

## MINUTES

### Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 2 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: February 15, 2024

#### Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD  
Chris Young – Business Representative  
Samantha Gasson – At Large  
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD  
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner  
David Harris – SWCD Representative  
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD  
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative  
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative

#### Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water  
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, February 15, 2024 in a hybrid format. This meeting was called to order at 10:30 am by the Chair, Nicole Connelly.*

1. **Approval of November Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of January minutes submitted. Motion made by David Harris and seconded by Mark Waller. Nicole called for vote; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Budget total and expenses for month provided by Lisa Marochak. Discussion of possible expenses before end of year: Elementary school garden requests, FFA program needs and board retreat to plan FPP/Strategy Plan. Sherry Scully requested more funds for VAD supplies. Motion made by Samantha Gasson and seconded by Mark Waller to allocate \$500 of funds for VAD signs. Motion passed.
3. **Breakfast Recap and Update** – February Breakfast recap provided by Sherry Scully. Nineteen participants attended the breakfast in person, with four attending online to hear about Estate Planning from Anna Cates Williams with Cedar Grove Law. Ms. Williams also sponsored the breakfast.
4. **VAD Update** – No VAD applications submitted in the past month.
5. **Easements/Open Space Update** – Celeste Burns provided report prior to meeting. The county will close on the Farm Campus property at Orange Factory Rd and Roxboro Rd intersection at the end of February. There will be a presentation on the Farm campus at the March 4<sup>th</sup> BOCC Work Session.
6. **Ag Economic Development Grant Update** – Sherry Scully reported that work is ongoing for contracts in this program.
7. **Cooperative Extension Update** – Donna Rewalt provided report prior to meeting. Interviews will be held February 20<sup>th</sup> for the Orange/Durham Livestock Agent position. Sherry provided the schedule for interviews with those interested.

**New business:** Nicole Connelly brought Moriah Energy Facility proposal to the Board's attention. There will be a meeting at Bahama Ruritan soon that Lisa will share via email once received.

**Next Meeting** – March 21 at 6:30pm at the Durham Farm Bureau office or online.

**Adjourn** – Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:09 am.

Nicole Connelly  
Chairman

Sherry Scully  
Soil and Water

March 21, 2024  
Date approved