

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: September 21, 2023

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD
Chris Young – Business Representative
David Heeks – At Large
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD
Samantha Gasson – At Large

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Jane Korest – Open Space
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 in a hybrid format. This meeting was called to order at 6:09 pm by the Chair, Nicole Connelly.

1. The Board of County Commissioners has requested the Farmland Board to provide views on the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for the Comprehensive Plan prior to it being adopted. Nicole introduced Carl Kolosna, Senior Planner for Durham City/County Planning Department. Carl presented Planning Department staff recommendations for the Comprehensive Plan and Map and discussed in detail with Farmland Board the current and future growth in county.

Nicole will compile a statement based on the opinions shared. Sherry Scully will send out statement via email for Farmland Board response. A statement will then be provided to Board of County Commissioners prior to their October 9th meeting.

2. **Approval of August 2023 Board Minutes** – Nicole requested approval of August minutes submitted. Motion made by Kenny Browning; second by Chris Young. Nicole called for vote; motion passed.
3. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak stated the amount in account. No purchases were made this past month. Nicole requested an agenda item be added for next month's meeting to share ideas for this year's budget.
4. **VAD Update** – VAD update provided by Sherry Scully. Two applications have been received this past month:
 - Tim and Stephanie McCreight – 42 ac on Coley Rd
 - John Cowan – 78 acres on Kepley Rd

Motion made by Kenny to approve these VAD applications with a second by Matthew Eagle. All voted in favor of this motion.

5. **Easements/Open Space Update** – Celeste Burns reported that she continues to make progress on the Glenn and Sparrow Easements.
6. **Ag Economic Development Grant Committee Update** – Ag Economic Development Grant Program Committee met on September 14th to allocate funds to ranked applications. All \$250,000 is in the process of being allocated into contracts for the awarded applications.
7. **Cooperative Extension Update** – John Lyttle and Donna Rewalt provided a report.

8. **New Business** – Sherry let the Board know that due to scheduling conflicts, staff would not be able to hold a December Farmer Breakfast. She is proposing that the January Breakfast topic will be based on programs with a panel of speakers who have programs to offer to Durham County Landowners.

Next Meeting –October 19th at 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

Date approved