

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 06 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: March 18, 2008

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

Neil Frank, Chairman – At Large  
Douglas Daye, Flat River VAD  
Becky Heron, County Commissioner Representative  
Bo Glenn, Open Space Representative  
John Jones – Little River VAD  
Allen Powell, at Large

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water  
Lynwood Faison, Soil & Water  
Jane Korest- Open Space Manager  
Wendy Seddon, Open Space  
Richard Morgart, Tax Office

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Neil Frank called the Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:18AM.
2. **Minutes** – Minutes were read by Chairman Neil Frank. County Commissioner Representative Becky Heron made a motion to approve the minutes. Little River VAD representative John Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Election of Officers** – County Commissioner Becky Heron made a motion to keep Neil Frank on as Chairman of the Farmland Protection Board for the year 2008. At Large representative Allen Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Chairman Neil Frank made a motion to keep Talmage Layton on a Vice Chairman of the Farmland Protection Board for the year 2008. Little River VAD representative John Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **VAD Update** – Director of Durham SWCD Eddie Culberson presented 1 new application for David Krabbe. The property is located on Bahama Rd and is 89.7 acres. Open Space Representative Bo Glenn made a motion to accept the VAD application for David Krabbe on 89.7 acres. County Commissioner Becky Heron seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
5. **Annual Report-** Administrative officer Lisa Marochak reported that she is waiting on a few more articles that she needs for the Annual report and it should be ready to pass out to the board for review at the next meeting. Marochak reported that the board should be able to present the report at the commissioners work session after it is complete.
6. **Other Business-**
  - A. **VAD signs/Southern High School** – Soil Conservationist Lynwood Faison reported that Southern High Schools helps to build our signs and they do not have a lot of money in their Construction Technology Class and they are incurring a lot of extra expenses in putting the signs together. Mr. Don Ramsey a teacher at Southern High School that is head of the Construction Technology class wants to know if the Farmland Advisory Board can help with their expenses. County Commissioner Becky Heron recommended that we ask the school board to allocate some money to Southern High Schools Construction Technology class to help pay for the expenses.
  - B. **Easement Signs** – Director of Durham SWCD Eddie Culberson reported that we have VAD signs but we currently don't have a sign that indicates that a piece of property has an easement on it. Culberson reported that maybe Administrative Officer Lisa Marochak could create a sign that is the same size as the VAD but

reworded so that it indicates that the property has an easement on it. Open Space Representative Bo Glenn reported that he likes the idea of the sign the only problem he sees is that if you use the wrong terminology the general public might think they have a right to go on the land. Open Space Manager Jane Korest reported that she likes the idea but she thinks that we should create a rough draft and let some of the farmers look over the sign to make sure they are comfortable with using the sign.

- C. Farm Plan Update** – Open Space Manager Jane Korest reported that on December 14<sup>th</sup> the state had their first round of farmland grants available. The state has several different pots of money that they will be allocating this year. Some of the money is for permanent easements and some for term easements. There is money available for preparation of Farmland plans and money for agricultural production. Korest reported that she submitted 2 state farm grants for easements. One of the grants was for Roger Tilley's 2<sup>nd</sup> phase and the second grant was for Bill McFarland's Farm. Watershed Conservationist Jennifer Brooks reported that we submitted a grant for \$30,000 to do the Farmland Protection Plan and to get the consultant help to work on the plan and complete it. Brooks reported that last week she and Korest had an interview toward the proposal. Books reported that the interview was with 3 of the staff members that work at the NCDA to answer a bunch of questions, talk about the program in depth and our vision for the plan. Brooks and Korest reported that they think the interview went well and that they seemed very favorable. Brooks reported that we are hoping to hear back from them early June.

Culberson reported that a third proposal was also submitted and it was on the Thacker Project. Culberson and some of the NCDA staff /field representatives came out to the Thacker parcel and did a pilot field visit. This was the first parcel that they had actually been to as a group to look the farm over. They are planning to use the Thacker parcel as a guide on how to judge the rest of the parcels in the state. Culberson reported that this project will be no cost to the County. We currently have 8 different entities trying to come together and help fund this project.

- 7. Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, April 24th at 8:00 a.m.

\* Chairman Neil Frank had to leave the meeting at 9:24am and since our Vice Chairman wasn't in attendance at the meeting an acting Chairman was appointed. Open Space Representative Bo Glenn made a motion to appoint Allen Powell as the acting Chairman. County Commissioner Becky Heron seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

- 8. Easements Update** - Open Space Manager Jane Korest reported that since the last meeting in December she received a phone call from the state letting her know that they will have some funds available to the people that have a 2007 Cooperative Agreement for Federal dollars. Since the McFarland Farm was in the 2007 agreement we are eligible for 2008 funds. Durham County and Piedmont Land Conservancy were the only two entities able to get 2008 dollars. Korest reported that when the state asked her what projects we would have available for the 2008 funds we had only 5 days to let them know because they have to submit it to the Feds. Korest reported that she told the state that McFarland's Farm and also Roger Tilley's Farm would be a good candidate. Korest reported that the state called back and reported that they might have more funds available and they wanted to know what other project(s) would we have applied for? Korest reported that she told them that Neil Frank might be interested. Korest reported that since Neil Franks Farm abuts McFarland's Farm it scores well on everything that the Feds would want to give points on. Korest reported that Frank's Farm is the kind of farm that the Feds like to support and he has also agreed to do the 25% bargain sale. Korest reported that we do have the Frank property under a loss option because we do not have an appraisal so it is subject to an appraisal. Korest reported that we were awarded \$670,208 by the Feds. \$325,000 will go to the McFarland Farm and this should finish his farm. \$210,000 toward Roger Tilley Farm and \$130,000 toward Neil Frank's Farm. Open Space Representative Bo Glenn made a motion that before we proceed further with the Neil Frank Property that we present to the County Attorney for a written opinion letter that this board is permitted to recommend a land transaction with our board chairman. County Commissioner Becky Heron seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

9. **Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Acting Chairman Allen Powell adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.

Neil Frank

Chairman

Talmage Layton

Vice Chairman

