

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 5 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: August 17, 2023

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD
Chris Young – Business Representative
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Shakira Campbell – DOST Representative
Matthew Eagle – At Large
Kenny Browning – Eno River VAD
Neil Frank – At Large
David Harris – SWCD Board Representative
Samantha Gasson – At Large

Others Present:

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

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, August 17, 2023 online. This virtual meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by the Chair.

- Approval of June 2023 Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of June minutes submitted. Motion made by Nancy Herndon and seconded by Kenny Browning. Nicole called for vote; motion passed.
- Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak made a purchase of wood for one VAD sign in the amount of \$38.63 since the last meeting explaining this was done after requesting permission from Nicole in order to keep the work orders to install signs moving ahead. Sherry requested that an amount of \$450 be available to staff to purchase sign materials when needed. Kenny Browning made a motion to this effect. David Harris seconded. With no discussion, vote was taken. Motion passed.
- VAD Update** – VAD update provided by Sherry Scully. Three new applications have been received:
 - Tom Rajala and Heidi Perreault – 31 ac on Bivins Rd
 - Jeremiah and Sarah Smith – 91 acres on Bahama Rd
 - John and Robyn Powell – 38 acres on Hamlin RdMotion made by David to approve these VAD applications. Kenny Browning seconded. All voted in favor of this motion.

Two parcels were removed from the VAD Program – Kathleen Alexander and Robert Ross with 88.56 acres on Leesville Rd. This process of removal is complete.
- Ag Economic Development Grant Committee Update** – Sherry expressed need for a representative of the Board serve in the ranking process of the grant. She provided schedule and duties of position. Discussion was held. Sherry asked for those interested to contact her.
- New Business** – Lisa shared the county’s decision to offer county board members stipends to offset related expenses of being a member on a Board or Commission for Durham County. Lisa will send out to Board members soon.

Next Meeting –September 21st at 6:00pm at the Farm Bureau office or online.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

September 21, 2023
Date approved