

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: March 19, 2015

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

Will Wilson- Vice Chairman- Eno VAD  
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative  
John Monroe- At Large  
Perry Whitted- Open Space and Trails  
Anthony Lopez- Falls VAD  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Demetrius Thompson- At Large

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water, Director  
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water  
Jane Korest- Open Space, Manager  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Annette Hiatt- citizen  
Linn Lopez- citizen  
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension- Local  
Foods Program

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015 and called to order at 8:15 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 Wendy Jacobs to approve the minutes from the last meeting. John Monroe second the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Membership** – The Board still has not received a resignation letter from Alicia Butler.
3. **Budget update-** Eddie Culberson gave an update on the budget. The only money spent since the last meeting was \$182.13 for the January 15<sup>th</sup> Farmer Appreciation Breakfast and coffee supplies.
  - **Possible ideas:**
    - **Retreat-** John Monroe proposed the idea of possibly having a board retreat to set new priorities for 2015, discuss outreach and marketing and hire a professional consultant to lead the retreat. Tabled until next meeting
4. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
  - March 26 closing on 64 acres for Barry Blalock's Farm. Final budget at Monday night's BOCC meeting.
  - Douglas Daye and George Tilley- funding moving forward
  - Applications for Adcock and McFarland Farm.
  - Working with other interested landowners
  - New issues and new farm bill
    - funding decreasing

- Federal Scoring- farms in Durham in lower half of funding
- Federal level- reduces capacity for funding
- 2015 Federal cycle announcement not out

**5. VAD update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:

- No new applications
- Renewal for all members is in process- applications need to be notarized.

**6. Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **Durham cub market/Ag Building**
  - A motion was made by Demetrius Thompson to move forward with a subcommittee for the “Durham curb market”. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
    - A subcommittee consisting of Mike Dupree, Neil Frank, John Monroe, Kathryn Spann and Samantha Gasson, Deborah McGiffin will explore this idea.
  - Subcommittee Report- The report will detail the parking lot approval ideas, signage, producers, liability (County), Ordinance (Farmland Board), Rational and Incubators of the new market.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Annette Hiatt**, Attorney with Land Loss Prevention Project

- Expressed interest in joining the Farmland Preservation Board

**Next Meeting Date – April 16, 2015** at 8:00am- Agricultural Building 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701/Second floor conference room.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Vice Chairman, Will Wilson adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Will Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair