

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 01(District Meeting)      Date: February 2, 2009  
Meeting Number: 07 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present:**

Talmage Layton, Chairman  
Danielle Adams, Secretary/Treasurer  
Ray Eurquhart, Supervisor

**Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Director  
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer  
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist  
Kathryn Spann, Associate Supervisor  
Matt Kinane, NRCS District Conservationist  
Roger Hansard, Associate Supervisor  
Gus Gray, Associate Supervisor

1. Chairman Talmage Layton called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5:41 PM
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Supervisor Ray Eurquhart to accept the Financial Statement and approve the minutes. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
  - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – No report, Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal was not present.
  - B. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** –No report, Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal was not present.
  - C. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann reported that the Farmland Board met on January 15<sup>th</sup> and at that time there was much discussion about the County budget. Spann reported that the Farmland Board was unaware that the County Manager had taken away all of the Open Space/Farmland money because of budget cuts until the day of the Board of Commissioner Meeting. Spann reported that if the board had known sooner they could have had an opportunity to speak with the County Manager prior to him making this decision.  
Spann reported that the Farmland Board hosted a workshop for farmers on January 31<sup>st</sup> called “Farming in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Spann reported that the workshop was a huge success, over 100 participants showed up for this workshop. Spann thanked the Soil and Water staff for all of their hard work in putting the workshop together.  
Spann reported that last week she attended a meeting with Mike Ruffin, Ellen Reckhow, Mike Woodard and several other people including someone from The Trust for Public Land. At that meeting they talked about a general obligation bond of referendum that they are considering having in 2011 to raise farmland preservation funds.  
Spann reported that the board is forming a subcommittee to look at the future conservation easements that will be sent into the State and Feds. The subcommittee will meet on February 17<sup>th</sup> for the first time at 8:00am.

Spann reported that the next Farmland board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am.

**D. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** –No plans since the last meeting.

**E. Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Eddie Culberson reported that since the last meeting Lynwood Faison has received one application for assistance. The application is for a cattle crossing and an underground pipe for sludge irrigation on Kings Mill Dairy. A motion was made by Supervisor Ray Eurquhart to accept the application for contract #32/09/13/09. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed by dissent.

Culberson reported that he has a request for payment that needs to be pre-approved. Matt Kinane reported that he needs to finish up the paper work on Ellen Ziemer's dry stack and get the Chairman to sign the request for payment. A motion was made by Ray Eurquhart to pre-approve the request for payment for contract #32/07/09/09. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**F. CCAP** – Watershed Conservationist, Jennifer Brooks reported to the board that they still have \$14,549 of CWMTF money to be used for CCAP projects and they still have \$1,038 from CCAP's regular appropriations to be used by the end of this fiscal year. Brooks reported that Culberson and she had looked at several projects in January but nobody has submitted applications yet. Brooks reported that she will start advertising about CCAP in the spring to try and get some more projects on the ground.

**G. Stream Restoration** –

**RN Harris-** Culberson reported he sent the Easement to R.N. Harris for them to sign on December 12<sup>th</sup> and on January 23<sup>rd</sup> he still hadn't received the easement back. Ray Eurquhart personally went to the school and picked up the signed easement on January 24th. Culberson reported that the Easement was signed wrong so he had to send it back but the new copy is supposed to be ready for pick on Tuesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The contractor is planning to start with the bulldozer mid-February.

Culberson reported that the Soil and Water staff is having trouble getting anyone from the school to call them back. Supervisor Ray Eurquhart said that he will go see the principal, Mrs. Parker, and have her to contact the staff. Culberson reported that Jennifer Brooks and he would like to go out to the school next Tuesday and do some pre-water monitoring before they start the project.

**CWMTF** – Culberson reported that the Soil & Water staff submitted two applications today to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. The first application was for Stirrup Iron Creek in the amount of \$445,190 to do a restoration project on 3,100 feet. Culberson reported that this project will be done before any houses are built. The second application was for Phase V of Sandy Creek in the amount of \$980,900.

Culberson reported that he has two CWMTF agreements for the two grants we received last fall. The first one is for \$136,000 for the design and permitting for the Stirrup Iron Creek project. The second agreement was for Sandy Creek in the amount of \$253,000. A motion was made by Supervisor Ray Eurquhart to approve the two agreements from Clean Water Management Trust Fund for Stirrup Iron Creek in the amount of \$136,000 and Sandy Creek project in the amount of \$253,000. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**John R. Adams-** Culberson reported that John R. McAdams has submitted an agreement between them and the District but he has not had a chance to let Kathryn Spann look over the agreement because he just received it late Friday afternoon. Culberson reported that he would like to have Kathryn look over the agreement before anything is signed. A motion was made by Supervisor Ray Eurquhart to accept the agreement between John R. McAdams and the SWCD district board as long as Kathryn Spann gives the ok on the agreement. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- H. Environmental Education-** Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported on the following:
- 1. Envirothon** - Brooks has started training with the Envirothon teams. This year they have 14 teams; 10 High School and 4 Middle School. Brooks reported that the Area IV Envirothon will be held in Wilson, NC this year on March 13<sup>th</sup>. If anybody wants to volunteer please contact Eddie Culberson. Brooks reported that the State Envirothon will be held on April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Burlington.
  - 2. Earth Day** - Brooks reported that the Durham Earth Day will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> and they are in need of volunteers to help work at the booth. Please call the staff to sign-up and work. Supervisor Ray Eurquhart agreed to help work at the booth.
  - 3. Public Speaking Contest-** Brooks reported that the speech contest will take place on February 25<sup>th</sup> around 4:00pm. Brooks reported that they need some people to help judge, so if you are interested please contact the staff.
- I. Administrative Officer-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
- 1. Area IV Spring Meeting** – This is a reminder that if you are planning to attend the Area IV Spring Meeting in Granville County on February 26<sup>th</sup> you will need to bring Marochak \$20 by the end of the week so she can pre-register you or you can pay \$25 at the door. Culberson reported that they have asked him to talk about Conservation Easements at the Area IV meeting.
  - 2. Awards Banquet-** It is time again to start planning our Annual Awards Banquet. The board and staff decided to have the banquet on Friday May 1st.
  - 3. NCASWCD-** The NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Annual Meeting was held on January 4<sup>th</sup>-January 6<sup>th</sup>. At the Education Dinner on January 5<sup>th</sup>, Director, Eddie Culberson was awarded the Technical Employee of the Year for the whole state of NC. Also, at that same dinner, Lyn Streck, a teacher with Durham Academy was awarded the Teacher of the Year for the whole state of NC.  
During the Education dinner Jennifer Brooks and Lisa Marochak were presented with plaques for being Facilitators for the North Carolina Project Food, Land & People Program.
  - 3. Unit of Government Award-** On January 24<sup>th</sup> the Durham SWCD Board was awarded the Unit of Government Award by the Hugh Hammond Bennett Chapter/Soil and Water Conservation Society.
- J. NRCS Report** - Matt Kinane, NRCS District Conservationist reported that there is work going on at Ellen Ziemer's place. The only thing that is left to do there is the pasture and hay land plan. Matt Kinane reported that last Friday he attended a meeting for NRCS, they are expanding the EQIP Program for forestry work.
- K. Director's Report –**
- Julie Elmore-** Director, Eddie Culberson, reported that Julie Elmore, the RC&D coordinators father, passed away. Culberson reported that we are going to send a card from the board and staff.
- County Budget-** Culberson reported that the county asked each department to cut their budget and they took \$33,823 from our operating budget.
- County Commissioners Retreat-** Culberson reported that on Thursday February 5<sup>th</sup> he will be attending the County Commissioner's retreat and the County Manager is saying that there will be more cuts for the next FY, even possibly some lay-offs.
- Golden Leaf Foundation Grant-** Culberson reported that Julie Elmore, Talmage Layton and he are meeting with the Golden Leaf Foundation in Rocky Mt. on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss how the grant will be handled. The District assisted RC&D with getting this \$500,000 grant.
- Supervisor Training-** Culberson reported that he will be attending the Supervisor training with Danielle Adams on February 16-17. Culberson reported that the Associate supervisors may be interested in attending but they do not get reimbursed by the state like supervisors do. Culberson reported that he thinks the board should pay the cost of the training for any Associate Supervisors that wants to attend. The cost is \$130 each for the two day event. A motion was made by Supervisor Ray Eurquhart to pay the Associate Supervisors cost for attending the Supervisor training if they wish to attend. Secretary/Treasurer Danielle Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**4. New Business**

- A. Thacker Farm-** Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann reported that they have been in the process of trying to find ways to preserve the Thacker Farm. Spann reported that Gerald Thacker, Eddie Culberson, Ken Eckenroth from the state property office, John Shaw with the National Guard and she met to discuss going further with the Natural Heritage Trust Fund grant application. Spann reported that she also met with Eddie Culberson, David Williams with DENR Soil and Water, Jennifer Brooks and Shelly Baird with DENR Soil and Water. Spann reported that they met with Williams and Baird because the application will have to go through them and Shelly Baird used to work for the New Hanover SWCD office and she is the only other one who has done a Natural heritage Trust Fund application through DENR. Baird and Williams had some helpful suggestions. Spann reported that they are going to apply for a Clean Water Management Trust Fund mini-grant to pay for survey costs, environmental assessment and other cost. The CWMTF grant should make for a stronger Natural Heritage Trust Fund application. Kathryn reported that they are planning to submit the application by the September deadline.

**5. Adjourn:**

With no further business, Layton adjourned at 7:05 PM

Next Meeting:       **March 2, 2009 at 5:30pm**

*Talmage Layton*  
Chairman

*Robert Rosenthal*  
Vice Chairman