

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board)      Date: December 4, 2025

#### Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD  
Deborah Luecken – DOST Representative  
John Cowan – Cape Fear VAD  
David Heeks – At Large  
Chris Young – Business Representative  
Carolyn Rose-Seed – At Large  
Samantha Gasson – At Large  
David Harris – SWCD Board  
Helena Cragg – At Large  
Samantha Gasson – At Large

#### Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water  
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water  
Celeste Burns – Open Space & Real Estate  
Jill Fusco – Open Space & Real Estate

*The special meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 at Durham Farm Bureau. This meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by the chair, Nicole Connelly.*

Nicole Connelly opened the meeting and presented the topic for discussion:

Lisa Marochak followed up with Durham County attorney per request by FPAB concerning the Farmland Protection Plan inquiry to cancel contract with contractor, Foothills Regional Commission. After review of contract, County Attorney let staff know that contract could be amended, allowing for a 30-day termination period. Contractor has been paid \$6,000. Remaining funds in the Ag Development Farmland Preservation grant is \$10,000. Attorney will assist with negotiation, if necessary.

Samantha Gasson made motion to send letter requesting cancellation proceeding with termination of contract if contractor is amicable. David Harris seconded the motion. After discussion, motion passed.

Letter was shared by Lisa Marochak. Changes were made. Letter will be shared with contractor by day end.

**Adjourn** – Online Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.

Nicole Connelly  
Chairman

Sherry Scully  
Soil and Water

December 18, 2025  
Date approved