

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (District Meeting)      Date: November 12, 2007  
Meeting Number: 05 (for State reporting purposes)

**Supervisors Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Director  
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer  
Jennifer Brooks, Water Conservationist  
Lynwood Faison, Soil Conservationist  
Roger Hansard, 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 Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to approve the minutes and accept the Financial Statement. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
  - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal reported that there hasn't been an Upper Neuse River Basin Meeting except a stake holders meeting since our last board meeting. Brooks reported that at the Lick Creek Stake Holders Meeting they went over the Points System and the different projects and ranked them.  
Culberson reported that the Upper Neuse River Basin Association received a \$30,000 grant from Home Depot to establish buffer zones. Culberson reported that Chris Dreps has been contacting landowners that live within the Lick Creek Watershed to see if they are interested in this.
  - B. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that we are in the process of getting our Annual Report together to take before the County Commissioners.  
Culberson reported that there is a Farmland Preservation Workshop that is being held several different dates through out the month of November. Culberson reported that Jennifer Brooks and he are planning to attend the November 29<sup>th</sup> Workshop in Halifax.  
Culberson reported that the next Farmland Meeting will be on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am
  - C. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Vice Chairman Rosenthal reported that they signed an agreement with the Appearance Commission. There will now be a new award that is part of the Golden Leaf Awards. The Award will be called the Sustainable Property Award. The Green Building Committee of the EAB will be writing up the requirements for the next couple of months. This award just like the other awards will be given out at the Annual Golden Leaf Award Ceremony.  
Rosenthal reported that at the last meeting they had a big presentation from CREE. They are trying to convince Durham to become another LED City. The proposal is for Durham to give LED a try on outside and inside lights. Raleigh, NC and Toronto, Canada are already doing this.  
Rosenthal reported that the City has been having trouble finding someone that lives in the City, has something to do with law and is interested in the environment to represent the City Law position on the

Environmental Affairs Board. If anybody knows of someone that meets this criteria please have them to contact Robert Rosenthal or Kathleen Snider.

**D. Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that since the last meeting he has reviewed five Soil and Erosion Control Plans and four were adequate as follows: Lick Creek Sewer Main, New Hope Church, Latta Road CVS, Discount Tire Company. 1 was inadequate due to no seedling plan as follows: Office Depot.

**E. Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that we have a request for payment from Neil Frank on contract # 32/08/02/09 on 23 acres of cropland conversion to grass for \$5,175. Faison reported that we have another request for payment from James McKenzie on contract #32/07/02/09 on 16.3 acres of cropland conversion to grass for \$3,668. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion that we pay Neil Frank on contract #32/08/02/09 and James McKenzie on contract #32/07/02/09. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that we have an application from Bill Lee Jr. who lives on Bill Poole Rd for cropland conversion to grass on 8.1 acres for \$1,823. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to accept the application for Bill Lee Jr. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that we have a contract 32/08/03/09 for Bill Lee Jr. who lives on Bill Poole Rd for cropland conversion to grass on 8.1 acres for \$1,823. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart made a motion to approve the contract for Bill Lee Jr. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that the commission had some money for drought assistance but Faison stated that he didn't apply for the money because the commission said that you could use your regular Ag Cost Share and the other reason he didn't apply was because the money is for pasture renovation and \$15 an acre for cover crop on corn and soybean land where stalks and beans were harvested for hay and he doesn't see that much demand for it.

**F. Stream Restoration** – Culberson reported that the Thacker project is shaping up really nice. Mr. Thacker is enrolled in the CREP Program and we have the Stream Restoration funds in place. The conservation easement is now to Mr. Thacker's satisfaction and to the best interest of the board. Culberson reported that we submitted this to Camp Butner who is planning to purchase 100 acres of development rights on two parcels. This will be no cost to the County or the State government. Culberson reported that he is meeting with the Department of Defense on Friday to discuss the purchase of Development Rights.

Culberson reported that UNCWI which is the City of Raleigh who is paying for Conservation easements in the Falls Watershed and the Thacker project is in the Falls Watershed so we are looking at them to help pay for the Stream Restoration Easement on the project.

Culberson reported that we will be submitting a grant to Clean Water Management Trust Fund on February 1<sup>st</sup> for Phase V of the Sandy Creek Stream Restoration Project. This will be about a \$1,000,000 dollar project so this project will probably be funded in phases.

Culberson reported that he is still waiting for Triple Crown Farms sewer easement.

Culberson reported that he submitted the easement for RN Harris to Randy Tant who is the Assistant Superintendent for the properties. Mr. Tant is going to take the easement to the next School Work Session on December 6<sup>th</sup> for their approval.

**H. Forestry** –No report, Wayne Williams County Ranger was not present.

**I. Environmental Education-** Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that there was a Durham wide Big Sweep Clean up on Saturday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. We had 14 cleanup sites this year and that doubled what we had last year. We had 286 volunteers who cleaned up approximately 26 miles. All together they picked up 363 bags of trash and 9,495 pounds of trash. Brooks reported that in the past the board has always provided t-shirts for the team leaders. All together we had 21 t-shirts but we sold 2 of

the shirts and gave away 19 shirts for the cost of \$190. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal Made a motion to pay the \$190 for the 19 t-shirts. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Brooks reported that on October 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> we held Environmental Field Days at the West Point on the Eno. Brooks reported that we had 359 students plus their teachers and volunteers from 5 schools along with our staff. Brooks reported that there was a good write up in the Durham Herald Sun Newspaper on the Field Days.

- J. Administrative Officer**– Administrative Officer Lisa Marochak reported that she will be sending out Holiday postcards again this year letting people know that we have bird boxes, rain barrels, wildflower seeds & tree seedlings for sale.

Marochak reported that we spent less than we thought we would have to spend on Environmental Field Days this year. Thanks to Coke for the drink donation and the gift cards from Harris Teeter at Willowdale we spent \$132.84.

Marochak reported that the training in Pigeon Forge November 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> went very well. Seven other states were in attendance at the conference and they all seemed to enjoy the training our staff did at the conference.

- K. NRCS Report** – No report, Brent Bogue NRCS District Conservationist was not present.

- L. Director's Report** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that the Area IV Meeting is this Thursday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in Halifax.

Culberson reported that the green roof is showing progress on the Liggett Myers Building (the old cigarette factory) and on the commons ground. Culberson reported that he went up on the green roof building the other day and took pictures of the membrane and the soil and rock material that the plants are going to be planted in. The plants will not be planted until spring due to the drought.

Culberson report that the Lake Vista Project is all complete except for the road over the Dam needs to be paved and the landowners are short \$12,000. We still have \$12,000 that we held back so this should be enough to finish paying for the project.

Culberson reported that we received a letter in the mail from Granville County SWCD regarding the hiring of the vacant DENR position, Division of Soil and Water's Director's position.

#### 4. New Business

- A. NC Soil and Water Conservation Dues** – Chairman Talmage Layton reported that he received a letter in the mail from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Division asking for additional dues from our district to help them with hiring an executive Director for the Association. No action taken at this time.

- B. Beaver Program** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that we have been looking at alternate ways of assisting landowners with beaver problems and will bring them to the District Board on a case by case basis.

- C. Job approval**- Tabled until next meeting

- D. Grants** – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that we received a \$1,500 from Target to purchase Environmental Education Books for pre-K – 9 yrs.

Brooks reported that we received a grant for \$1,665 from NC Tobacco Trust Fund to help pay for some more Environmental Stewardship Signs. Brooks reported that we will have to go to a training class in December and they will have to approve the signs.

- E. Resolution**- Director Eddie Culberson reported that each Supervisor has been giving a copy of the resolutions that will be presented at the Area IV Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 5. Adjourn

With no further business, Layton adjourned at 7:30 PM

**Next Meeting:**

**Monday December 10th 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