

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 02 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: February 19, 2009

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Bo Glenn, Open Space Representative
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Allen Powell- At Large
Billy Cooley, Farm Bureau Representative
Aileen Glasgow, Business Representative
Becky Heron, County Commissioner

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Director Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager
Gerry Cohn, Consultant for the Farmland Plan

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday February 19, 2009, and called to order at 8:04 am by the chairman. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

- 1. Minutes** –A draft copy of last month’s minutes were sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Aileen Glasgow to approve the minutes. Billy Cooley seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** A Farmland Protection Advisory Board financial report was given by Lisa Marochak.
- 3. Capital Improvement Plan** –Jane Korest briefed the Farmland board on the Capital Improvement Plan and passed out handouts: Power Point on Preserving our Natural Heritage. This is a 10 year plan that will be updated in 2 years.
The Chairman reported that on February 23 the County Commissioners are going to have an item on the agenda for “Advance Public Comment” on the 2009-2010 budget. The meeting starts at 7:00pm. The chairman recommended that the board members get the word out through the Ruritan clubs, neighbors, etc. Tell everyone to write a letter, email or come to the meeting.
The Chairman reported that one of the County Commissioners raised the idea of a tour showing some of the farmland easement project sites. The chair felt like this would be a good idea for the board to do. A motion was made by Aileen Glasgow for the board to support the idea of having a tour. Billy Cooley seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
A motion was made by Neil Frank to allow the Chairman to represent the Farmland board in talking with the BOCC about the budget and the importance of Farmland Protection. Talmage Layton seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 4. Workshop update-** The Chairman thanked the staff and board members for their help with the workshop. The workshop was well attended by approximately 115 landowners/farmers.

- 5. Countywide Farmland Plan-** Gerry Cohn gave an update to the board on the Farmland Plan. Cohn passed out several documents related to this topic: 2007 Census of Agricultural for Durham County and list of people to interview. Cohn reported that 2/3 of the meetings are going to be with farmers/landowners so if you know of any names please send them to him.

A meeting is scheduled for March 10th at 10am in the Soil and Water Conference Room. Several people from the County and City have been invited to discuss the Farmland Plan.

- 6. Report from Easement subcommittee: (policy and ranking discussion)** -The chairman reported that some of the members and staff met on 2/17 to do an initial review of Easement Rankings for the Federal Grant Cycle. The board recommended a couple of farms at the November meeting: Carrington Family farm and the Farm of Van Ellis. State Grant Applications were submitted for the two farms this past December. The board discussed the question of whether applicants recommended by the Board for a State grant should also be recommended for a Federal grant automatically, and vice versa, for a year. A motion was made by Billy Cooley to include the two farms that were submitted to the State in December in the next Federal grant cycle. Seconded by Allen Powell. Motion passed without dissent. Jane Korest discussed the additional applications that have been submitted to her office besides the two that were submitted in December. The Carrington and Ellis farms are ready to be submitted for Federal grant consideration. A motion was made by Neil Frank for the board to recommend the Ann Ross farm 3rd and the J.R Coates farm 4th for Federal grant consideration. Allen Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 7. VAD Update** –Eddie Culberson reported that he has 1 VAD application to present for Charles and Susan Clarke. The Clarke’s are located at 8411 South Lowell Rd in the Little River VAD area. They have 1 parcel on 30.458 acres. A motion was made by Billy Cooley to approve the VAD Application for Charles and Susan Clarke. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
Chairman reported that Eddie Culberson, Jennifer Brooks and she will be attending a meeting in Smithfield on the Enhanced VAD Program on February 24th.
- 8. Farmland Ordinance:** Chairman reported that at the last board meeting they briefly talked about reviewing and maybe doing some amendments to our Farmland ordinance. She hopes to gain some knowledge at the VAD Workshop on February 24th that will help with the amendments.
- 9. Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, March 19th at 8:00am
- 10. Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:30am

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman

Bo Glenn
2nd Vice Chairman