

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: March 21, 2024

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD
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
David Heeks – At Large
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
Alyssa Florwick – Guest

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 in a hybrid format. This meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by the Chair, Nicole Connelly.

1. **Approval of November Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of February 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. VAD expenses shared. Sherry Scully reported on items that are needed for garden and ag development projects by Spring Valley Elementary, Eno Valley Elementary, RN Harris Elementary and Jordan High School ag program. Total request is approximately \$1,426.50. Motion made by Mark Waller and seconded by Talmage Layton to spend remaining program funds towards these requests. Chair called for vote; all in favor. Motion passed.
3. **Farmland Plan Revision Update** – Sherry Scully reported that contract between county and contractor is still in progress.
4. **VAD Update** – No VAD applications submitted in the past month.
5. **Easements/Open Space Update** – Celeste Burns reported that three conservation easements are still in process for Clara Glenn, Bill Sparrow, Jr., and Neil Frank.
6. **Ag Economic Development Grant Update** – Sherry Scully reported that work is ongoing for contracts in this program.
7. **Cooperative Extension Update** – Donna Rewalt and John Lyttle shared progress on Farm Campus Feasibility Study. Surveys due on March 21st. This information will also support the Farmland Protection Plan. Next step - Focus Groups of 12 or more will meet with the contractor. Board determined May 2nd at 6 pm to be the best option for them to meet and discuss Farm Campus. (There will be no FPAB May meeting.)

Other updates:

- 4/1 - Orange/Durham Livestock Agent will start work
- 4/9 & 4/10 - Central Piedmont Livestock Show and Sale, Orange Grove, NC
- 4/16 – 4-H Feather Classis, Chicks in Extension

- 5/8 – Poultry Processing training at Jireh Family Farm, 10am-4pm; necessary for rental of Mobile Poultry Processing Unit
- John and NCSU’s Plant Sciences Initiative – available to schedule a group tour of the NCSU Plant Sciences Building if there is group interest

Next Meeting – April 18 at 6:00pm at the Durham Farm Bureau office or online.

Adjourn – With no new business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:45pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

July 18, 2024
Date approved