

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: August 19, 2021

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Mark Waller – Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative
Heidi Carter – BOCC Representative
Kenny Browning – 2nd Vice Chair – Eno River VAD
David Heeks – At Large
Matthew Eagle – At Large
William Sparrow – Business Representative
Samantha Gasson – At Large
Derrick Beasley – Open Space and Trails Representative

Others Present:

Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Eddie Culberson – Soil & Water
Jane Korest – Open Space
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
Ashley Toth – Cooperative Extension

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, August 19, 2021 and called to order at 6:25 pm by the Chair. The meeting was held as a virtual Zoom meeting.

1. **Approval of Board Minutes from February 2021** – Motion made by Mark Waller to approve the minutes, seconded by Samantha Gasson. Motion passes.
2. **Financial Update** – Lisa Marochak presented there is \$3,375 in the account for this fiscal year July1-June 30, 2022 that needs to be spent by April of May. Discussion made of what has been purchased with this money in the past. Lisa will compile a summary of what the FPAB spent their money on the past six years.
3. **Agriculture Economic Development (AED)** – Sherry Scully reported that the Board of County Commissioners approved an extra \$25,000 for the AED Grant Program. The total funds available for the program is \$75,000. Nonprofits may now apply for up to \$2,000 to the AED Grant. Board gave recommendations for AED Committee to consider concerning nonprofits.

Three trainings have been held and applications are due on August 31, 2021. AED Committee will allocate these funds on September 15, 2021.

4. **Easements/Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported that they will begin working on the second phase of Scotty McFarland's easement.

In addition, work is also progressing on the second phase on easement's for Scottie McFarland, Douglas Day (phase 2), Len Needham, and Michael Garrett.

5. **Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD)** – Sherry Scully provided an update on the VAD applications that have been received since the last meeting, and those applications are as follows:
 - Barbara And Ulyuss Keith – 14.293 ac on Cheek Rd in Durham
 - Angela and Michael Waters – 173.068 ac on S Lowell Rd in Bahama

- Jamie Shorey and Joseph Clark – 33.598 ac on Cornwallis Rd, Durham

Motion made to approve these three VADs by Matthew Eagle, seconded by Kenny Browning. Motion passed.

- Lorene Johnston – 76.255 ac on Thompson Rd in Durham

Kenny Browning moved to accept this VAD application. Samantha Gasson seconded. Motion carried. (Matthew Eagle abstained from this vote due to conflict of interest.)

6. **Cooperative Extension Report** – Ashley Toth informed Board of the Pesticide and Soil Health Trainings that she and Janel Ohletz have had great success with. Farm School is in progress and has 30 participants.

7. **Committee Updates**

A. **Video Committee** – Progress of this task discussed. Janel Ohletz requested to head up the Video Committee to decide next steps. Lisa Marochak will send the committee some of the agendas from the past Farm Tours.

B. **Farm Campus** – Mary Oxendine and Janel Ohletz are pursuing grants to obtain funding for food security requests and a feasibility study for the Farm Campus.

C. **Meeting in person** – options proposed for meeting in person. Recognition that all Board members are not able to meet in person and therefore, the fellowship and input of all has not been the same. Lisa will test hybrid option at Matthew Eagle’s shop for next Board Meeting.

Next Meeting –September 16, 2021 at 6:30 pm. The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

9/16/21
Date approved