

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 3 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: April 20, 2023

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD
Mark Waller, Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
David Heeks – At Large
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative
Matthew Eagle – At Large

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
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, April 20, 2023 at the Durham Farm Bureau office. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm by the Chair.

1. **Approval of March 2023 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of minutes submitted. Motion made by Nancy Herndon and seconded by Talmage Layton. Motion passed to approve minutes.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak provided financial update. Purchases made this past month include hats and bags with Farmland Board logo that will be provided to new VAD participants and Conservation Easement enrollees.

Further possible purchases discussed. Motion made by David Harris and seconded by Matthew Eagle to purchase tablecloth and window clings depending on determination of mailer cost. Sherry will request mailers to be included from Farmland Board in future tax mailings. If this is not an option, mailers will be produced and mailed to PUV property owners and realtors highlighting VAD and Conservation Easements.

3. **VAD Update** – Sherry Scully provided VAD update. This past month one renewal and one new application were received.
 - Ricky Pope and Laura Blue – 12 ac on John Jones Rd for renewal
 - TAFNC – 6 parcels of 83 ac on Cornwallis and Erwin Rds resubmittalMotion made by Matthew Eagle to approve these VAD applications; second made by Talmage Layton. All voted in favor of this motion.
4. Discussion addressed the need to submit an Annual Report. Celeste Burns and Shery Scully will work on the program sections to present at the May meeting. Nicole will provide the introduction letter.
5. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported the following updates:
 - Working with Alston Glenn on adding 12 acres to his existing easement. The BOCC has approved additional funding for this easement and will close soon
 - Continuing work with Clara Glenn family
 - Waiting to hear from NRCS concerning application for funding for Bill and Margie Sparrow's farm

6. Stormwater Follow-up – Heidi Carter not able to attend meeting but hopes that Stormwater fees will be discussed in May at Work Session. Sherry reported that the next work session is scheduled for May 1st at 9am. Public Comment is always accepted at this meeting. Heidi and Sherry will keep Board updated on agenda items.
7. **Ag Economic Development Grant Program Update** – Projects are ongoing. One project received payment this month and work towards projects whose deadline is June is progressing. Sherry also announce the Durham/ Orange Pond Clinic scheduled for May 6 at Cornwallis Farm.
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 – May 18th at 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

Date approved