

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: May 21, 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

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water, Director  
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water  
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Annette Hiatt- citizen  
Tonya Taylor- Triangle Land Conservancy  
Linn Lopez- citizen  
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 and called to order at 8:02 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 Kathryn Spann to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Samantha Gasson second the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Membership** – Lisa Marochak gave an update on membership. The Clerk to the Board sent a letter to Alicia Butler. Alicia's position on the Farmland Board should be on the next BOCC agenda. Once the position has been advertised anyone interested can apply. Annette Hiatt indicated that she is interested in serving on the Farmland Board as the Business Representative.
3. **Budget update-** Lisa Marochak gave an update on the budget. Remaining budget for FY15 \$2,360.58
  - VAD signs and post- A motion was made by Perry Whitted to allow up to \$1,000 to be spent on VAD signs and wood for the sign post. Southern High School students will make the sign post for the board. Samantha Gasson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
  - Supplies- A motion was made by Perry Whitted to purchase a 10x10 easy up tent, four 20 pound tent weights, bungee cords, folding table, 2 chairs and 8 traffic cones. Kathryn Spann seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **Easement Updates-** Wendy Seddon reported on the following:
  - Adcock and McFarland Farm- The application deadline for the ALE/ state was May 18<sup>th</sup>. Applications were submitted for Adcock and McFarland

- Douglas Daye and George Tilley- Wendy and Jane are going to start spending significant time on these two farms.

**5. VAD Application-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:

Samantha Gasson and Scott Stirrup in the Flat River VAD have 38 acres that they would like to enroll in the VAD Program. The property is located at 5315 Isham Chambers Rd. A motion was made by Kathryn Spann to approve the VAD application as presented. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent

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

- **Northern High School Media Event-** Was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. There were lots of dignitaries present: Commissioner of Ag, Steve Troxler; NC Farm Bureau President; Larry Wotten; DPS Superintendent, Dr. Bert L'Homme; Durham Public School Board Member, Heidi Carter; Durham County Board of County Commissioner Brenda Howerton and Wendy Jacob just to name a few. The event was well received by all that attended.
  - The News & Observer had a write up on the Courtyard in the May 3<sup>rd</sup> paper.
- **Northern High School Plant Sale-** The NHS Ag/Ed teacher, Demikia Taylor is planning to attend the Farmland Advisory Board meeting on June 18 to give an update.
- **Southern High School BETC Program plant sale-** Earned \$2,700 so far this year.
- **Blue Waters Day-** Saturday, June 6- Southern High School, collaboration between Durham Soil and Water Conservation District and RBC Centura Bank and the Southern High School BETC program. Volunteers are going to Southern High School to do a stream cleanup and install a rain garden.
- **Opening for Bull City Cool will be in June or July**
  - Board already approved a couple hundred for refreshments
  - Bull City Cool is working with Farmer Food Share
    - Farmer Food Share is working with DPS. They are hoping to sell produce to DPS who has \$120,000 food budget.
    - Submitted \$98,800 grant to Farm to School Program to help pay for Farmer Food Share employees.

**7. Durham cub market/Ag Building-** Kathryn Spann reported on the following:

- **Central Market-** Kathryn Spann, Will Wilson and John Monroe attended the Central Market Board on May 5 and discussed the idea of opening a new market.
- **Planning-** Soil and Water submitted a proposal on behalf of the Farmland Board for a potential farmers market. The Planning Department okayed the use of the Agricultural Building parking lot and sent an application for a temporary permit.
- **Target Opening date:** July 2015
- **Next Step-** Farmland Board, Durham Soil and Water and Cooperative Extension meet to discuss the market. Culberson will send out a meeting date to Kathryn Spann, Demetrius Thompson, John Monroe, Delphine Sellars, Mike Dupree and Deborah McGiffin once he has a date and time finalized.

**Next Meeting Date – June 18, 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 9:06 am.

Neil Frank  
Chair

Will Wilson  
Vice Chair

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Date