

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 02 (District Meeting)      Date: March 13, 2006  
Meeting Number: 08 (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  
Lynwood Faison, Soil Conservationist  
Millie H. Tilley, Office Manager  
Jennifer Brooks, Watershed Conservationist  
Brent Bogue, District Conservationist  
Steve Bennett, Area IV Coordinator  
Manley Wilder, Director, Division of Soil & Water  
Minora Sharpe, Durham County Budget Department

1. Chairman Talmage Layton called the Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – A motion was made by Supervisor Brenda Howerton to approve the Minutes and receive the Financial Report. Vice Chairman Robert Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Old Business**
  - A. **Upper Neuse River Basin Issues Update** – Not present.
  - B. **Durham Farmland Protection** – Director Eddie Culberson reported they were working on the workshop that will be held May 20 at the Bahama Ruritan Club. Culberson stated we have obtained a source that will provide the meal to us at no cost. The workshop will be for folks who are selling their development rights. Culberson stated the County Commissioners are aware that we need more funding to help match the 50 percent funding from the Federal Government. Culberson reported that the Advisory Board wanted to tour the dairy farm out on Kemp Road and this will take place April 20 at 8:30 AM.
  - C. .
  - D. **Environmental Affairs Board Issues Update** – Rosenthal reported they received a presentation for the City for the Durham Comprehensive Plan. Rosenthal stated they did some follow up on education programs they are getting together for the schools.
  - E. **Sediment and Erosion Control Plans** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison presented 22 Sediment and Erosion Control Plans: 20 were adequate as follows: Independence Place Apartments, Brightleaf at the Park – Northern Durham Parkway, Davis Park Infrastructure Phase 1B, Southhampton Subdivision, Stonehill Cluster Phase IV, Indio Corners, ALSCO-Facility Addition, Riverside on the Eno, Century State, Ravenstone Subdivision Phase II – Section 2B – Section 4, Ashfield Place – Phase 5 & 6, Stonehill Estates Phase III, Renaissance IV, Southpoint Village, East End Village, Triangle Metro Center – Phase 1A & 1B Infrastructure (Davis Drive Widening), Kestrel Heights Charter School, SHEETZ Convenience Store, Trinity Ridge Subdivision, and Hanmaum Church Expansion. Two were inadequate as follows: Davidson Street and The Cloisters at Auburn.

**Agricultural Cost Share Program** – Faison reported he had a request for payment on Contract #32/06/10/09 for Milton Ganyard on 6.5 acres of cropland conversion to grass in the amount of \$1,463. Layton made the motion to approve. Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Faison presented six applications on Earl Brown: 55 acres in the amount of \$6,875, 43 acres in the amount of \$5,394, 33 acres in the amount of \$4,125, 75 acres in the amount of \$9,438, 18.25 acres in the amount of \$3,194, and 29 acres in amount of \$6,525. Rosenthal made the motion to approve. Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

**Stream Restoration** – Culberson reported that Clean Water had contacted him regarding how many acres the three landowners of Lick Creek were willing to put in the conservation easement and the landowners agreed they would allow 13.5 acres that was valued at \$12,000 to \$15,000 an acre. Culberson stated that the design at RN Harris was almost to completion.

F. **Forestry** – Director Wayne Williams reported they are waiting to hand plant 115 acres of CRP.

G. **Environmental Education** – Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported we have the Envirothon coming up this Friday and inquired if anyone would like to volunteer their time. Brooks stated the State Envirothon competition will be held April 29. Brooks reported we have judged the poster and essay contests; we had 18 essays and 67 posters submitted. Brooks stated she had met with Laura Webb Smith of Durham City Stormwater Program about working jointly with her and doing county-wide stormwater education. Brooks reported she had met with Joe Alberson and Joe Pierce of the County’s Stormwater and Erosion Control and stated they were interested in us taking over the education and outreach portion of Durham County’s stormwater plan. Brooks brought up the idea of selling rain barrels. After some discussion, Howerton made the motion to purchase one as a demo. Rosenthal seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Brooks brought up the Earth Day event and if we wanted to sponsor a booth. After some discussion, Eurquhart made the motion for us to sponsor. Howerton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

H. **NRCS Report** – District Conservationist Brent Bogue reported that CRP is having active contracts that are still within the ten years and FSA is contacting the 32 or 33 in Durham County for renewal. Bogue stated there would be a new CRP signup beginning the end of March. Bogue stated that FRPP (Farmland Ranch Protection Program) has not had an allocation given to the State yet, but he is trying to make sure Durham and Orange Counties get their part since both counties have pretty much used their share in the past. Bogue reported that the Piedmont RC&D would like to have the Durham District join.

I. **Director’s Report** – Culberson reported we had applied for \$325,000 grant money and received \$100,000 for the New Devils Venture project and we are expecting to start this project within the next couple of months. Culberson stated we would have the closing on the four tracts donated to the District in April. The Lake Vista project has been put out for bids and construction should start soon.

J. **Area IV Coordinator Report** – Steve Bennett reported that Granville County was going to have a workshop on Financial Benefits on Conservation Easements on March 28. Bennett reported that the Community Conservation workshop would be held May 24 in Forsyth County. Bennett stated the Association would be having a Conservation Awareness Day on May 21 on the Mall at the Archdale Building. Bennett reported that the Commission Chair, James Ferguson resigned and the new Commission Chair is Jeff Turleton from Harnett County. Bennett stated he would like to commend the Durham District for all the good work they are doing.

K. **Division Director** – Manley Wilder new Division Director of three months stated he was pleased to attend our Board meeting and commend us for being on the cutting edge of many things we are doing in community conservation. Wilder stated he hoped one of the many things he is empowered with is re-connecting with the districts and learn what our priority concerns are. Wilder stated that community conservation was a high item on the agenda of the association and

also an item they have put in their expansion budget. Wilder reported they currently have a grant with Clean Water Trust Fund in the amount of a half million dollars to pilot community conservation activities for 16 or 17 districts and that we may be one of the districts included in this pilot program.

**4. New Business**

- K. **Spot Check** – Layton brought up for discussion how to handle the Spot Check Tour this year. After some discussion it was decided that one or two supervisors would attend with the soil conservationist to do the tour.
  
- L. **County Budget** – Culberson reported the county budget hearing will be April 6 at 3:00 PM with the budget department and the County Manager’s office in the conference room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Culberson stated starting July 1, we will be getting reimbursed 50% for Jennifer’s position which will be added revenue for the County. Culberson reported we will be asking for five updated phones that will have the capability of doing badly needed conference calls. Culberson reported we need an additional cell phone for staff since we only have one for all four staff members. Culberson stated the Farmland Protection Committee is asking for an increase of \$1,200. Culberson stated he would be putting a new vehicle in the budget this year because we only have the one truck for four staff members, plus the water conservation position will be frequently in the field. Other budget requests will be for funds to install water control structures to assist citizens with beaver problems, as well as training funds for staff.
  
- M. **Awards Banquet** – Layton brought forth discussions regarding when to hold the Awards Banquet this year. It was decided to have the banquet on April 27 with a place to hold it to be determined later.

With no further business, Rosenthal moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 PM. Eurquhart seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent

**Next Meeting:** **Monday April 3, 2006 at 5:30 PM**  
Agricultural Building, Upstairs Conference Room

Talmage Layton Robert Rosenthal  
**Chairman** **Vice Chairman**

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