

## MINUTES

### **Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701**

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: June 18, 2015

#### **Advisory Board Present:**

Neil Frank- Chairman- At Large  
Kathryn Spann- Soil and Water Representative  
John Monroe- At Large  
Perry Whitted- Open Space and Trails  
Anthony Lopez- Falls VAD  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Samantha Gasson- At Large  
Mark Waller-Farm Bureau Representative  
Demetrius Thompson-At Large  
Will Wilson-Vice Chair

#### **Others Present:**

Mike Dupree- Soil & Water  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Linn Lopez- citizen  
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension  
Demikia Taylor-citizen  
Jane Korest-Open Space  
Jessica Pope-Contractor

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 18, 2015 and called to order at 8:04 am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the second floor conference room.*

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Perry Whitted to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Tony Lopez second the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Easement Updates-** Wendy Seddon reported on the following:
  - Paul and Robert Adcock & the McFarland applications are pending the outcome of the Federal application which according to the federal office there has been a high number of applications to be processed.
3. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
  - **Northern High School Plant Sale-** the NHS Ag/Ed teacher, Demikia Taylor reported: to the Farmland Advisory Board. The Northern High program is expanding and DPS is hiring a new Horticulture Teacher. The FFA plans to have a Fall Plant Sale as well as sell Poinsettias.
4. **Farmers Market Subcommittee report-John Monroe** reported on the following:
  - Farmland Board Members, Kathryn Spann, Demetrius Thompson, John Monroe, held a second meeting with Delphine Sellars on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. At this meeting, Eddie Culberson, Mike Dupree and Deborah McGiffin were also in attendance. The group discussed the Ag Building parking lot as a potential site.
    - The use of the parking lot depends on whether the rear exit of the parking lot will remain open or be closed with the new parking lot plan. Kathryn was going to contact NC DOT & DCo General Services to see if they are requiring it to be closed.

- Delphine Sellars had stated that there may be possible conflict of the building use with The Welcome Baby program and other nonprofit groups that may request to use the building on Saturdays. Ms. Sellars stated during the meeting that she would review the concept and the “political impact of the market” and would follow up with the group before the June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. John Monroe emailed her and had not received a response by June 18th.
- John also reported that the Northgate Mall was interested in hosting the Durham Producer Only Market. Ginny Bowman, owner, her marketing rep and a marketing employee met with Neil and John and have outlined a package of incentives to promote the market. Initially the market would be free and would have marketing resources available to help get the market established.
- The group discussed the market site alternatives and tabled the discussion until there is a consensus and a recommendation by the subcommittee.

**5. New Business-Talmage Layton** open the discussion regarding the plan to move the SWCD staff to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Judicial Building. He reported that the SWCD Board and the Durham Farm Bureau Board were writing letters to the county manager requesting that the SWCD, Forestry, NRCS and PCC remain in the Agriculture Building. The group discussed:

- The long term growth of the DSWCD staff
- The size of the building and its history of serving the agriculture community.
- The easy access for farmers and convenience of parking.
- Perry requested that the staff provide the number of farmers that visit the building routinely.
- Deborah Mc Griffin informed the group that the State has mandated that CES return to its core mission of assisting agriculture. The state will only fund 3.5 FTE's for this mission. The remaining positions of the 30 are grant funded do not meet the new state requirement.
- A motion was made by Will Wilson for the FPAB write a letter to the county manager in favor of keeping the organizations in the agriculture building. Douglas Daye seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimous.

**Next Meeting Date – July16, 2015** at 8:00am- Agricultural Building 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701, Second floor conference room.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:23 am.

Neil Frank  
Chair

Will Wilson  
Vice Chair

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Date