

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 01 (District Meeting) Date: February 4, 2008
Meeting Number: 07 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chairman
Ray Eurquhart, Secretary/Treasurer
Curtis Richardson, Supervisor
Brenda Howerton, Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist
Lynwood Faison, Soil Conservationist
Roger Hansard, Associate Supervisor
Brent Bogue, NRCS District Conservationist
Kathryn Spann, Associate Supervisor
Gus Gray, Associate Supervisor
Julie Elmore, RC&D Coordinator

1. Chairman Talmage Layton called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5:37 PM
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to accept the Financial Statement. Supervisor Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Supervisor Curtis Richardson to approve the minutes. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
 - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal reported that they are considering hiring someone to help the member organizations on how they are going to have to deal with the new water regulations.
Rosenthal reported that he will not be able to attend the next Upper Neuse Meeting Wednesday, March 19th at 11:30 so he is asking for any board member that can take his place to please let him know ASAP other wise he will have to call an alternate from Raleigh to attend the meeting. Supervisor Brenda Howerton volunteered to attend the meeting and represent the district.
 - B. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that the last Farmland board meeting was December 6th. We submitted an application to the NC Department of Agriculture for purchase of development rights on two farms. 1 application is for Roger Tilley and the other is for Bill McFarland's Farm. A third application was submitted by the district to place an easement on 225 acres of Gerald Thacker's Farm.
Culberson reported that we are trying to finalize the Annual report for the Farmland Protection Board so we can take it to the County Commissioners.
Culberson reported that we have the points system coming up because we have more applicants than the County has money to match. The points system will help determine for the County who is the best applicant to put the match towards.
Culberson reported that the next Farmland Protection meeting is scheduled for February 14th 8:00am at the Soil and Water conference room.

- C. Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** –Vice Chairman Rosenthal reported that the City and County Commissioners want the EAB to do quarterly reports on how the Greenhouse Gas Committee is doing on the greenhouse gas project.
- D. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that since the last meeting he has reviewed nineteen Soil and Erosion Control Plans and eighteen were adequate as follows: United Therapeutics- off site road expansion; RANA, LLC office building; Lowe’s of South Durham; Brightleaf at the Park- Tract 2; Highland Park (on-site) subdivision; Patterson Place Phase II; 108 Alexander Drive; Brightleaf Tract 7, Phase I, II & III; Voyager Academy Charter School; Merck Manufacturing Vaccination Facility- 102 (Phase 1A); Merck Temporary Parking & site Logistics Plan; MLK- Fayetteville Rd widening; Triangle Metro Center Sanitary Sewer Outfall “A”; Four Seasons at Renaissance; Hope Valley Ridge Subdivision; Duke Community Congregated Living Facility Hospice; Eagles Mart and New Haven At the Park. One was inadequate due to no seeding plan- Union Baptist Church Independent School.
- E. Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that there is no new contract since we last met but he did want to give an update on the Dry Stack for Ellen Zimmer. Faison reported that Ellen Zimmer has cleared about ½ of the manure from the Dry Stack site and the other half still needs to be removed before anything else can be done. Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann reported that she will speak with Gerald Thacker about getting the waste removed from the Ellen Zimmer property ASAP.
Faison also reported that the Kings Mill Dairy Farm/David Faulk Dry Stack is waiting on design approval from NRCS engineer.
Faison reported that the AG Cost Share Program for the division has sent us some surveys. They want the Chairman to fill out one, a landowner and himself before Feb. 8th.
- F. Stream Restoration**
- a. RN Harris Project** – Culberson reported that the manmade constructed wetland is being funded by CWMTF. The Stream Restoration part is funded by the Division of Water Resources. Baker is the engineering firm and they have asked us to enter into an agreement just like we did with the Thacker Project. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to approve the contract from Baker Engineering Firm on the RN Harris Project. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
Culberson reported that on Thursday, February 7th Ray Eurquhart, a representative from Baker Engineering and himself will be attending the school board meeting 5:00pm at Creekside Elementary. At that time any questions that the board has about the project will be presented to us.
 - b. Sandy Creek Project-** Culberson reported that on reach 1 phase IV of Sandy Creek Baker Engineering Firm is asking us to enter into an agreement. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to approve the contract from Baker Engineering Firm on the Sandy Creek Project. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - c. Grants** – Culberson reported that we submitted two grants to CWMTF last Friday. One was for Phase V of the Sandy Creek Project. The total of the grant submitted was for \$1,059,300 on a 4 thousand ft. section. The other grant we submitted is for John R. McAdams on a 400 acre track that they are going to be developing. We are looking at doing the Stream Restoration before the land is developed. The total submitted was around \$600,000.
Culberson reported he will be submitting a grant application to the state to place an easement on 225 acres for Gerald Thacker. He stated that there are eight entities partnering on the project.
- G. Forestry** –No report, Wayne Williams County Ranger was not present.
- I. Environmental Education-** Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that the Community Conservation Assistance program sent out an allocation request form asking us to come up with a number of how much money we think we want to use between now and June 30th to get a project on the

ground & done. The money will be given to us by the end of the month but it has to be done by the end of the fiscal year.

Brooks reported that we will be doing Poster & Essay judging on February 18th from 9am-12pm and Public Speaking Judging on February 25th 4pm-5pm. Brooks reported that last year the board gave us \$50 to help pay for food for the judges and we are asking for \$50 again this year. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to give \$50 to the staff to buy food for the judges. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Brooks reported that the Area IV Envirothon is March 14th in Cary at Bond Park. We are in need of volunteers, sponsors for food and VIP guest so if you know of anyone that you think would be willing to give money or any legislator for the VIP guest list please let us know ASAP.

Brooks reported that Earth Day is April 19th and we will have a booth again. We are in need of volunteers to help work at the booth so if anyone is interested please let us know.

- J. Administrative Officer**– Lisa Marochak reported that the Area IV Spring meeting is going to be held on February 28th in Franklin County. If you would like to attend the Spring Meeting please let her know before Feb 15th. The cost of the meeting is \$25 each.

Marochak reported that we set the banquet date at the last board meeting for May 16th at 6:30pm. Chairman of the Farmland Board Neil Frank is going to call Bahama Ruritan Club and try to reserve the building for the banquet. We should know by tomorrow if he was able to get the building or not.

Marochak reported that we have a band set up to play at the banquet. The name of the band is the Bethesda Bluegrass Band. The band members are some of the Envirothon kids/parents. The band has agreed to play for free but they will accept a donation. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to pay the band \$100 for there time and gas. Supervisor Curtis Richardson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Marochak reported that last year the board gave us \$25 to buy Earth Day supply's to use in the classrooms and we are in need of some additional supplies this year. Supervisor Brenda Howerton made a motion to allow the staff to purchase up to \$25 for Earth Day supplies. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Marochak reported that we had our tree seedling sale on January 24th and we had some trees left over due to the drought. The trees we had left over we donated to several local schools (Little River Elementary, EK Powe Elementary, W.G. Pearson Middle School and Central Park School for Children).

Marochak reported that the next Rain Barrel sale will be held on Saturday, March 8th 9am-12pm. The sale will be at the corner of Hunt and Foster St in downtown Durham.

Marochak reported that membership dues for the DEA are due now. If you would like to join please send Lisa \$10 so she can pay your dues.

- K. NRCS Report** – Brent Bogue NRCS District Conservationist reported that Dick Fowler retired and Greg Walker who was the area resource conservationist in Goldsboro has taken Dick's place. Greg Walker is now in charge of the Farm Ranchland Protection Program. Brent reported that he met with Jane Korest, Greg Walker & Lynn Morota this morning to discuss the Bill McFarland Farm. Bogue reported that they also talked about Roger Tilley and the old Arthur Tilley Farm that he has recently purchased. Roger Tilley wants to put an easement on the Old Tilley Farm. Bogue reported that Neil Frank Chairman of the Farmland Protection Board also wants to put his farm in an easement.

- L. Director's Report** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that Lake Vista is not going to be completed because they have run out of money. Ben Wilson and the homeowners association met yesterday and they are telling us that the Homeowners Association is ok with a walk way being paved over top of the dam and not a road. DOT will not approve for the road to be paved because it has dips because of the spill way and the dam is too high. Culberson reported that he spoke with Tasha at DOT and she said that they would like for it to be finished but since it's not she is asking her supervisors to approve the project. Culberson reported that he asked Tasha to send the District Board a letter releasing us from any obligation to this project. Tasha said that it would be a couple of months before we would see a letter. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to release the \$12,000 to the Homeowners Association after we receive the letter from DOT releasing us from any obligation. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Culberson reported that our Chairman Talmage Layton won the Supervisor of the Year Award at the Annual Meeting in Asheville on January 6th. The Annual meeting will be at RTP in Durham next year so hopefully everyone will be able to attend.

Culberson reported that it is County budget season again. Culberson went over the things that we are planning to ask for in addition to what we asked for last year. One of the items we will need is a copier because ours is old and the company that maintains the copier is no longer going to service it after November 2008. We decided to table the discussion on the copier until the next meeting so Marochak can have time to ask other districts/departments if they charge for people to use the copier or not. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion that the board would like to start charging people that use the copier from outside of our organization after doing some research. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Culberson reported that the numbers are due March 7 and our budget hearing with the County Manager is between March 19 and April 4.

Culberson reported that the State of The County Address was on January, 28th Rosenthal, Howerton & himself attended. Soil & Water was on a couple slides.

4. New Business

- A. **Election of new officers** – Chairman Talmage Layton reported that we usually elect new officers in December but since we didn't do so we need to elect them now. There being no further nominations Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion by acclamation to keep the officers the same. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- B. **EEP Contract**– Culberson reported that we have an opportunity to enter into a contract with the Ecosystem Enhancement Program again. EEP will find streams that are in our County that they are interested in doing mitigation sites on. If we enter into the contract we can get paid for walking the stream and report back to them what we find. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion for the board to enter into a contract with EEP. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- C. **Associate Supervisor** – Chairman Talmage Layton introduced Kathryn Spann to the board. Spann is an international lawyer and also owner of a farm here in Durham County. Spann has expressed an interest in joining our board as an Associate Supervisor. Supervisor Brenda Howerton made a motion to approve Kathryn Spann to become an Associate Supervisor for the board. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- D. **Piedmont RC&D Cord.** - Chairman Talmage Layton introduced the new Piedmont RC& D Coordinator, Julie Elmore. Elmore gave the board a brief background on herself and she also talked to the board about her role as Piedmont RC& D Coordinator and what this means for the board and staff.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, Layton adjourned at 7:51 PM

Next Meeting: **Monday March 3rd at 5:30 PM**

Talmage Layton
Chairman

Robert Rosenthal
Vice Chairman

Division of Soil and Water Conservation District
1614 Mail Service CTR, Raleigh, NC 27699-1614