

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 09(District Meeting) Date: November 3, 2008
Meeting Number: 05 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

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

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director
Lisa Marochak, Administrative officer
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist
Lynwood Faison, Soil Conservationist
Matt Kinane, NRCS District Conservationist
Kathryn Spann, Associate Supervisor
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 5:36 PM
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to accept the Financial Statement and 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 there hasn't been an Upper Neuse River Basin Meeting since our last meeting but there was a Falls Lake Nutrient Management Meeting. Rosenthal reported that at the meeting they discussed wanting the stakeholders to talk about sources of nutrients that might get into Falls Lake.
 - B. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Vice Chairman Rosenthal reported that they are still working toward getting the Stormwater Community set up. Rosenthal reported that the 1st meeting will be on December 3rd.
Rosenthal reported that the EAB is trying to finalize an ongoing agreement with the Appearance Commission for a Sustainable Property Award.
 - C. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Kathryn Spann reported that the subcommittee met on October 9th to go over details of the workshop they are planning for January 2009. The subcommittee set the workshop date for January 31st at the Bahama Ruritan.
Spann reported that the board met on October 19th and Open Space Manager Jane Korest passed out copies of a letter she is sending to all farm owners that have submitted their names for consideration for an easement this grant cycle. Spann reported that Korest has started scheduling site visits to the interested farms.
 - D. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that he reviewed 1 plan since the last board meeting and the plan was adequate as follows: Erwin Road Mixed Use.
 - E. **Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that he has a request for payment for WA McFarland on his drought contact 32/09/03/09 for \$5183. Faison reported

that this contract is for a well. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to approve the request for payment for contract # 32/09/03/09. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that William V. O'Quinn already has a contract for restoring 1 pond. Faison reported that he found out that Mr. O'Quinn can have 2 contracts so he can restore 2 ponds instead of 1. This has become part of the regular AG Cost Share Program and the max amount is \$3,000. Faison reported that the second contract for William V. O'Quinn that needs to be approved is for contract #32/09/12/09. This is for a pond. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to accept the contract as presented. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that he would like the board to approve for the Chairman to sign request for payments and contracts in between meetings. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal made a motion to authorize the chairman to sign off on payments to fulfill previously agreed upon contracts by the board. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Faison reported that we received \$13,618 in pasture renovation money and a contract was written and approved for Bill Bagliani for \$5,468 for a pasture renovation. This leaves a total of \$8,150 that is going to be used. Faison reported that he thinks we need to release \$8,150 back so that other counties that need it can utilize the money. A motion was made by Robert Rosenthal to release \$8,150 in pasture renovation money that will not be utilized in this county back so that other counties that need it can utilize it. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Faison reported that we received \$45,892 in drought response funds and we have utilized all of the money except \$2,309. Faison reported that he didn't have enough money in the drought response to pay for contract 11 and 12 so he had to use the regular Ag Cost Share money. The board suggested that if he can he should do a slip contract and use up all of the drought response money.

- F. CCAP** – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that she one application for assistance from Watts Street Baptist church. The church has a stormwater problem and they are proposing converting a portion of their concreted parking lot into a bioretention area and doing another bioretention area where a stormwater outlet puts out water before it enters into Ellerbe Creek. Brooks reported that this will be a very visible project and they have a lot of partners working on this project. A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to accept contract #32/09/505/09 for assistance. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Brooks reported that she has a request for CCAP job approval authority for Eddie Culberson to be able to have job approval to write projects for critical area planting, impervious surface conversion and grass swales. Culberson already has NRCS job approval authority for the compatible practices. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to give Eddie Culberson the CCAP job approval authority that he needs. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- G. Stream Restoration** –Culberson reported that the Durham School Board approved the easement for RN Harris project at the October 23rd School Board Meeting. Culberson reported the next step is to do the survey at RN Harris and translate the exact location onto the easement. Culberson reported that Baker Engineering is going to be doing the survey.

Culberson reported that he is applying for some UNCWI (Upper Neuse Clean Water Initiative) money for the Lick Creek Project. Culberson reported that they have funds that you can apply for to use for transaction cost like appraisals, easements, title insurance, etc. Culberson reported that UNCWI deadline is this Thursday so he is planning to submit a grant application to get some funds to help with the Lick Creek project. Culberson reported that he along with Kathryn Spann met with the 3 landowners about the project. Culberson reported that the meeting over all went very well.

- I. Environmental Education-** Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that we had field days this past October and we had 6 schools to participate this year. We increased participation by 1 school this year. Brooks thanked Ray Eurquhart and the staff for helping with field days.

Brooks reported that she has 4 new teams for Envirothon this year. The new teams are coming from Crescent Christian Academy and they will have 3 High School and 1 Middle School team. Brooks reported that we had Big Sweep through out the month of October and we broke last years total. This year we had 363 volunteers, cleaned 27.8 miles and pickup 10,011 pounds of trash. Brooks reported that we are still waiting on 1 team to report their totals so these numbers will increase some. All together we had 14 sites/teams participate.

J. Administrative Officer– Lisa Marochak reported that she place a free ad on the WRAL website under the *classified section/items for sale/home & garden* advertising that we have 65 gallon rain barrels for sale.

Marochak reported that they normally do something special for the December meeting and she didn't know if they want to go out to eat or bring food from home. The board decided to leave it up to the staff to decide and get back with them.

K. NRCS Report – Matt Kinane NRCS District Conservationist reported he submitted the ranking questions that were discussed at the last board meeting to the State program manager so it is being incorporated into the ranking sheet for any EQIP applicants that come in.

Kinane reported that he hasn't heard any more information about them finalizing the batching period but he will let us know he has the dates.

Kinane reported that a Natural Resources inventory is going on for 2008 and he has been getting some information from FSA. They have been looking at plan sheets & FSA data to fill in the worksheets

Kinane reported that he is meeting with Brent Bogue this week to review all of the old contracts that he has with Durham County so that he can get a better handle about what is going on and get the contracts from him.

L. Director's Report – Director Eddie Culberson reported that November 18th is meet the new County Commissioners Day. This is the day that all of the Department Heads will be introduced to Board of County Commissioners.

Culberson thanked Kathryn Spann, Roger Hansard & Matt Kinane for helping the staff work at the Soil & Water booth on 10/22 at the State Fair.

Culberson reported that the Area IV Fall Meeting is on November 20th and the cost is \$20 each. The meeting is going to be held in Franklin County this year. Marochak reported that she needs to know who is planning to attend the meeting by Friday November 7th.

Culberson reported that last month he told the board about a RC&D project that we are assisting on. This project is for a milk plant that a dairy farmer is building in Graham. Talmage Layton helped RC&D out with a Golden Leaf Foundation Grant that will help them with their waste water. Culberson reported that the idea behind this was the RC&D was going to buy the equipment and lease it out to the dairy farmer for so much a year for 10 years. Culberson reported that The Golden Leaf Foundation did contact them back and they are interested in the project and they are supposed to make a decision by the 1st part of the month.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, Layton adjourned at 6:46 PM

Next Meeting: to be announced

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Robert Rosenthal

Vice Chairman

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