

## MINUTES

### **Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District**

Agricultural Building  
721 Foster St Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 8 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: May 16, 2019

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

Will Wilson- Chairman  
Neil Frank- Vice Chair  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Heidi Carter- BOCC Representative  
David Heeks- At Large  
Nicole Connelly- Little River VAD  
John Monroe- At Large  
Kathryn Spann-SWCD Representative

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water  
Kyle Gentry- Soil & Water  
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water  
Jane Korest- Open Space  
Celeste Burns- Open Space  
Ashley Troth- Cooperative Ext  
Annie Baggett-Dept of Ag  
Mavis Gragg- Gragg Law Firm  
Scott Whiteman- Planning  
Natalie Murdock- Soil & Water District  
David Harris- Soil & Water District

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 and called to order at 8:05 am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.*

1. **Approval of Board minutes from April-** Motion made by Neil Frank to approve minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nicole Connelly. Motion passed
2. **Budget Update-** Presented by Eddie Culberson, budget is attached.
3. **Easements- Celeste Burns reported on the following:**
  - Current easement projects
  - Potential state bill on Easement land tax credits
4. **VAD update-** Eddie Culberson reported that he had two new VAD applications for consideration:
  - A motion was made by Neil Frank to approve the VAD applications as follows. Nicole Connelly seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
    - Talmage Layton- The application is for 43.071 acres on Cheek Rd and Patterson Rd.
    - Oak Hill Ranch, LLC (Ruth Willett)- The application is for 137.848 acres on Cheek Rd.
5. **Farmers Market update-** Will Wilson gave an update on the Roots Farmers Market
  - Brightleaf Square location going well and up to 12 vendors
6. **Ag Economic Development update-** Mike Dupree gave an update on the Durham Public School Hub Farm Open House, BETC summer program: 40 students, 9 teachers, seeking farms for the students to experience on-farm work every Thursday during the program.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) **Visit NC Farm App-** Annie Baggett: Agritourism Marketing Specialist with NC Dept of Ag, gave a presentation on agritourism in North Carolina, the benefits of the visit NC farm app, and what it would take to bring the app to Durham County. The board expressed interest in having Annie Baggett back for a winter breakfast series.
  
- 2) **City/County Planning-** Scott Whiteman: Policy and Urban Design Manager, led a discussion on the process for adopting the new city/county comprehensive plan. The board requested a point contact from the city/county planning department and expressed the need for a robust community engagement process along the way.

**Next Meeting**—July 18, at 8am. The meeting will be held at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Vice-Chairman, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 9:57 am.

Will Wilson  
Chairman

Kyle Gentry  
Natural Resources Conservationist

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Date approved