

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 2 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: March 16, 2023

Advisory Board Present:

Mark Waller, Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative
Samantha Gasson – At Large
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative
Matthew Eagle – 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, March 16, 2023 at the Durham Farm Bureau office. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by the Vice Chair.

1. **Introduction of Durham Open Space and Trails Commission representative** – Shakira Campbell was welcomed by Vice Chair and provided an introduction of herself.
2. **Approval of January 2023 Board Minutes** – Mark Waller asked for approval of minutes submitted. Motion made by Talmage Layton and seconded by Samantha Gasson. Motion passed to approve January minutes.
3. **Farmer Breakfast Review** – Sherry Scully stated that the attendance for 3 Farmer Breakfasts was 71. She requested feedback on location and topics. All feedback was positive. Board felt it is beneficial to hold the breakfasts on the 3rd Thursday of December, January and February 8-10 am with board meeting at 10am on those months. Recommendation that next year's breakfast topics include county, state and federal program opportunities.
4. **Financial Report** – Sherry Scully provided financial update of board account:
 - Fall Farm Tour total expenses came to \$742
 - Winter Farmer Breakfast - \$411.56
 - VAD expenses to date - \$90.13
 - (Board voted to hold \$415 for VAD expenses)
 - There is currently \$2,232.36 in the FPAB account.

Sherry requested ideas for spending money. Ideas included – VAD swag, post card mailers (to PUV property owners, realtors, etc.) highlighting VAD and Conservation Easements, paid Facebook ads, bumper magnets.

Motion made by Matthew Eagle to purchase \$500 of FPAB swag (hats, bags, and rain gauges). This motion seconded by Kenny Browning. Discussion followed. All in favor, motion passed.

5. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported the following updates:
 - Waiting to hear from NRCS concerning application for funding for Bill and Margie Sparrow's farm

- Working with Alston Glenn on adding 12 acres to his existing easement. The BOCC has approved additional funding this easement to close in two months.
- Continuing work with Clara Glenn family

Celeste welcomes board to share her contact information with anyone who is interested in this program.

Jane reported that she has been working with NCCU's Public History Program to connect them with the Glenn family (three ownerships – Alston Glenn, Douglas Daye, and Clara Glenn). The program is working to produce a documentary that will highlight the history of the Glenn family in rural agriculture.

Jane and Celeste were happy to announce that Durham has preserved 2,400 acres among 19 family farms.

6. Vice Chair requested follow up on the Stormwater Letter provided to BOCC from the FPAB. Heidi provided update. BOCC has not had response to letter from Engineering Services staff. She offered to follow up with County Manager.
7. **VAD Update** – Sherry Scully provided report of VAD applications, renewals and cancellations in the past two months:
 - Renewals – New applications filed to renew VADs on the following farms for an additional 10 years
 - Scottie McFarland – 81.7 ac on Infinity Rd
 - Larry Ricks – 62 ac on Rogers and Little Rogers Rd
 - George Tilley Jr – 85 ac on Roxboro Rd and Yellit Lane
 - Michael and Charles Veasey – 37 acres on Geer St and Redwood Rd

Chair asked for motion to approve these renewals. Motion made by Kenny Browning to approve; second made by Samantha Gasson. All voted in favor of the motion.

➤ New Applications for VAD

- George Tilley – 27 ac on Ball Rd
- Sharon and Brian Stoner – 132 ac on Red Mountain Rd

Motion made by Nancy Herndon to approve these VAD applications; second made by Samantha Gasson. All voted in favor of the motion.

Sherry notified Board that she has received a request to cancel involvement with VAD by Adam Abrams with TAFNC who owns 82 acres off Cornwallis Rd.

8. **Cooperative Extension Update** – provided by John Lyttle (shared by Sherry Scully)
 - April 25 – Produce Safety Workshop with CFSA
 - April 26 – Producer training to rent Mobile Poultry Processing Unit

Next Meeting – April 20th at 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Vice Chair Mark Waller, adjourned the meeting at 7:21 pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

April 20, 2023
Date approved