve months to register.
- **319 Grant-**Working on 319 grant (draft) for interns and starting a nutrient management education program and cistern /micro irrigation feasibility study. Grant has been submitted for early review in March.
- Draft of Monitoring and BMP grant is in process, Presented Rough draft to orange S&W they are going to discuss with their board. Mike is going to the Orange SWCD Board meeting on April 27th to ask for a letter of support for the monitoring grant.

K. NRCS Report –Matt Kinane reported on the following:

- **EQIP, WHIP, CSP, FRPP and AWEP**– batching period has closed for FY 2011
 - Applications for all programs are accepted continuously.
- **Local Work Group-** Durham SWCD will need to convene a Local Work Group Meeting for FY2012 conservation programs in the very near future.
- **Budget-** Federal Government is currently working on a budget for FY2012
- **Conservation Compliance-** NRCS will be conducting conservation compliance checks for several tracts in Durham County.
- **CRP-** Applications are currently being accepted by the USDA Farm Service Agency. The deadline for general sign-up is Friday April 15, 2011.

L. Director’s Report – Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

- **County Budget**–
 - ❖ Budget hearing was held March 21st at 8:30am. We took our cuts from Travel & Training, Farmland, Dues and Subscription and Beaver Management.
- **Cooperative Extension Breakfast-**
 - ❖ Was held on March 23rd and Culberson was in attendance
 - ❖ Really enjoyed the booths they had highlighting their many programs.

3. New Business:

- A. **Letter of support-** Mike Dupree asked the board for a letter of support for Jordan 319 grant application. The board asked Mike to draft a letter of support and send it out to the board via email.
- B. **District Land-** Culberson reported that Northern Junior Athletic Association (NJAA) has approached the district staff about building a park on the district land. The late Dr. Marie Roberts indicated in the easement that she wanted 20 acres of the 48 acres to be designated for a community park. CWMTF is in the process of looking at the easement language to see what if anything can be cleared on the land. Danielle Adams reported that she would like the board to require sustainability practices be maintained on the property at all times. The board concurred that at this time they think the board should seek help from an attorney. A motion was made by Curtis Richardson to allow staff to pay a consultation fee for an attorney if one cannot be found to do it pro bono. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- C. **Legislative Day-** Danielle Adams reported that she attended the Legislative day for Soil & Water on March 16th Danielle reported that she was very disappointed in the small amount of Supervisors that showed up for Legislative Day.
- D. **North Durham Park** – Eddie Culberson and Ray Eurquhart walked the park and found serious drainage problems.

4. **Adjourn:** The chairman adjourned at 6:56PM.

Next Meeting: May 2nd at 5:30pm

Robert Rosenthal - Vice Chairman