

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 02 (District Meeting) Date: April 7, 2008
Meeting Number: 08 (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

1. Chairman Talmage Layton called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5:40 PM
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to accept the Financial Statement. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to approve the minutes. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
 - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – Supervisor Brenda Howerton reported that she attended the last meeting in Robert Rosenthal place. Howerton reported that at the meeting they were given updates and new notebooks. Howerton also reported that at the meeting they gave updates on the water situation.
 - B. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that the last Farmland Board Meeting was March 18th. Culberson reported that at the March 18th meeting they elected officers and Neil Frank is still the Chairman and Talmage Layton is the Vice Chairman. Culberson reported that the Farmland Board had a chance to get some 2008 Farm and Ranch Land Program Funds and you can only participate in 2008 if you participated in 2007. Durham County and the Piedmont Land Conservancy were the only two entities that actually participated that year. They have been able to secure some money for easements in Durham County from the 2008 Farm and Ranch Land Program Funds. They finished out Bill McFarland's Farm for \$325,000, Roger Tilley \$210,000 for a permanent easement and they have started Neil Franks farm they were able to get \$130,000 of the \$840,000 needed. Culberson reported that the next Farmland Protection meeting is scheduled for April 24th 8:00am at the Soil and Water conference room.
Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart reported that he is the representative for the District Board on the Farmland Protection Board but since the meetings are 8:00am it is hard for him to make the meeting. Eurquhart reported that he would like to recommend Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann to take his place. Supervisor Curtis Richardson made a motion for Kathryn Spann to take Ray Eurquhart's place as a representative from the Soil and Water Board on the Farmland Protection Board. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- C. Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** –Vice Chairman Rosenthal reported that they have added a building award to the Golden Leaf Program called Stainable Property’s that is going to be on the next set of awards. Rosenthal reported that we have 11 nominations and tomorrow the Green Building Committee is going to narrow that down to the finalist for the Golden Leaf Judges. Rosenthal reported that the City has hired a Sustainability Coordinator. Rosenthal reported that they are getting ready to be the official Stormwater Advisory Committee for the City. They discovered that they need this committee to get their license approved. Rosenthal reported that they were the host for an Ellerbe Creek Community Workshop for their last meeting. Rosenthal reported that they ended up putting out a report after the meeting on what we thought the City and County should do in relations to the Bio AG Defense Facility in Granville County. The main thing was to get more answers and Environmental impact statement.
- D. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that since the last meeting he has reviewed twelve Sediment and Erosion Control Plans and twelve were adequate as follows: Glen lake Phase 1A; Ample Storage Bennett Memorial Road; BCBS Corporate Facility and Parking Deck; Ellington place-1; Crown Honda; BCBS University Place Rd; Outdoor Structures; 1002 Andrews Chapel Rd. Fill site-Bobby Clayton Property; Scarborough & Harget Funeral Home; TTA Bus Transfer Facility; Cook Road Townhomes; SECU- Guess Rd.
- E. Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that there are no new applications since we last met. Faison reported that we have made some progress on Ellen Zimmer’s Dry Stack and we are supposed to get it surveyed soon. Faison reported that the Dry Stack at Kings Mill Dairy has the foundation in and the walls have been put up. The roof has been ordered and should be in soon. Faison reported that we need to decide how we want to do the spot check this year. Faison reported that it has to be done before June 30th. The board decided to let the staff pick the date and email it to them.
- F. Stream Restoration** – Culberson reported that Kathryn Spann & he met with Ernie Warner and Michael Whitehead last week over in Raleigh to discuss the Lick Creek Project. We have been having trouble getting them to finalize the easement because they have been a little scared of the wording. Kathryn talked to Warner and Whitehead about their concerns and after a few minor changes they are willing to sign now. Culberson reported that Warner and Whitehead had a question about if the FEMA map was going to change so tomorrow he will be meeting with Will Harmon and the FEMA representative for the County. Culberson reported that we are applying for the permits on the RN Harris Project and we are going before the school board because they have agreed to sign the easement on this project. Our goal is to install this project over the summer while the students are out of school. Culberson reported that they met out at Sandy Creek on March 13th to look at possible lanes to take in the equipment because they are getting ready to start that project. This project is scheduled to start in June.
- G. Forestry** –No report, Wayne Williams County Ranger was not present.
- H. CCAP** – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that Durham was awarded \$32,091 this year from CCAP (Community Conservation Assistance Program). Durham received the most money out of all the other counties from the CCAP Funds that came from the legislation and the CCAP funds that came from a grant. We received \$6,754 from the CCAP Legislative funds and \$25,337 from the CCAP grant. The \$6,754 that was received from the Legislative Funds must be encumbered by June 4, 2008 so that does not give us a lot of time. The \$25,337 has to be spent by June 30, 2010. We will be getting a new allotment July 1, 2008 when the new budget goes in effect. This money is for rain gardens, cisterns, etc. There are 15 practices that CCAP will fund and they have already set an average cost, percentage and cap for the 15 practices that we can be awarded. Brooks reported that this program is modeled after the AG Cost Share Program. Brooks reported that we need to develop some sort of ranking system on how to rank the projects. Brooks reported that Culberson and she have a draft ranking system for the board to look at. Brooks reported that so far we have applications on 4 different projects and Brooks

reported that she ranked them to see how they would fall in the points. Brooks reported that the 4 projects she ranked are 3 cistern projects and a rain garden project. Culberson reported that you have the option to put a cap on what an individual can receive. The board decided not to put a cap on the money at this time. Brooks reported that we need a batching period from now until May 15th. Brooks suggested that what ever projects we get between now and May 15th make them our priority for this first \$6,754 and after that we can review this again. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to use the draft ranking system and what ever projects we get between now and May 15th will be priority. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Brooks reported that staff needs to start advertising in newspapers, radios, etc. to help get the word out about the CCAP program. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart reported that this should not cost the district anything. Eurquhart reported that we can advertise free in the Herald Sun and PSA.

The board decided to let Culberson, Brooks, Hansard & Richardson meet to discuss the CCAP practices and if there needs to be a cap in place or not.

- I. Environmental Education-** Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that Big Sweep wants us to put in our order for t-shirts early this year. Brooks reported that she would like to purchase 25 t-shirts for team leaders and the Big Volunteers. The t-shirts are \$10 per shirt so the total cost will be \$250. Brooks reported that whatever shirts we don't give out we can return and get a refund. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to purchase 25 team leader shirts to give out. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Brooks reported that the Resource Conservation Workshop will be held the end of June and if we get a student or two before the next board meeting you will need to vote on it then. The cost will be \$350 per student.

Brooks reported that this past Fall Marochak and she became certified to teach Food, Land and People workshops and we would like to conduct a Food, Land & People workshop on an annual basis. The workshops will be for local teachers and educators. Brooks reported that we would like to request that \$800 be put into the State Budget for reoccurring funds to pay for 1 Annual teacher workshop every year. The board asked that Brooks and Marochak give them a break down of the charges at the next board meeting and they will go from there.

Brooks reported that the Envirothon was held on March 14th at Bond Park in Cary. Brooks reported that 5 out of our 8 teams placed to go to the State Envirothon that will be held on April 25 and 26th. Brooks reported that we always pay for the teams to go to the State Envirothon and there is a \$50 registration fee so it would be a total of \$250. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to pay the \$250 registration fee for the 5 teams to go to the State Envirothon. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- J. Administrative Officer-** Lisa Marochak reported that Earth Day is on April 19th from 12pm-6pm. Marochak reported that we will have a booth again this year at the Earth Day festival and we are in need of some volunteers to help us at the booth. If you are interested in helping out please contact Lisa ASAP. Marochak reported that we normally have items to give away at the Earth Day Festival but we do not have anything to give the kids this year. Marochak reported that she found some 4 packs of crayons that cost .33 cents each imprinted with our name, web address and phone number. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to allow Marochak to purchase 750 packs of crayons. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Marochak reported that the Awards Banquet is going to be held on May 16th at the Bahama Ruritan Club. Marochak reported that since everyone is trying to go green it would be appropriate to have a give away at our banquet that ties in with that. Marochak reported that instead of using Styrofoam cups that will clog up our land fills that we should purchase everyone that attends the banquet a cup that has the Durham Soil and Water's name, web address and phone #. Marochak reported that the cups that she found are yellow and they turn green when something cold is poured into them. The cost of the cups will be .79 cents each with a set up fee of \$40 plus shipping. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to allow the staff to purchase 250 cups at .79cents each for the banquet. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Marochak reported that on March 29th we had our Pond Clinic and despite the rain and cold weather we had a record breaking attendance of 52 people. Marochak reported that Lynwood Faison needs to be commended for the money he got donated to help pay for the rental of the tent and port-a-john and all of the hard work he did organizing the Pond Clinic.

K. NRCS Report – Brent Bogue NRCS District Conservationist reported that we still don't have a Farm bill and the cut off deadline is April 18th. We should know soon if they are going to pass the Farm Bill or just extend it. Bogue reported that he met with Hill Forest after the last board meeting and they have a lot of issues like erosion and stream crossing. Bogue reported that this could be a potential RC&D project.

L. Director's Report – Director Eddie Culberson reported that RC&D is having a meeting on April 29th from 6pm-8pm to talk about long range goals. Culberson reported that Talmage Layton, Wendy Jacobs (representative from City Council) and he will be going. Culberson reported that we are in need of an At Large person and a County Commissioner to serve on that committee.

Culberson reported that the Blue Devil Venture Project/ Green roof Project will begin to start planting the plants the first week in May. There was a delay in planting the plants due to the drought situation.

Culberson reported that he is recommending that we give Anita Bahe and her Engineering Firm the Golden Star Award this year for all the work they have done on this project.

Culberson reported that he talked with Tasha Johnson again about the Lake Vista Project and asked her if she can get the District Board a letter relieving the district of any liability and especially regarding repaying the \$125,000. Johnson is going to talk with one of her supervisors to see if she can make that happen. Culberson reported that the Lake Vista Project is not going to be completed because they have run out of funds so the road has been closed. Culberson reported that the citizens that live in the community are going to pay to put a walkway in place of the road.

Culberson reported that we have an opportunity to get reimbursed from the state CREP Program and they will pay you so much for a permanent easement, a site selection and GPA data collection. Culberson reported that we got our first participant this year with Gerald Thacker so this could bring some funds to the district. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion that we participate in the CREP Spotting Program. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

4. New Business

A. (ECWA) Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association Easements – Culberson reported that Diana Teten the Executive Director for the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association came to us a couple of months back and wanted us to hold a couple of easements. One of the easements is for the Bobby Roberts Project and Ray Eurquhart, Teten and Culberson all went and looked at the Bobby Roberts Project and they all agreed that it looked liked it would be ok. Culberson reported that Teten is perusing funds to pay us \$300 a year to hold the easement. Culberson reported that Teten has another easement that she would like us also to hold and it is located across from the Croasdaile Country Club. Culberson reported that the Ellerbe Creek Watershed Association is going to purchase parcel # 174316 and they are asking us to hold the easement on both of the parcels. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to allow the district to hold the 2 easements provided that funds are available for monitoring. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

B. Conservation Awareness Day– Marochak reported that the Conservation Awareness Day is going to be on May 28th this year. Marochak reported that each District has been asked to make a contribution of \$100 for this important event. Secretary/ Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to give \$100 toward the Conservation Awareness Day. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

C. 2009 North American Envirothon Competition – Administrative Officer Lisa Marochak reported that next year NC will host the National Envirothon and the committee is asking for donations to help with

the cost of the 2009 North American Envirothon Competition that will be held in Asheville, NC. The board decided that they will give some money to help out with the National Envirothon but not at this time.

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
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