

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 5 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: January 23, 2014

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- 2nd Vice Chair- Soil & Water Rep.
Will Wilson- Vice Chairman- Eno VAD
John Monroe- At Large
Anthony Lopez- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Samantha Gasson- At large
Talmage Layton- At large
Mark Waller- Farm Bureau Representative
Alicia Butler- Business Representative
Demetrius Thompson- At large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water, Director
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Open Space, Manager
Elizabeth Zander – Manager, SDFM
Lin Lopez- citizen

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, January 23, 2014 and called to order at 8:05 am by the 2nd Vice Chair. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the second floor conference room.

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by John Monroe to approve the minutes from October 16, 2013 and December 19, 2013. Demetrius Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

3. **VAD update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - **VAD renewals-** Lisa Marochak reported that she has three VAD applications that are up for renewal.
 - **Pope Farm C 1897, LLC-** in the Eno VAD and has 159.187 acres that they would to renew in the VAD Program. A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the VAD application as presented. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - **Jane Myers Jordan/Central Carolina Bank & Trust Co Trustee-** in the Flat River VAD and has 197.421 acres that she would to renew in the VAD Program. A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the VAD application as presented. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - **Patsy Anna Pope Andrews-** in the Eno VAD and has 28.696 acres that she would to renew in the VAD Program. A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the VAD application as presented. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - staff is working on the renewals of VAD applications that are 10years or older.
 - **Ordinance-** Eddie Culberson reported that they are now waiting on the County Attorney's office to look over the Ordinance.

4. Membership -

a) Officer Elections

- **Chairman-** A motion was made by Samantha Gasson to elect Neil Frank as Chairman of the Farmland Advisory Board. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- **Vice Chair-** A motion was made by Samantha Gasson to elect Will Wilson as Vice Chairman of the Farmland Advisory Board. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- **2nd Vice Chair-** A motion was made by John Monroe to elect Kathryn Spann as 2nd Vice Chair of the Farmland Advisory Board. Demetrius Thompson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

b) South Durham Farmers Market

- **South Durham Farmers Market Representative-** A motion was made by Will Wilson to elect Samantha Gasson as the Farmland Advisory Board representative for the South Durham Farmers Market. Mark Waller seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

c) Resignation Letter- Eddie Culberson presented a letter from Roger Tilley stating that he is resigning from his position on the Farmland Advisory Board.

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

- Federal deadline- February 28th
- **Ranking System-** Jane Korest went over several farms and where they ranked on the Farmland Board Ranking system.
 - Adcock Farm- A motion was made by Will Wilson to recommend for Easement. Samantha Gasson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - McFarland Farm- A motion was made by Talmage Layton to recommend for Easement. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - A motion was made by John Monroe to establish the McFarland Farm as priority.

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

- **GAP Certification**
 - GAP Certification training will be held on February 5th and February 19th. We still have a couple of slots available. If you would like to attend please call the Durham Soil & Water office at 919-560-0558.
- **Food Processing Center-** The Farmland Board has been working with Peter Skillern and Reinvestment Partners, LLC. Durham Soil & Water applied for a \$100,000 grant with ADFP for the Geer Street Food Aggregation Building. Peter Skillern is reviewing different organizational models to manage the food aggregation and brokering.
- **Northern High School** – Received an Outdoor Environmental Learning Center Grant for \$2,500 from The NC Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation. Culinary gardens are going to be installed this spring by the OCS department, ROTC and Agriculture class.
 - Looking for volunteers to help install the edible garden. If interested in volunteering please contact Mike Dupree at 919-560-0558.

7. Breakfast series/event planning-

- **2nd Breakfast-** The board decided to move the 2nd breakfast date to February 13 at 8am. Soil & Water staff will find a location for the breakfast.
 - **Topic- “SCALING up”**
 - Peter Skillern with Reinvestment Partners, LLC will speak on his food processing center
 - GAP Certification
 - Society of St. Andrews will be invited to speak at the breakfast

8. SNAP Program- Elizabeth Zander, Manager SDFM

- Elizabeth explained the SNAP Program to the Farmland Advisory Board and how the board could possibly help. The South Durham Farmers Market is looking for match for the SNAP Program. A motion was made by Will Wilson to allow the Farmland Board to match up to \$500 for the SNAP Program on April 12, 2014. Samantha Gasson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. County Manager Retirement-** A retirement celebration will take place today from 4pm-6pm at the new Public Health Building.
- 2. Charge Ahead Durham-** Lisa Marochak discussed the new Charge Ahead Durham program. Charge Ahead Durham is a fun, new program that challenges Durhamites to take small steps in their everyday lives that will have a big impact on our environment. To sign up go to ChargeAheadDurham.org

Next Meeting Date – February 20, 2014 at 8am- 721 Foster St; Durham, NC 27701

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, 2nd Vice Chair, Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:04 am.

Kathryn Spann

2nd Vice-Chairman