

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Building
721 Foster St Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: April 20, 2017

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank- Chairman
Will Wilson- Vice Chair
Kathryn Spann- 2nd Vice Chair/Durham SWCD Rep.
David Heeks- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Samantha Gasson- At Large
Nicole Connelly- At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Jane Korest-Open Space
Celeste Burns- Real Estate Coordinator
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension
Elizabeth Zander- Piedmont Conservation Council
Heidi Hannapel- Land Spring Group
Jeff Masten- Land Spring Group

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 20, 2017 and called to order at 8:06am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.

- 1. March Minutes** – A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes for March 2017. Nicole Connelly seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Board Attendance-** Lisa Marochak reminded the Farmland Board members that they are required to attend at least 2/3 of the meetings
- 3. Budget-** Lisa Marochak gave an update on the remaining balance for the Farmland Board.
 - **FFA funding-** A motion was made by Will Wilson to donate \$500 to Lowes Grove Middle School FFA, Northern High School FFA, Jordan High School FFA and Southern High School OCS to The money will be used to support the FFA program and OCS program at each of the schools. The schools will be required to give a formal report to the board on how the funds were used. Nicole Connelly seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 4. VAD Renewal** – A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the VAD renewal application for Larry and Betty Bradsher. The application is for 52.194 acres. Nicole Connelly seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 5. Easements- Jane Korest reported on the following:**
 - Annual monitoring
 - Starting work on the four projects that were approved last year by the Feds.
 - Next Tuesday the Feds are coming to visit the 2017 farms that were submitted.
 - Hoping to close on Mr. Daye's Farm in 2 months.
- 6. Ag Economic Development Coordinator update-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - **NACD Grant-** Breakfast training May 18th same day as the tour. Hub Farm staff will take individuals around the farm on a short 10-minute tour between 8:00 and 8:10am. Or

after the tour at 2:30pm. June 29th is the last training in the series. It will be rain garden and cistern training.

- **Detention Facility**-It is likely that the BOCC will approve a \$30,000 grant to Farmer Food Share for the supplemental purchasing of food for the detention facility. The money is to cost share the cost of the Food Safety audit and **GAP Certification**.
 - **BETC Program**- The BETC program Research Project has been approved by Durham Public Schools. We currently are teaching the 5 day rain garden design and installation curriculum at three schools Southern, Jordan and Northern.
 - We are administering pre and posttest evaluations that will impact about 250 students in AP Science, Horticulture and OCS. This project will document the impact on environmental literacy, science and horticulture knowledge by students that are participating. *This project is being funded by two grants Smith Richardson Foundation Grant & the Longleaf Collective Grant (\$68,500 total).*
 - **DPS HUB FARM**- We have been working closely with the Hub Farm to raise funds and secure grants. The NACD grant has paid the Hub Farm coordinators salary for 6 months.
 - We submitted an Ecosystem Enhancement Grant for \$328,200 to retrofit the ponds and install BMP's at the hub farm.
 - We submitted a Letter of Interest to Duke Energy for \$26500 to support the Summer Green Infrastructure program
7. **DDFN**- Nicole Connelly gave an update on the following:
- Some member have left and some new members have joined
 - Working with farmers to connect them to pantry's
 - Stakeholder outreach process
 - Reviewing Plans/Policy
 - Next meeting:
 - Coordinating Council monthly meeting (2nd week of May)
 - Farming Natural Resources
8. **Incubator Farm Subcommittee update**- John Monroe reported on the following:
- Subcommittee has been meeting once a month
 - Took field trip to Breeze Farm
 - Met with community groups
 - Met with Cheralyn Schmidt (Cooperative Extension)
 - Heidi Hannapel and Jeff Masten gave an update to the board. Heidi said that everyone should think of it as a farm center instead of an incubator farm.
9. **Roots Farmers Market**- Will Wilson gave an update on the following:
- Grand opening is this Saturday
 - Added 3 new vendors but lost 2
 - Submitted a Farmers Market Promotion Program grant
 - Market Manager has been hired

New Business:

- **Tax Office/Present Use-** Monica with the tax Department will send Lisa Marochak a spreadsheet at the end of each month showing any changes to parcels or present use status.

Next Meeting– June 15, 2017 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 9:58a.m.

Neil Frank
Chair

Will Wilson
Vice Chair

6/15/2017
Date approved