

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: March 24, 2022

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Mark Waller – Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner (virtual)
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Samantha Gasson – At Large (virtual)
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Lindsay White – At Large (virtual)

Others Present:

Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Janel Ohletz – Cooperative Extension
David Harris – Soil & Water
Jane Korest – Open Space
Tom Freeman – Guest
Pam Andrews - Guest

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, March 24, 2022, and called to order at 10:22 am by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Farm Bureau Meeting Room.

1. **Approval of February 2022 Board Minutes** – Motion made by Mark Waller and seconded by Talmage Layton. All voted in favor; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak shared costs incurred for both breakfasts and sign and frame order. Sherry Scully requested the board consider funding a lunch for the Fencing School that Janel Ohletz and Emily Bateman have put together. This all-day event is expected to have 75 participants. Lisa has investigated some prices for boxed lunches and found that they will be around \$13. Bill Sparrow made motion to fund lunch for the Fencing School not to exceed \$14/lunch and 75 people (or \$1,050). Talmage Layton seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Lisa will purchase items for farm tour with remaining funds. These purchases will close out the 2022 budget for the FPAB.
3. **Farm Video Subcommittee Report** – Subcommittee has not met this past month.
4. **In-person Farm Tour** – Those interested in serving on Committee for in-person farm tour are Celeste Burns, Jane Korest, Lisa Marochak, Samantha Gasson, Nicole Connelly and Sherry Scully. Neil Frank will also be invited due to his experience with past farm tours. Possible meeting times will be sent out to these folks by Lisa and Sherry.
5. **Easements and Open Space report provided by Celeste Burns.** Closing on Lin Needham farm end of March or April. Continuing to work with Douglas Daye on his additional easement.
6. **Agriculture Economic Development** – Sherry Scully requested that Board discuss and approve an application by Jeremy Jenkins to continue the enrollment of his newly purchased parcels on Tilley Farm Rd remain in the Voluntary Ag District program. This 86 acre farm, previously owned by Cherri Miller, is 86 acres and is now an Agritourism business and

called B Squared Farm. Mr. Jenkins has requested an additional VAD sign to be placed on Bahama Rd. Mark Waller made motion to approve the continuation of this farm's VAD enrollment. Talmage Layton seconded; motion passed.

7. **Cooperative Extension Report provided by Janel Ohletz and Donna Rewalt - Upcoming Events:**

- March 31st – 6:30-8pm Poultry with a Purpose
- April 6th, 6-7pm Local Food and Farming Network Group
- Soil Health & Regenerative Ag Series continues monthly sessions
- April 28th, 6:30– Present Use Value presentation by Starlin Beatty, County Tax Dept
- May 4th Report to the Community Event
- May 5th - Fencing School offered by Janel and Emily Bateman with Soil and Water

8. **South Durham Farmers' Market Board position** was discussed. No volunteers to step into this role; Samantha will request the South Durham Farmers' Market Board to change their by-laws and take the FPAB representative off the board.

Next Meeting – Day, time, and location to be determined by poll.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 11:19 am.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

April 21, 2022
Date approved