

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: November 13, 2014

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank- Chairman- At large
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
Talmage Layton- At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water, Director
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Open Space, Manager
Wendy Seddon- Open Space
Beth Yeats- VA (Teleconference)
Linn Lopez- citizen

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, November 13, 2014 and called to order at 8:03 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. Will Wilson second the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Membership** – Neil Frank is going to stop by Green Button Farm and also Blue Whistler Farm to see if they are interested in serving on the Board.
3. **Budget update-** Lisa Marochak reported the following:
 - She will purchase some coffee supplies for the board meetings before the December meeting.
4. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
 - Prodigal Farm- Very close to closing on Prodigal Farm- final amount received was \$309,000 in grant funds. The amount was presented at Monday night's BOCC meeting.
 - ACEP- Korest reported that funding was down nationwide this year. Board members gave Korest suggestions on other funding sources to look into.
 - UNCWI- get them to come out and educate the BOCC/City Council
5. **Collaboration with VA to provide farm labor-** Beth Yeats with the VA reported on the following:
 - Discussed the Compensated Work Experience (CWT) program and how it works.

6. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
- **GAP Certification**
 - GAP certification- CFSA will be holding another training for free on November 19th (8am-noon) and December 3 (8am-5pm).
 - If anyone has \$25,000 in yearly sales you have to be GAP certified
 - **Breakfast Series-** Two of the breakfast will take place during the GAP training on November 19th and December 3rd. The 3rd breakfast will be held on January 15th at Neil Frank's Farm and the topic will be on bees. The 4th breakfast is planned for February 19th and the topic will be live stock.
 - **Outreach Event-** Possible restaurant mixer with Peter Skillern May 2015
 - **Food & Farm Network-** Mike Dupree and Jane Korest attended the meeting
 - Moving Durham to buying more local food
 - Open Agricultural Building parking lot for Durham only farmers
 - A subcommittee consisting of Mike Dupree, Neil Frank, John Monroe, Kathryn Spann and Samantha Gasson will explore this idea.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Urban Ministries:** Wendy Jacobs reported that the food pantry is constantly in need of food. They are especially in need of fresh produce. Jacobs will invite an Urban Ministries Rep. to an upcoming Farmland Board meeting to discuss options.
2. **Americorp Grants:** Neil Frank and Wendy Jacobs attended a meeting on Americorp Grants. They have 1.2 million available for grants. Frank and Jacobs thought that the HUB Farm would be a good fit.
3. **Farm Supplies Coop-** John Monroe reported that he is looking for a closer wholesale supplier for farm operations.
4. **2015 Farmland Board meeting dates:** The Farmland Board will meet the 3rd Thursday of the each month at 8am. The meetings will take place at the Agricultural Building 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.

Next Meeting Date – December 18, 2014 at 8am- (Agricultural Building) 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:50 am.

Neil Frank
Chairman

Will Wilson
2nd Vice Chair