

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: June 20, 2013

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

Neil Frank- Vice Chairman  
Will Wilson- 2nd Vice Chairman  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
John Monroe- At Large  
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative  
Alicia Butler- Business Representative  
Anthony Lopez- Falls/Lick Creek VAD  
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD

#### **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- Open Space, Manager  
Kim Yewchuck- Intern for Soil & Water

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 20, 2013 and called to order at 8:01 am 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 reported that the FY14 Soil & Water Departmental Budget request for the Farmland Board was the same as FY13. The County Budget is scheduled to be voted on June 24<sup>th</sup> at the BOCC meeting.
  - Capital Improvement Plan- Jane Korest reported that the manager recommended to the BOCC for \$500,000, to go toward Farmland & Ranchland Protection for the next two years.
3. **VAD update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
  - **Signs**
    - Durham County General Services is able to make our VAD signs for cost (\$26.04 each).
    - We have been replacing old faded VAD signs
4. **Membership Update-**

**New Members-** Neil Frank reported that we have two new board members. Alicia Butler is the new Business Representative for the Farmland Board. Alicia is the owner of Green Button Farm. Anthony Lopez is replacing Talmage Layton as the Falls/Lick Creek VAD representative for the Farmland Board. Mr. Lopez is a farmer. The board members welcomed Butler and Lopez to the board.

**Membership Subcommittee-** The Board discussed the Farmland Ordinance as it pertains to membership for the Farmland Advisory Board. The board decided to form a subcommittee recommend changes to the Ordinance. The Subcommittee will meet on July 18<sup>th</sup> at 8am at 721 Foster Street in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. Neil Frank, Eddie Culberson, Kathryn Spann, Jane Korest and Will Wilson will serve on this committee.

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

- **Easements-** On Tuesday June 18<sup>th</sup> the FEDs visited the farms of Douglas Daye & George Tilley.
- **NRCS-** Eddie Culberson reported that the new State Conservationist, Timothy Beard started June 3.

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

**A. Southern High School-**

- Agribusiness project is up and running
  - Students raised about \$1,460 to date in plant sales
  - Students installed 2 rain gardens and received \$612
- Students have 1 gallon plants for sale (\$4 each)
- A reception was held on May 22 at Southern HS honoring the 25 students for efforts in the community. Minnie Forte was there as were two of the Durham SWCD Supervisors.
- Next Step: Setup a Research Lab
  - Meeting with Administration, DPS Science Coordinator & Science Dept Head for Southern on Thursday June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am.
  - Any Farmland Board members that would like to be involved please contact Mike Dupree.

**B. NCSSM-**

- Working with Dr. Linda Schmalbeck and the Greener Challenge Club. The club has been trained how to design Rain Gardens. The Durham SWCD staff developed a stormwater unit for 10<sup>th</sup> grade, Energy & Sustainability curriculum.

**C. Hub Farm (Eno Valley)**

- The Hub farm advisory meetings are held the first Thursday of the month from 5:15pm to 6:15pm. If a board member would like to be part of that team please contact Mike Dupree. Alicia Butler volunteered to attend the Hub farm advisory meetings.

**7. Zoning Update-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- Signed by and adopted by the County Commissioners

**8. Brochure-**

- Marochak passed out a copy of the Durham Farmers Market brochure
- Will Wilson suggested that staff contact the Durham Visitors Bureau and see if they can help with printing the brochures.
- Marochak is going to print some in house until the brochure is finalized.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Eastern Carolina Organics-** Wendy Jacobs reported that Eastern Carolina Organics has moved to Durham.

**Next Meeting Date** – August 15, 2013 at 8am- 721 Foster St; Durham, NC 27701

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Vice Chairman Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 8:55 am.

*Neil Frank*

Vice Chairman