

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: November 19, 2020

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Mark Waller – 2nd Vice Chair – Farm Bureau
Representative
Heidi Carter – BOCC Representative
Jillian Riley – SWCD Board Representative
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Derrick Beasley – Open Space and Trails
Representative
Talmage Layton – Falls Lake VAD
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree – Soil & Water
Cherri Smith – Soil & Water
Jane Korest – Open Space
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Ashley Troth – Cooperative Extension
Janel Ohletz – Cooperative Extension
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
Kimberly Williams – guest
Lindsay White – guest
Matthew Eagle – guest
Samantha Gasson – guest

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 and called to order at 8:03 am by the Chair. The meeting was held as a virtual Zoom meeting.

1. **Approval of Board Minutes from October 2020** – Motion made by Mark Waller to approve the minutes, seconded by Talmage Layton. Motion passed.
2. **FPAB Membership** –
 - Nicole Connelly reported that the Nominating Committee will bring recommendations to the Board for the three At Large vacancies in January or February of 2021.
 - Lisa Marochak reported that the Farmland Board has received four applications for the three vacancies. One applicant has been appointed to another county board, so she has withdrawn her application.
 - Derrick Beasley was welcomed to the Board as the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission representative.
3. **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)** – Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - The 9-member AED Grant Committee has a vacancy since Will Wilson has stepped down as Chair of the FPAB. The AED Grant Committee meets again in January of 2021 so the FPAB should nominate a replacement at their December 2020 meeting.
 - The Farmer Breakfast series was discussed, and the Board recommended that virtual trainings be held in January and February of 2021 on the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:00 pm. It was agreed that one of the trainings provide the opportunity for participants to receive Pesticide Credits. Mike will report further on this training in December.

4. **Easements/Open Space** – Jane Korest reported on the following:

- The closing of 81 acres of the Scotty McFarland Farm is underway, and the second phase of this project on an additional 11 acres will require a new federal grant application.
- The survey on the Len Needham Farm is underway.
- Funding has been secured for Mike Garrett’s Farm.

5. **Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)** –

- Cherri Smith reported that one VAD application has been received since the last meeting. This farm is 60.646 acres at 10353 Old Roxboro Rd. in Bahama and is owned by John Hall, Linda Maynard, Diane Poole, and Lisa Garrett. Talmage Layton motioned to approve the VAD application, and Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Lisa Marochak requested that the Board allocate \$500 from their budget for the wooden frames for VAD signs. Talmage Layton motioned to approve the \$500 from the FPAB budget for sign frames, and Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Lisa Marochak reported that the flyer for the plant sale to raise funds for environmental education will go out next week. Durham SWCD will be taking pre-orders only.
- Donna Rewalt requested that those individuals who received the emailed survey regarding the NC Farms App respond to the survey.

Next Meeting – December 17, 2020 at 8 a.m. The meeting will be held as a virtual Zoom meeting.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 8:46 a.m.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Cherri Smith
Soil and Water

January 21, 2021
Date approved