

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board)    Date: July 21, 2022

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

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD  
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner  
Neil Frank – At Large  
Matthew Eagle – At Large  
Jillian Riley – SWCD Board  
Derrick Beasley – Open Space & Trails  
Douglas Daye – Flat River 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, July 21, 2022, and called to order at 6:01 pm by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Farm Bureau Meeting Room.*

1. **Approval of May 2022 Board Minutes** – Motion made by Neil Frank and seconded by Kenny Browning. All voted in favor; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak presented an update of the finances to those in attendance. Using FY22 funds, farm tour bags, hats and folders were purchased. The FY 23 allocation to the board is \$3,375.
3. **Save Soils** – Heidi Carter presented to the Farmland Protection Advisory Board on the “Save Soil” global movement. A concerned citizen shared this movement with her. There was a lot of feedback and great discussion about what is already being done by Durham, state and federal agencies and the recent push by NCSU and USDA NRCS on soil health. In addition, those in attendance discussed new ideas or methods to offer incentives for obtaining organic matter.
4. **Farm Tour Update** – The Farm Tour will be held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The Farm Tour map has been determined with 6 farm stops and 1 school stop; farmers, teacher and principal have confirmed that they will be a part of the tour. Bus has been requested through Northern HS FFA Teacher. She has requested a bus through transportation but the staff member who handles reservations is not available in the summer. Invitations will be sent once bus is confirmed.
5. **Easements and Open Space** - Celeste Burns announced completion of Douglas Daye’s 12 ac additional easement area that closed successfully on June 8 and Panther Creek open space conservation easement, closed on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Completion and closing of the Needham’s is in process. We are working with Alston Glenn on adding an additional 12 acres to his easement area. Celeste requested that the Board send anyone that they know who may be interested in discussing easement options to her or Jane Korest. The NRCS ACEP-ALE (Agricultural Lands Easement Program) application deadline may be earlier than last year.

6. **VAD Update** – Sherry Scully requested approval for three VAD applications.

- David and Gail Lyle – 274 ac – VAD
- Douglas and Kay Dahms - 35 ac – VAD
- Preston Riggs – 80 ac – VAD

Motion made by Matthew Eagle and seconded by Neil Frank to approve these three VAD applications. All voted in favor of the motion.

7. **Agriculture Economic Development Report** – provided by Sherry Scully.

- Soil and Water staff reported to the BOCC in June. BOCC allocated \$150,000 towards the Ag Economic Development Grant program.
- A special committee meeting was held to discuss raising caps in this program. Those caps are: Schools at \$1500, Farmers at \$7500.
- Three hybrid training sessions were held in three locations
- Application deadline is August 31 at 5pm
- Applications will be reviewed and ranked by Committee. They will allocate funds on September 28. Applicants will be notified on September 30.
- One contract from FY21 was not completed; those funds were returned to county.

8. **Cooperative Extension Report** – No report

**Next Meeting** – August 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Farm Bureau or online.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 7:09pm.

Nicole Connelly  
Chairman

Sherry Scully  
Soil and Water

September 15,2022  
Date approved