

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 9 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board)    Date: December 15, 2022

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

Nicole Connelly – Chair – Little River VAD  
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner  
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative  
Matthew Eagle – At Large  
David Harris – SWCD Board  
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD  
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD  
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD  
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD  
Neil Frank – At Large

#### **Others Present:**

Sherry Scully – Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water  
Celeste Burns – Open Space

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, and called to order at 10:04 am by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Farm Bureau Meeting Room.*

1. **Approval of October 2022 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly asked for approval of minutes submitted. Motion made by Neil Frank and seconded by Mark Waller. Motion passed to approve October Minutes.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak provided the financial standing of the Farmland Board account. This included the December Breakfast expenses.
3. **Farmer Breakfast** - Sherry Scully requested that the Board consider funding one or two more breakfasts this winter. Suggested dates of January 19 at Redwood Ruritan and February 16 (location to be determined) were recommended. Same format as today: breakfast from 8-10 with Farmland Board meeting at 10:00. Board was in favor of two additional breakfasts being held on these dates with this format. Neil made a motion to approve total cost of breakfasts up to \$600. This motion was seconded by Talmage Layton.
4. **Membership Update** – Lisa Marochak reported that David Harris was selected by the Soil and Water Conservation District Board to represent them on the Farmland Board; replacing Jillian Riley. Lisa informed the Board that the Open Space and Real Estate position remains vacant since Derrick Beasley resigned.

An application to serve on Farmland Board from citizen, James Smith, has been received. Details of application/candidate were read aloud to Board. Nicole requested that Lisa forward the application to her along with a membership summary and terms of membership.

5. **Farm Tour Debrief** – Nicole summarized farm tour and requested feedback from those in attendance. Heidi Carter reported that there was a lot of positive feedback from BOCC members. They appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Farm Tour and the

Farmland Board for hosting. Heidi also noted that it was wonderful to see a DPS Board of Education member and a City Council member present for the tour.

Board members who attended agreed that the organization, time frame, and schedule of tour were well received by all.

6. **Stormwater Proposal from Subcommittee** – Draft letter of Stormwater Proposal was shared with Board via email prior to meeting. Proposal was discussed and opinions were shared. Revisions to letter based on this feedback will be made by Nicole and sent out to the Subcommittee for further review. Letter will then be sent to Board of County Commissioners prior to their budget preparations.

As this letter will come from the Board, David Harris posed a motion to approve the letter produced by the Subcommittee. Mark Waller seconded the motion; motion passed.

7. **Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation (ADFP) Trust Fund grant support** – Sherry Scully requested support of Board in her submission of an application to request funding for the revision of the 2009 Farmland Preservation Plan. She further requested that if the Board would like to show their support with a monetary donation of \$500-\$1000, this will look favorable by the grant reviewers of the ADFP application.

Kenny Browning moved to appropriate \$1,000 (as part of the matching funds of the ADFP Trust Fund grant) towards the revision of the Farmland Protection Plan. Second made by David Harris to this motion. Discussion included the time frame of the grant: October 2023-October 2025. This will allow the money to be split from two fiscal year funding cycles. Motion passed.

8. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported a list of updates:
  - Len and Cindy Needham’s Conservation Easement was scheduled to close that afternoon (12/15).
  - Submittal of an application for NRCS funding for Bill and Margie Sparrow’s farm was completed in mid-November.
  - Working with Alston Glenn on adding 12 acres to his existing easement.
  - Continuing with due diligence for the federally funded easement project for Clara Glenn.

**Next Meeting** – January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am at the Redwood Ruritan or online.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly, adjourned the meeting at 10:54 am.

Nicole Connelly  
Chairman

Sherry Scully  
Soil and Water

1/16/2023  
Date approved