

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Number: 2 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: February 23, 2022

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Mark Waller – Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative
Kenny Browning – 2nd Vice Chair – Eno River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner (virtual)
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Neil Frank – At Large
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD

Others Present:

Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
Eddie Culberson – Soil & Water
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Janel Ohletz – Cooperative Extension
David Harris – Soil & Water
Jane Korest – Open Space (virtual)
Mike Austin - Guest

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, and called to order at 10:24 am by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner at the Bahama Ruritan Building.

1. **Approval of January 2022 Board Minutes** – Motion made by Mark Waller and seconded by Talmage Layton. All voted in favor; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak shared expenses for the breakfast this morning. Follow-up to previous conversations concerning VAD sign: Metal signs will continue to be purchased from an outside source, construction and installation of sign will be completed by General Services. Lisa provided an estimate for the cost of one VAD sign and requested that the Board approve the purchase of 10 VAD signs (warning that the cost of lumber may vary with fluctuating prices). Neil Frank made a motion to approve the purchase of 10 VAD signs and materials for up to \$1300. Talmage Layton seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the motion.

Remaining FPAB funds will need to be spent by May. Lisa provided total amount remaining is \$3,156.69. Breakfast expenses incurred this morning were \$218.31. Future expenditures were discussed and brainstormed later in the meeting. Here are the thoughts shared: purchase of more VAD signs to have on hand, order caps or bags with Farmland Board logo or Farm Tour theme that could be used at Farm Tour for those who participate as farmer or viewer.

3. **Farm Video Subcommittee Report** – Subcommittee has not met in past month. Nicole requested that any feedback on the slides she presented last month to continue to be provided. Janel reported that she and Ashley have been too busy to work on videos but that they plan to complete farm videos using the same questions for each farm and plan to represent all segments of the Durham Ag Community.
4. **In-person Farm Tour** – Nicole asked that those who have participated in the Farm Tours in the past make suggestions. Discussion followed: fall will be best time for Commissioners and Legislators; theme could be set for tour; lunches have included local food cooked by

caterer or school culinary class in the past; stream restoration project could be visited. Neil Frank suggested that a committee be formed. Any suggestions may be sent to Sherry Scully.

5. **Easements and Open Space report provided by Celeste Burns.** Closing on Lin Needham farm end of March or April. Continuing to work with Douglas Daye on his additional easement.
6. **Agriculture Economic Development** – Sherry Scully shared the participation numbers of Farmer Breakfast this morning: 33 in-person and 24 online. Issue with Wifi and acoustics at the Bahama Ruritan Building were discussed. With lower signup for next breakfast, decision was made to move to the Farm Bureau building.
7. **Cooperative Extension Report provided by Janel Ohletz and Donna Rewalt - Upcoming Events:**
 - March 3rd 6-7pm Local Food and Farming Network Group
 - March 8th – Pesticide training (B)
 - March 31st 6:30-8pm Poultry with a Purpose
 - Soil Health & Regenerative Ag Series continues monthly sessions
 - May 4th Report to the Community Event
 - A Fencing School will be offered by Janel and Emily Bateman with Soil and Water on May 5th
8. **South Durham Farmers’ Market Board position** is open and tabled until next meeting.

Next Meeting – March 24th,2022 at 10:15am. The meeting will be held at Durham Farm Bureau Building with a virtual option to attend.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 11:09 am.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

March 24, 2022
Date approved