

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Meeting Number: 1 (Farmland Protection Advisory Board) Date: January 18, 2024

Advisory Board Present:

Nicole Connelly – Chair, Little River VAD
Chris Young – Business Representative
Nancy Herndon – Cape Fear VAD
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Heidi Carter – County Commissioner
David Harris – SWCD Representative
Talmage Layton – Falls VAD
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak – Soil & Water
Sherry Scully – Soil & Water
Celeste Burns – Open Space
Donna Rewalt – Cooperative Extension
John Lyttle – Cooperative Extension
Eddie Culberson – Soil & Water
Alyssa Florwick - Guest

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 in a hybrid format. This meeting was called to order at 10:19 am by the Chair, Nicole Connelly.

1. **Approval of November Board Minutes** – Nicole Connelly requested approval of November minutes submitted. Motion made by Mark Waller; second by Chris Young. Nicole called for vote; motion passed.
2. **Financial Report** – Lisa Marochak provided financial report and costs of morning breakfast. Discussion of possible expenses before end of year: FFA program needs and board retreat to plan FPP/Strategy Plan. Nicole requested staff to reach out to school ag programs to ask if there are any needs and look at calendar for retreat possibilities.
3. **Breakfast Recap and Update** – Sherry Scully reported that there were 36 attendees this morning which included many new faces. A lot of positive feedback and interest in the topic of programs was received.

The next breakfast will be held on February 15 at Durham Farm Bureau. A lawyer will discuss Estate Planning and other related farm law. Cedar Grove Law will be providing the breakfast.

4. **VAD Update** – VAD update provided by Sherry Scully. Two applications have been received this past month:
 - Matthew Raymond Kelly – 50 ac on Rougemont Rd
 - Jimmy G. Everett II – 30 acres on Coley Rd

Motion made by Nancy Herndon to approve both VAD applications with a second by Mark Waller. All voted in favor of this motion.

5. **Easements/Open Space Update** – Celeste Burns reported that she continues to make progress on three pending easement projects for Glenn, Sparrow and Frank properties.
6. **Ag Economic Development Grant Update** – Sherry Scully reported that all FY 24 contracts are complete and work has begun.

Sherry also reported that at the NC Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Meeting, Durham had two teachers recognized as Elementary and Secondary Teacher of the Year. These teachers are Monica Unger at RN Harris Elementary and Jenny Riley at Riverside High School. Durham Soil and Water was also

recognized as the Technical Staff of the Year. Additionally, Samantha Gasson and Scott Stirrup's Bull City Farm was awarded the Piedmont Farm Family of the Year.

7. **Cooperative Extension Update** – Donna Rewalt provided information on Farm Campus. The Farm Campus Feasibility study will begin community engagement phase soon. This past month, the county was approached by a landowner who had interest in selling his 130 acre farm property located on northeastern corner of Orange Factory and Roxboro Roads (on the Urban Growth Boundary). This property being a good fit for the future Farm Campus, is in the process of being purchased. Celeste provided images of property for review. County plans to close on property in February.

John Lyttle reported that the dual county poultry unit will be ready to rent in March.

Next Meeting – February 15th at 10:30am at the Durham Farm Bureau office or online. This meeting will follow the February Farmer Breakfast.

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:57 am.

Nicole Connelly
Chairman

Sherry Scully
Soil and Water

February 15,2024
Date approved