

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 07(District Meeting) Date: September 2, 2008
Meeting Number: 03 (for State reporting purposes)

Supervisors Present:

Talmage Layton, Chairman
Robert Rosenthal, Vice Chairman
Brenda Howerton, Supervisor
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

1. Chairman Talmage Layton called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5:32 PM
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to accept the Financial Statement and approve the minutes. Supervisor Brenda Howerton 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 a board meeting since our last meeting but there was a stakeholders meeting to discuss Jordan Lake. Rosenthal reported that there should be an Upper Neuse Meeting in the next couple of weeks.
 - B. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Vice Chairman Rosenthal reported the subcommittee's have met and are starting to move ahead. The sustainability committee met for the first time. Rosenthal reported that a representative from the local builders association came to the meeting to let them know that the new Raleigh/Durham Convention Center located in Raleigh is likely to be the location for the next National Builders Conference.
 - C. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann reported that the last meeting was on August 14th. Spann reported that a guest speaker from Chatham County Cooperative Extension came to speak at the last meeting. Spann reported that she is planning to meet with Open Space Manager Jane Korest tomorrow to try and finalize the definitions for the ranking form. The next Farmland Board meeting is scheduled for September 18th at 8:00am. Karen McAdams the live stock agent for Durham/Orange Counties is coming to speak at the next meeting.
 - D. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that he reviewed 3 plans since the last board meeting and 3 were adequate as follows: Arcadis, First Calvary Baptist Church & Durham Congregation Kingdom Hall.
 - E. **Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that he has new information on the drought program and he would like to see the board lift the cap on wells that was voted on at last months meeting. Faison reported that Durham SWCD has received \$13,618 which may

be used for pasture renovation only. Faison reported that we only have one applicant and that is for 24.3 acres @ \$225 per acre which totals \$5,468. Faison reported that they have \$45,894 of drought grant funds that have no stipulations on which drought practices it could be used for. Faison reported that we have 3 pond renovation applicants and the maximum cap set by the program is 75% of the actual cost. Faison reported that \$9,000 will fully fund the three contracts leaving a balance of \$36,894.

Faison reported that that they have 7 applicants for wells with a cap of \$2,000 leaving a balance of \$22,894 for digging the wells which pays 75% of \$13 per linear foot. Faison reported that a good average for all 7 wells would approximately 450 linear feet which would cost about \$4,388 per well. This would finish up the remaining \$22,894 and the difference of \$7,822 would come out of the regular ag cost share funds. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to accept the 11 applications as presented. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

F. CCAP – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that she has 4 applications to present. The 1st application is for Mr. Rick Fisher for a 500 gallon cistern for \$1,728. The second application is for Mr. Nick Bourbous for a 1000 gallon cistern for \$2,385. The third application is for the Museum of Life and Science for a 3,400 gallon under ground cistern for \$5,906 and the fourth application is for Retta Clemons for a 205 square foot rain garden for \$1,200. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal to accept the 4 applications as presented. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Brooks reported that she has two contracts that need to be approved. The first contract is for Mr. Rick Fisher for a 500 gallon cistern for \$1,728 on contract # 32/09/50/09 and the second contract is for Mr. Nick Bourbous for a 1000 gallon cistern for \$2,385 on contract # 32/09/502/15. A motion was made by Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart to approve the two contracts as presented. Supervisor Brenda Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

G. Stream Restoration –Culberson reported that they received word from Will Summer of Clean Water Management Trust Fund, that Phase V of the Sandy Creek Project stands a good chance of being funded for design and permitting. This is contingent on Duke University agreeing to record a permanent conservation easement. Supervisor Curtis Richardson will approach Duke University. Culberson reported that with approval from Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann he provided a copy of the draft easements of Triple Crown Farm and Bill Patrick to a couple of citizens. Culberson further reported that a meeting was held on August 13th with the need of better communications between entities such as County Engineering, Sediment & Erosion, Soil & Water, City Storm Water and the Division of Water Quality. As a result Culberson finally reported that he is meeting with Baker Engineering to ask that they get Army Corps of Engineering and Division of Water Quality to give their preferred option on which plan would be best.

I. Environmental Education- Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that she applied for a grant through RBC Blue Water Action for a water monitoring device and she found out that the district was awarded the grant for \$5,000 to purchase the water monitoring device. Brooks reported that the water monitoring device will be used on the RN Harris Project.

Brooks reported that she and Marochak held a Food, Land and People Workshop on August 12th and 13th at Rolling View Community Center on Falls Lake. Brooks reported that they had 13 participants and Marochak and she both felt like it was a success. Marochak reported that they spent a little over \$500 on the FLP Workshop that the Durham SWCD board sponsored.

Brooks reported that Environmental Field Days is coming up on October 7, 8 and 14th for Public Schools and October 15th for Private Schools. Brooks reported that Field Days will be held in the same location as last year at the Eno River State Park Amphitheatre. Brooks reported that she is in need of some tarps for the kids to sit while at field days. Chairman Talmage Layton said that he has some tarps they can borrow. Associate Supervisor Kathryn Spann and Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart volunteered to help out with Field Days.

Brooks reported that Big Sweep is going to be held on October 4th and she is in need of some trash bags and gloves for the volunteers. Secretary/Treasurer Ray Eurquhart reported that Brooks should contact

Keep Durham Beautiful because they should have some trash bags and gloves that can be used for Big Sweep.

J. Administrative Officer– Lisa Marochak reported that the staff has volunteered to work at the State Fair all day on October 22nd from 9-6 at the NC Soil and Water booth. The staff will be able to highlight the Durham Soil and Water District at the booth. Marochak reported that the staff is in need of volunteers to help work the booth at the fair on the 22nd. If you are interested in working please see Lisa. Marochak reported that the Area IV Fall Meeting is going to be held this year on November 20th in Franklin County so mark you calendars and plan to attend. Marochak passed out a copy of the Annual Report to all of the Supervisors.

K. NRCS Report – Matt Kinane NRCS District Conservationist reported that information about all of the 2002 Farm Bill programs may be found on the Web at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002> Kinane reported that NRCS conducted 6 quality Assurance reviews in Durham County for Highly Erodible Lands Conservation and Wetland Conservation and no problems were noted. Kinane reported that letters will be mailed out to notify the landowners/operators. Kinane reported on the project status for Ellen Zimmer, Kings Mills Dairy, Bill Bagliana and Hill Forest.

L. Director's Report – Director Eddie Culberson reported that every Supervisor should have a copy of the revision for Dr. Marie Roberts Easement. Culberson reported that Dr. Roberts ask to change the entity that could develop the park on the land from Little River Complex to the Northern Athletic Association. The board agreed to the changes made to the easement and Chairman Talmage Layton signed the revised easement. Culberson reported that Sept 8th-19th he will be attending a two week Stream Restoration course in Dobson, NC. Culberson reported that he will be attending the Piedmont RC&D Conference at Hilton Head, NC September 24th-26th.

4. New Business

A. Piedmont RC&D- Chairman Talmage Layton reported that he is on the Piedmont RC&D Council now and that Culberson will be a member soon. Layton gave an update about the RC&D Council and reported that we are beginning to get more involved with the Piedmont RC&D.

5. Adjourn

With no further business, Layton adjourned at 7:10 PM

Next Meeting: Monday October 6th at 5:30 PM

Talmage Layton

Chairman

Robert Rosenthal

Vice Chairman

Division of Soil and Water Conservation District
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