

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 9 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: March 21, 2013

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Chair
Neil Frank-Vice Chairman
Will Wilson- 2nd Vice Chairman
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
John Monroe- At Large
Bo Glenn- Open Space Representative
Mark Waller- Farm Bureau Representative
Demetrius Thompson- At Large
Samantha Gasson- At Large
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water, Director
Lisa Marochak-Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Wendy Seddon- Open Space & Real-Estate
Jane Korest- Manager, Open Space
Stephen Greenwood- citizen
Marty Frank- citizen

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 21, 2013 and called to order at 8:05am by the Chair. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the second floor conference room.

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Wendy Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Budget Report-**
 - Farmland line item- Lisa Marochak provided the board with a financial update on the Farmland line item.
 - Eddie Culberson gave an update on the County budget. Soil & Water submitted their budget to the county and they are asking for the same amount for the Farmland Board line item this year.
 - Spann asked board members to send emails asking the BOCC to maintain the current Farmland Budget for FY14.
 - Capital Improvement Plan- Jane Korest reported that the manager recommended to the BOCC last week for \$500,000, to go toward Farmland & Ranchland Protection for the next two years.
 - A motion was made by Will Wilson for the Farmland Board to send a Farmland Resolution in support of Open Space and Farmland Preservation to the BOCC. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Will Wilson will send out the resolution to the Farmland Board.
3. **VAD update-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
 - **Signs-** Durham County General Services is able to make our VAD signs for cost (\$26.04 each).
 - **VAD Applications**
 - 1) **Scottie McFarland-** in the ENO VAD and has 81.701 acres that he would like to enroll in the VAD Program. A motion was made by Bo Glenn to

approve the VAD application as presented. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- 2) **Larry Ricks-** in the Falls/Lick Creek VAD and has 55.983 acres that he would to enroll in the VAD Program. A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the VAD application as presented. Bo Glenn seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

4. **Membership Update-**

- **Term limits-** Wendy Jacobs recommended that a member of the board attend the May BOCC work session with recommendations from the Farmland board on membership/term limits. The Board felt that this would also be a good time to present the Annual Report to the BOCC. Kathryn Spann, Mike Dupree and Jane Korest are planning to work on the Annual Report. All documents for the Annual Report should be submitted to Lisa Marochak by next Friday.
- **New Applicants-** The board currently has several vacant positions. Samantha Gasson reported that she knows someone that would like to join. Samantha is going to contact Lisa Marochak to get an application.

5. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:

- **Potential Easements-** February 2nd presented two potential easements (Douglas Daye & George Tilley) to the BOCC Board.

6. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **County Purchasing Project-**

- Met with the county detention personnel who referred Durham Soil & Water staff to Sysco Foods. Sysco Foods will be working on a program for local buying this year.
- Sysco Foods requires that all producers to be: GAP Certified, have a \$3 million product liability policy and must sign a hold harmless agreement.
- Food Quantities that may be supplied to the detention center are 200 to 400 lbs a week of cabbage, 500 to 700 lbs of lettuce, 10lbs of tomatoes, 10 lbs of cucumbers and 30 dozen eggs a week

The board suggested that Mike Dupree attend a BOCC meeting and ask them to add local purchasing to the food purchasing contract for the Detention Center. The board would also like something on GAP certification in the next Durham SWCD newsletter.

- **Agricultural Education Programs**

- Northern High Courtyard- edible and culinary gardens are being installed.
- Southern High- BETC Agribusiness component plants are in and have been repotted. Plant sale will run April-May.
- Lowes Grove Middle School- Soil & Water staff has been asked to do 10 lessons for their afterschool program beginning in September.
- DPS Hub Farm- Is now a FSA certified farm

7. **Zoning Update-** Kathryn Spann reported on the following:

- **Planning Commission-** Commission approved changes to the UDO to open up more locations for farmers markets.

8. **Legislative Tour-** Will Wilson and Kathryn Spann will work on making plans for a Legislative Tour this spring.

NEW BUSINESS

- **New Farmers Market-** South Durham Farmers Market submitted a grant to Tobacco Trust Fund for a 2nd farmers market to be located in Northern Durham. The grant is for \$100,000.

Next Meeting Date – April 18, 2013 at 8am- 721 Foster St; Durham, NC 27701

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:40am.

Kathryn Spann

Chairman

Neil Frank

Vice Chairman