

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District Hybrid Meeting

Meeting Number: 8 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: October 20, 2022

Advisory Board Present:

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

Others Present:

Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
David Harris – Soil & Water Board Member
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022, and called to order at 6:05 pm by the Chair. The meeting was held in a hybrid manner from the Farm Bureau Meeting Room.

1. **Approval of September 2022 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly asked for approval of minutes submitted. Motion made by Mark Waller and seconded by Samantha Gasson. Motion passed with unanimous vote.
2. **Stormwater Fees and Schedule Presentation** – Ryan Eaves and McKenzie Bradshaw of the Stormwater and Erosion Control Division of Durham County joined the meeting to present and discuss stormwater fees imposed on residents. Ryan shared many documents and graphs on the screen for the those in attendance. Discussion covered several points: goals of the fee collection, how ag parcels are affected by the Stormwater Fee Schedule, how the funds accrued are being spent, fee schedule moving forward, etc. The Board decided to create a subcommittee to write a proposal of recommended considerations to the Stormwater and Erosion Control Department and the Board of County Commissioners.
3. **Voluntary Ag District Update** – Sherry Scully presented a VAD application for Jennifer Richardson. Her property is located at 1805 Olive Branch Rd and consists of a forested 70 acres in the Present Use Value program. Motion made by Mark Waller to approve VAD application; second by Samantha Gasson. All voted in favor of the motion; motion passed. Sherry also requested permission to set aside approximately \$415 to purchase wood for 10 VAD signs as needed. Matthew Eagle made the motion to do so; Samantha Gasson seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.
4. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported that she continues to focus on federal grant for Margie and Bill Sparrow Jr's Conservation Easement.
5. **Cooperative Extension Report** – John will provide a webinar series along with Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS). Workshop will be provided in November to train users of the Mobile Poultry Processing Unit.

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

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair, Nicole Connelly adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

12/15/2022
Date approved