

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: March 17, 2011

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large/Vice Chair
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Will Wilson- Eno VAD
Melissa English- At Large
John Monroe- At Large
Ron Bodkin- At Large
Billy Cooley- Farm Bureau Representative
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Open Space Manager
Kathleen Snyder- Durham City/County Planning
Greg May- Tax office
Colleen Scarlett- Tax Office
Erin White- NC State University student

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday March 17, 2011, and called to order at 8:05 am by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

- 1. Minutes** – A draft copy of February 2011 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-**
 - Farmland Board Financial Report-** Lisa Marochak went over the financial report for the Farmland Advisory Board.
 - CIP Budget-** Jane Korest reported that they are recommending \$300,000 for Open Space and Farmland for the FY2012 Capital Improvements Plan budget and \$500,000 for future.
 - County Budget-** Eddie Culberson reported that the county is facing a 2.3 million dollar short fall this year. Each department has been asked to reduce their budget by 2% from the previous year's budget. The 2% reduction equals to 14% reduction in operating expenses. Soil & Water is proposing a 14% reduction in the Farmland Board's line item or \$630. The budget hearing will be held on March 21st at 8:30am in the County Managers office.
 - Farmland Giveaways-** The board decided to purchase bags instead of t-shirts to give away at the Earth Day event. Kathryn Spann requested that the bag be washable.
 - Logo-** Will Wilson is going to work on a new logo for the Farmland Board
- 3. Workshop-** Kathryn Spann reported that the Farmland Workshop was held on February 19, 2011 at the Bahama Ruritan. There were approximately 57 people in attendance that day.
- 4. Board Retreat follow-up (action plan)** – Tabled until next month
- 5. Equipment Tax-** Colleen Scarlett reported that they are still working on this.

6. **Piedmont Grown-** meeting tonight from 7pm-8:30pm at the Durham Cooperative Extension
7. **VAD Update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following
 - **Applications-** No new applications
 - **VAD Signs-** A motion was made by Neil Frank to donate \$200 to Southern High School to help pay for materials needed for the VAD Signs. Billy Cooley seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

New Business

1. **Comprehensive Plan-** Kathleen Snyder went over the Comprehensive plan with the Board and told them that is the time to make any changes to the plan. Snyder passed out a copy of Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive plan since this is the portion that relates to the Farmland Board. A subcommittee is going to be formed to help with this process. Kathryn Spann is going to set up the subcommittee meeting. The following people have agreed to serve on the committee: Kathryn Spann, Will Wilson, Eddie Culberson, Jane Korest, Mike Dupree & John Monroe
2. **Ag Development-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - **Grants-** On April 15th will be applying for two 319 grants
 - **Farmer sign-up** – Jennifer reported that the Falls Lake farmer sign-up is going on now.
3. **Jordan High School-** Melissa English reported that the Ag department teacher at Jordan High School would like to take two classes studying animal science on a field trip to a local farm but the funding is not available. They are in need of \$250 to \$300 to help fund this field trip. A motion was made by Billy Cooley to give Jordan High School's Ag Department \$250 to use toward the local farm field trip contingent we have this money in our budget. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **Annual Report-** Kathryn Spann reported that they need to start working on an Annual Report. The board and staff came up with a list of topics and who would be in charge of writing up each report.
5. **Legislative Update-** tabled until next meeting

Set Next Meeting Date – April 21, 2011

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman