

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Number: 1 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: January 19, 2023

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative
Samantha Gasson – At Large
David Harris – SWCD Board
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Neil Frank – At Large

Others Present:

Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Eddie Culberson – Soil & Water
Dustin Brewer – Soil & Water
Donn Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, and called to order at 10:06 am by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Redwood Ruritan Club.

1. **Approval of December 2022 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly asked for approval of minutes submitted. Motion made by Kenny Browning and seconded by Mark Waller. Motion passed to approve December Minutes.
2. **Presentation on Durham Farm Campus Feasibility Study** presented by Cooperative Extension staff, John Lyttle and Donna Rewalt. The Cooperative Extension has received grant funding to complete a feasibility study for a Durham Farm Campus. A Farm Campus would ensure the future of agriculture in Durham County with priorities given to the local food system. The details and timeline of the study were provided; interest in the study and discussion were shared.
3. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak provided the financial standing of the Farmland Board account. This included an estimate of the January breakfast expenses.
4. **VAD Update** – Sherry Scully requested approval for a VAD Application submitted this past month by Chris Young. His 147-acre property is located at 12451 N Roxboro Rd and is in the Forestry Present Use Value Program. He hopes to convert more of this property to pasture in the future. Motion made by Mark Waller to approve this VAD application; second made by David Harris. All voted in favor of the motion.
5. **Membership Update** – Nicole and Lisa Marochak will be reviewing attendance for past meetings. There are two people interested in serving and may be considered if any of the members are not able to attend meetings or would like to step away from their position. Carl Kolosna will be contacted concerning the vacant position for Open Space and Trails representative.

6. **Stormwater Letter to BOCC** – Letter concerning Stormwater fees on agricultural properties was provided to the BOCC and copied to Ryan Eaves and McKenzie Bradshaw with the County Engineering Department on January 9, 2023.
7. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported a list of updates:
 - Len and Cindy Needham’s Conservation Easement has been finalized
 - Waiting to hear from NRCS concerning application for funding for Bill and Margie Sparrow’s farm
 - Working with Alston Glenn on adding 12 acres to his existing easement
 - Continuing work with Clara Glenn family
8. **Cooperative Extension Update** – provided by John Lyttle on upcoming events
 - Dates TBD - Small Farms Boot Camp with Wake Co.
 - February 16th – Pesticide Training at Farmer Breakfast
 - February 20th – OC Ag Summit presentation on Poultry Processing Unit
 - Date TBD – Hazard Tree and Chainsaw Safety Class

Next Meeting – February 20th at 10:15am at the Bahama Fire Department or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly, adjourned the meeting at 11.29 am.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

March 16, 2023
Date approved