

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: February 20, 2014

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

Neil Frank- Chairman- At large  
Kathryn Spann- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair- Soil & Water Rep.  
Will Wilson- Vice Chairman- Eno VAD  
John Monroe- At Large  
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative  
Anthony Lopez- Falls/Lick Creek VAD  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Bo Glenn- Open Space & Trails 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  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Michelle Wallace- Horticulture Agent  
Lin Lopez- citizen

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, February 20, 2014 and called to order at 8:11 am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the second floor conference room.*

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Kathryn Spann to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **VAD update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
  - **VAD renewals-** Eddie Culberson and Lisa Marochak are working on renewals of VAD applications.
  - **VAD Workshop-** A workshop on EVAD and VAD will be held in Sanford on March 15<sup>th</sup>.
4. **Budget-** Lisa Marochak gave an update on the budget.
5. **Membership** - Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
  - a) **Little River VAD-** The Little River VAD position is currently vacant.
6. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
  - **Federal grant deadline-** February 28th
  - **Review-** Last meeting the Farmland Board reviews two potential farms
    - Korest met with both farms several times since the last Farmland Meeting.
    - Going to the Durham County BOCC Meeting on Monday night to get their support.

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

▪ **GAP Certification**

- GAP Certification training was completed February 5<sup>th</sup> and February 19<sup>th</sup>.
- **Possible Fall GAP training**
  - A motion was made by Demetrius Thompson to form a GAP Certification subcommittee to decide if we should offer an additional GAP Certification Training in the Fall. Alicia Butler seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Mike Dupree, Michelle Wallace, John Monroe, Neil Frank & Demetrius Thompson will serve on the subcommittee. Mike Dupree will set up a date for the subcommittee to meet.
- **Geer Street Food Aggregation Building-** Peter Skillern is reviewing different organization models to manage the food aggregation and brokering. Bella Bean Organics is going to be a tenant in the facility. Still has an interest in working with farmers to aggregate foods to provide quantity for local institutional purchasing.
- **Local Food Purchasing Program-**Working with Drew Cummings, Asst. County Manager to determine a path forward for a Local Food Purchasing program by the County.
- **Durham Malting Facility-** Sebastian Wolfrum, Durham Malting Facility wants/needs 1200 acres of Barley at \$442,000 a year (\$368 an acre, \$238 estimated direct cost).

- **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.

▪ **Southern High School**

1. Agribusiness project up and running
  - Students have contracts to install five rain gardens this spring
2. Students have plants for sale \$4 each for one gallon plants, culinary herbs
3. Environmental research soil and water testing and monitoring

**8. Breakfast series/event planning-**

- **2<sup>nd</sup> Breakfast-** The board decided to move the 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast date to March 13 at 8am. The breakfast will be held at 721 Foster St in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room.
  - **Topic-** “New Market Opportunity”
    - Peter Skillern with Reinvestment Partners, LLC will speak on his food processing center
    - Abbey Piner will speak on the 10% campaign
  - Society of St. Andrews will be invited to speak at the breakfast

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Tour-** The Farmland Board discussed possibly having a tour for the BOCC and the new County Manager in May. Lisa Marochak is going to check with the Clerk to the Board on dates the BOCC is available in May.
2. **NC State A&T-** Michelle Wallace reported that NC State A&T wants to do a demonstration at Ellen Ziemer's farm. This will be an all day workshop. Date TBD.

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

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

Neil Frank  
Chairman

Will Wilson  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair