

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: August 20, 2015

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

Neil Frank- Chairman- At Large  
Will Wilson-Vice Chair  
Wendy Jacobs- County Commissioner  
John Monroe- At Large  
Perry Whitted- Open Space and Trails  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Demetrius Thompson-At Large  
Tony Lopez- Falls VAD

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson-Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water  
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Jane Korest-Open Space  
Jessica Pope-Contractor with Soil & Water  
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension Service  
Melodie Pugh- Northgate Mall  
Brian Wilkerson- Northgate Mall  
Ginny Bowman- Northgate Mall

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, August 20, 2015 and called to order at 8:00 am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the first floor conference room.*

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Perry Whitted to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Budget update-** Lisa Marochak reported that the Farmland Board received \$3,870 for FY15-16 in the Soil and Water county budget.
3. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
  - The surveys for the Douglas Daye and George Tilley easements are underway. These are two farm projects that are fully funded with the combination of county and FRPP funding.
  - The County has not yet heard back from the ACEP/ALE program regarding the Adcock and S. McFarland grant requests that were submitted this spring. If the two farms do not receive funding in this cycle, staff will start to seek alternate sources of funds.
4. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
  - **Goal: Expand marketing opportunities**
    - A. Bull City Cool- the Grand Opening is scheduled, Thursday September 10, from 11am to 12:30. The tour will have local foods (\$300 of the cost covered by FPAB). The purpose is to show case the facility and the tenants who will be discussing their role in the local food system. Invitations will be sent soon.
      1. Farmers Food Share
      2. Seal the Seasons- Frozen
      3. Bella Bean Organics
      4. Interfaith Food Shuttle

- Willing to host Farm mixer event in January

- **Goal: Expand Ag Education in DPS**
  - a. Lowe's Grove Middle School has a new curricular focus and is developing an Agribusiness focus.
    1. Fidelity Financial is financing the greenhouse retrofit and the volunteer day is Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>.
    2. A School Improvement Team has been assembled and will be working with the Agriculture and Science teachers to expand the BETC program of Southern High to LGMS.
    3. The concept is to generate more interest for students who maybe going to Jordan High.
  - b. Northern High School- Has hired a second Ag. Education Teacher, to teach Horticulture.
  
- **Goal: Establish a Local Food Policy Council**
  - a. The Durham Farm Food Network has been meeting monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
  - b. Possible outcomes
    - second group reviewing/advocating for review of local food policy and making recommendations
  - c. Food Policy is to be organized and installed by January. The next few months will be centered on the makeup of the group.
  
- **Farmland Breakfast Series**

November 12<sup>th</sup> breakfast will be held at Neil Frank's Farm with Johnny Rogers being the guest speaker. Mike Dupree will extend an invitation to Annette Hyatt to also speak at the breakfast.

December 10<sup>th</sup> breakfast- Wendy Jacobs will contact the Food Processing Center in Hillsborough to see if we can hold the December breakfast at the processing center.

February 18<sup>th</sup> breakfast we have received an invite to hold the February breakfast at the UDI Aquaculture/Aquaponics site in Durham. The board agreed that it's a good location.
  
- **Farmland Board Annual Report to the BOCC**- Mike Dupree reported that Drew Cummings recommended a November or December work session to give an update/progress report to the BOCC and discuss other topic such as:
 

Goal: Local Food Purchasing Program

  - a. County Local food purchase mandate (Possible funding)
    - Urban Ministries
    - Detention Center
    - County Departments mandated to buy local
  - b. Local Ag Grant Funding to help farmers  
[www.growinorangenc.com](http://www.growinorangenc.com)<<http://www.growinorangenc.com>

Mike Dupree, Neil Frank and Jane Korest will be on the Annual Report subcommittee. Neil Frank will send out an invite to the subcommittee

## 5. Farmers Market Subcommittee report-

- A. John Monroe gave an update on the two potential locations for the market.
  - Northgate Mall Representatives Melodie Pugh, Brian Wilkerson, and Ginny Bowman reported that Northgate mall is interested in hosting the "Durham Producer Only" Market.
    - Northgate is willing to put together a market list serv from their email list
    - The Farmland Board would be able to setup a booth at any of their events

- Northgate is willing to put up Market signs and a large banner that can be seen from I85
- Still working on logistics
- The Farmland Board is going to look into copying the agreement that was used by the Southern Durham Farmers Market. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

**B. Farmers Market Survey-** Jessica Pope went over the survey results with the board. There are approximately 15 Durham farmers that are interested in another market.

**Next Meeting Date – September 17, 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 9:40 am.

Neil Frank  
Chair

Will Wilson  
Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date approved