

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Number: 5 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: May 19, 2022

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner
Neil Frank – At Large
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD
David Heeks – At Large
Lindsay White – At Large

Others Present:

Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Jane Korest – Open Space

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 19, 2022, and called to order at 6:02 pm by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Farm Bureau Meeting Room.

1. **Approval of April 2022 Board Minutes** – Motion made by Neil Frank and seconded by Lindsay White. All voted in favor; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Sherry Scully presented financial update in Lisa Marochak's absence. All VAD sign materials have now been purchased with the exception of two items that have not been available and waiting on new orders. Lunch was provided to Fencing School. Once the receipts are finalized with remaining VAD sign supplies, Lisa will finalize purchase of tote bags and hats for Farm Tour. She has had conversations with the company. This should be final in the next week.
3. **Comprehensive Plan Draft Policy** – Carl Kolosna reached out to Board through Sherry and Nicole this past month requesting the Board's input. Sherry provided information of the Comprehensive Plan Draft Policy. The Planners are accepting public comment on these proposed policies through June 30th. Celeste created a spreadsheet that Sherry shared with the Board that pulled all ag-related policy points. Board reviewed and discussed these items. Nicole and Neil plan to discuss further and will follow up with Board at the June meeting.
4. **In-person Farm Tour** – Farm Tour Committee met on May 17 to finalize map of stops. Sherry presented map to the Board on screen and requested that an additional stop be made that is on route. Dates presented to BOCC for consideration are October 6 and October 11. Lunch preference discussed: box lunch vs catered meal. The benefit of conversation during a catered lunch seemed preferable to most.
5. **Easements and Open Space** - Celeste Burns provided update. Easement acquisition is still in process with several landowners. Working with NRCS currently to reach completion. Some are slated for completion in mid and late June.
6. **Agriculture Economic Development Report** – provided by Sherry Scully. Ag Economic Development Grant committee met on May 17 to finalize the upcoming year details. Three

grant trainings will be held: June 7, 8 am at Farm Bureau; June 23, 6 pm at Cooperative Extension; July 12, 6 pm at North Regional Library. Application deadline will be August 31 at 5 pm. Applications will be reviewed and ranked by staff and Committee. Allocations will be made and applicants will be notified on September 30, 2022.

Active FY 21 and FY 22 contracts are moving along. Deadline for FY 21 contracts is June 30. There is one farmer grant contract remaining to be completed and is due to finish soon. The school grant remaining will unfortunately not be completed due to two teachers and bookkeeper resigning. That money will have to be returned to county. FY 22 contracts are all complete or in progress.

- **Cooperative Extension Report** – Sherry reported that Cooperative Extension held their Report to the Community event on May 4 at Briggs Avenue Community Garden. Copies of the report were available to those in person. The Small Farms and Local Food position is still open; with plans to fill soon.

Next Meeting – June 17th at 6:00pm at Farm Bureau or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 6:52pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

July 21, 2022
Date approved