

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: April 21, 2016

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank- Chairman
Will Wilson-Vice Chair
John Monroe- At Large
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Talmage Layton- At Large
Perry Whitted (Phone) - Open Space Representative
Tony Lopez- Falls VAD
David Heeks- At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Jane Korest-Open Space
Wendy Seddon- Open Space
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension
Annette Hiatt- citizen
Elizabeth Zander- Soil & Water Contractor/PCC
Lin Lopez- citizen

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2016 and called to order at 8:04am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St., Durham, NC 27701, in the 2nd floor conference room.

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the minutes from the February meeting as presented. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Membership-**
 - Vacant position's- Lisa Marochak reported that the vacant Business Representative position is being advertised now and will be appointed at the April 25th BOCC Meeting. The Falls VAD position will be advertised after this meeting.
 - At Large Position- Neil Frank reported that David Heeks is interested in joining the board as an At Large member. A motion was made by Mark Waller to appoint David Heeks as an At Large member. Talmage Layton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Farmland Board Budget-** Lisa Marochak reported that the board has \$1,330.40 remaining In their budget.
4. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - **Funds request for Southern High School and Lowes Grove Middle School-** Southern High School, OCS Program is requesting \$500 for materials to build two greenhouses. Don Ramsey's class will build the greenhouses for the OCS Program. Lowes Grove Middle School is requesting \$300 to buy more fruit trees, mulch, etc. A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the \$500 request for Southern High School and the \$300 request for Lowes Grove Middle School. Perry Whitted seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - **Northern High School-** Dupree will be meeting with them soon.
 - **Reality Ministries-** wants to start a nursery next to Bull City Cool. A meeting is scheduled for this afternoon to discuss. The nursery will specialize in edible plants.

- **Durham Farm Network & Food Policy Council** has been created. There are over 300 members with 19 members serving on the Coordinating Committee. There are four areas of focus: Food Justice, Farming & Natural Resources, Health and Economy. The Farming & Natural Resources action circle will meet the second Monday of the month at the Bull City Cool Hub on Geer St. The meeting will be from 6pm-7:30pm at 902 N. Mangum St. There are 91 action items that the action circle will be narrowing down to the top priorities. There are about 40 members in the action circle.
- 4. Easement update-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
- Hope to complete Douglas Daye’s easement this year.
 - Last week site visits were done on the 4 Federal applications that were submitted this year. Korest is optimistic that all four farms will get funded.
 - Working on a couple of potential farms for the future.
- 5. Farmers Market update-**
Will Wilson gave an update on the Durham Roots Farmer’s Market.
- **Opening day-** was Saturday in April 16 and 358 people attended the market and spent an average of \$10 each. Besides the four vendors, Durham Soil and Water had a booth and Northern High School FFA had a booth selling plants.
 - There was several articles in the newspaper about the Opening Day of the Market.
 - Need a source to sell wheat

New Business:

- 1. Bull City Cool Food hub Coordinator-** Neil Curran introduced himself to the FPAB
- 2. Pond Clinic Saturday, May 7** – This year Durham Soil and Water Conservation District is partnering with Orange Soil and Water Conservation District to help put on the event and it’s going to be bigger and better than ever! We are planning to kick off the day with a catch and release fishing tournament. We will be offering several trainings and we are bringing back the popular shock boat. Last but not least, we will be having a fish fry for lunch and all of this is being provided **FREE** thanks to our many sponsors. Please call 919-560-0558 to sign-up for this event by April 29th.
- 3. Gap funds-** David Heeks reported that the State released funds for an audit for Gap last week. Durham Public Schools has met with Heeks twice to discuss the possibility of getting fresh vegetables into the schools.

Next Meeting– May 19, 2016 at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701 (second floor conference room)

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:05 am.

Neil Frank
Chair

Will Wilson
Vice-Chair

Date approved