

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board)    Date: June 15, 2023

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

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD  
Mark Waller, Vice Chair – Farm Bureau Representative  
Chris Young – Business Representative  
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD  
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD  
David Heeks – At Large  
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative  
Matthew Eagle – At Large  
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD  
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner  
Neil Frank – At Large  
David Harris – SWCD Board Representative  
Lindsay White – At Large

#### **Others Present:**

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water  
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water  
Celeste Burns – Open Space  
Jane Korest – Open Space  
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Durham Farm Bureau office. This hybrid meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by the Chair.*

1. **Approval of March 2023 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of April minutes submitted. Motion made by Mark Waller and seconded by Kenny Browning. Motion passed to approve minutes.
2. **Introduction of Chris Young as the new business representative** – Chris Young was sworn in on May 22, 2023. He was welcomed by the group and provided an introduction of himself and his interest in the board.
3. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak provided financial update. Purchases made this past month include mulch and compost for school garden, VAD sign materials, t-shirts, banner, and tablecloth. The BOCC budget approved \$3,375 for the board and will be available on July 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. **Membership Update** – Lisa Marochak provided information on the current membership of the board. Chris Young will serve in the roll of the Business Representative as William Sparrow has stepped down from this position. Nancy Herndon has been reappointed as the Cape Fear VAD representative for another term.
5. **Stormwater Follow up** - provided by Heidi Carter. Presentation by Stormwater Division staff to Board of County Commissioners included a “Response to Farmland Protection Advisory Board letter.” Presentation and slides were provided to Board prior to meeting. Discussion held and concerns shared. Board requested that Ryan Eaves and McKenzie Bradshaw be invited back to Board for September meeting.
6. **Annual Report** – Celeste Burns and Sherry Scully have completed the FY 23 Annual Report. Report shared with board. FPAB members will present this report to the BOCC at their September 5<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

7. **VAD Update** – VAD update provided by Sherry Scully. Two new applications have been received:

- David and Carmen Durack – 26 ac on Woodstock Rd
- Wesley Poole – 263 acres on Tilley Farm Rd and Bahama Rd (This includes 91 acres previously enrolled by Roger Tilley)

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

8. **Easements and Open Space** – Celeste Burns reported the following updates:

- Working on due diligence with Clara Glenn family with plans to close by end of year
- Waiting to hear from NRCS concerning application for funding for Bill and Margie Sparrow's farm

9. **Ag Economic Development Grant Program Update** – Sherry Scully reported that the BOCC approved allocation for this program to increase by \$100,000. Ag Economic Development Committee met to review program guidelines. Cap of farmer applicant request was raised to \$10,000. Applications will be released in July. Three training sessions will be offered at three locations throughout the county and online (July 11, July 13, and July 18). Application deadline is August 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 pm.

FY22 contracts expire on June 30, 2023. Five projects remain and are in the process of completion. FY 23 contracts have another year to be completed. 9 are complete and 5 have received partial payments of the 24 contracts approved.

10. **Cooperative Extension Update** – John Lyttle discussed the Farm Campus project. The feasibility study has begun and the Web Developer has been hired. John continues to work with the Center for Environmental Farming Systems on a small farms webinar series

**Next Meeting** – July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office or online.

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Nicole Connelly  
Chairman

Sherry Scully  
Soil and Water

August 17, 2023  
Date approved