

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

Meeting Number: 01(District Meeting) Date: February 3, 2010
Meeting Number: 06(for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chairman
Ray Eurquhart, Supervisor
Danielle Adams, Secretary/Treasurer
Kathryn Spann- Associate Supervisor

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist
Lynwood Faison- Soil Conservationist
Matt Kinane, NRCS District Conservationist
Steve Bennett- Area Coordinator
Julie Elmore- Piedmont RC&D Coordinator

The regular monthly meeting of the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District Board was held on Wednesday February 3, 2010, and called to order at 1:09 pm by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil & Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

1. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to accept the Financial Statement and approve the minutes. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

2. **Old Business**
 - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – Ray Eurquhart- no new business since last meeting.

 - B. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** –Robert Rosenthal reported that they didn't have a general board meeting last month but the committees did meet. A retreat will be held on March 4th for the EAB to set goals for the next year and get to know new committee members better.

 - C. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** –Lynwood Faison reported that since the last meeting they have had 5 plans and 3 were adequate as follows: Hampton Inn & Suites @Northgate, Neal Farm Subdivision- South side of Neal Rd. and Triangle Veterinary Emergency Clinic. 2 plans were inadequate as follows: Epworth United Methodist Church- Junction of University Dr. & Oxford Dr- No silt fence; J&R Pawn Shop, Inc- Holloway Street- no seeding plan.

 - D. **Agricultural Cost Share Program**
 - **NC Soil & Water Commission Policy**- Eddie Culberson passed out two new policies that will be voted on at the next Commission meeting.
 - **Ag Cost Share Contract**- Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - * Has 1 application for assistance for Milton Gaynard. The application is for a well for watering live stock. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to approve application 32/10/03/09. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - * Has 1 contract for approval for Milton Gaynard on Ag contract # 32/10/03/09 for a well for watering live stock in the amount of \$4,388. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to approve contract # 32/10/03/09. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

E. CCAP – Watershed Conservationist, Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:

- Has 1 contract 32/10/509/09 that was approved at the December board meeting pending signatures of owners but contract was never signed.
- Has a contract that needs to be approved. The contract is for 2 cisterns in the amount of \$4,314. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to approve contract #32/10/509/09. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

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

- **Area IV Spring Meeting-** The Area IV spring meeting will take place on February 25th at Johnston SWCD. The cost is \$20 each before February 18th. After February 18th the cost is \$25 per person. Lisa Marochak passed out a letter from James Ferguson the NCASWCD President to the Supervisors. The letter encourages all supervisors to attend their area spring meetings.
- **Tree seedling sale-** Durham SWCD held their Annual tree seedling sale on January 14th. This year the district gave away over 800 tree seedling to local schools.
- **NCASWCD (survey) –** Michael Pardue, NCCDEA President got to sit on a committee at the NACD National Conference that is working with the Aycock Group who is developing a Strategic Plan for the selection of an Executive Director for NCASWCD. Michael Pardue is asking district staff to work with their supervisors in gathering information of needs those supervisors feel are necessary and take the information to the spring meeting.
- **Envirothon –**Durham Soil & Water is hosting the Area IV Envirothon on March 26th. Volunteers are needed to help out the day of the event. Please contact Eddie Culberson if you would like to sign up to help. Lisa Marochak reported that she attended the last Farm Bureau meeting on January 14th and they graciously donated \$1,000 to the Area IV Envirothon.
- **Awards Banquet –** The Annual Awards Banquet will be held this year on May 21st. Talmage Layton is going to try and reserve the Redwood Ruritan Club.

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

- **Envirothon Teams –** This year Durham SWCD will have 3 middle school teams and 8 high school teams competing in the Envirothon.
- **Poster, Essay & Public Speaking –** The local judging of the poster and essay contest will take place on February 17th at 2pm. The local public speaking contest judging will take place at 3:30pm on February 17th. Jennifer Brooks reported that we are in need of snacks for the judges. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to allow staff to spend up to \$50 on snacks for the judges. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

H. Durham Farmland Protection- Kathryn Spann (Farmland Board Chair) reported on the following:

- **County Commissioner Forum –** working on setting up a County Commissioner forum this spring.
- **Legislative Tour-** working on setting up a tour was local legislators, possibly late February, early March.
- **TV –** Commissioner Becky Heron reported at the last farmland meeting that she would like to see Talmage Layton and Kathryn Spann talk about Farmland and Soil & Water on the County TV station.
- **Tilley Farm Easement –** closed on this easement mid December.
- **Farmland Plan-** The Farmland plan was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners at the December 14th BOCC meeting. The board and staff applauded Jennifer Brooks for all of the hard work and time she put into putting the plan together.

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

- 1) **Lick Creek –** The contractor moved in equipment last week.
- 2) **Thacker Project-** The stream restoration project should start next week.
- 3) **Sandy Creek Phase V-** CWMTF application for Sandy Creek Phase V submitted January 29 in the amount of \$610,900. The total cost of the project is \$1,790,800.

J. Area Coordinator- Steve Bennett reported on the following:

1) Computer seat chart survey- will be conducting a computer seat survey with all district employees within the next couple of weeks.

K. NRCS Report - Matt Kinane, NRCS District Conservationist reported on the following:

- **2008 Farm Bill** – Matt passed out information on the 2008 Farm Bill.
- **EQIP and WHIP-** the application period closed on January 15th. All applications will be ranked by mid February 2010.
- **CRP** – The Raleigh Field Office has been assisting the USDA Farm Service Agency in the updating and correction of the CRP Contracts. This process is 50% complete.
- **Personnel Changes with NRCS-** J.B Martin is the acting State Conservationist.
- **Important dates:**
 - February 12, 2010 = application for the “Seasonal High Tunnel Systems” possible funding FY 2010.
 - March 12, 2010 = application for the “Organic Initiative” possible funding FY 2010.
 - April 1, 2010 = Obligation deadline for all EQIP applications except for those in the “Organic Initiative.

L. Piedmont RC&D – Julie Elmore reported on the following

- **Grants** – has applied for 1.3 million dollars in grant money this year. Out of the 1.3 million, 70 thousand will be coming to Durham for a FAB lab.
- **RC&D budget** – The president has zeroed out the RC&D budget again this year.

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

- **County Budget** – We have been asked to cut 3% from our County budget this year. A budget retreat will be held on February 18th.
- **District of the Year-** Durham Soil and Water received a plaque at the Annual Meeting on January 4th for winning District of the Year.
- **Ray Eurquhart** – Eddie Culberson presented district supervisor Ray Eurquhart with a Service Award/plaque for 15 years of service with the NCASWCD.
- **Lynwood Faison** – Lynwood Faison’s last day with Durham SWCD is April 30th. A retirement party is planned for April 15th from 2pm-4pm. The staff is in need of some monetary help in hosting the retirement party. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to allow the staff to spend up to \$300 on Lynwood Faison’s retirement party. Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

3. New Business: Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

A. Jordan Lake Rules- The Division of Soil & Water Conservation has secured funding for district’s assistance with implementation of the agricultural rule in the recently adopted Jordan Lake Nutrient Sensitive Waters Strategy through the support of a 319 grant. If Durham SWCD enters into the service contract with the division they will be paid \$5,250 the 1st year and \$3,500 the second year. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal for the Durham Soil & Water Conservation District to enter into a service contract with the division. Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

4. Adjourn: The chairman adjourned at 3:12 PM.

Next Meeting: March 1, 2010 at 5:30pm

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Robert Rosenthal

Vice Chairman