

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: April 15, 2010

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
John Monroe- At Large
Will Wilson- Eno VAD
Melissa English- At Large
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD
Samantha Gasson- At Large
Billy Cooley- Farm Bureau Representative

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 & Real-estate
Colleen Scarlett- Tax Administration
Danielle Melino- Jordan High School Teacher

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday April 15, 2010, and called to order at 8:04 am by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

- 1. Minutes** – A draft copy of March 2010 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Talmage Layton to approve the minutes. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** no new business
- 3. Membership Update**–Kathryn Spann reported that Will Wilson is officially the new Eno VAD member.
- 4. Farmland Plan update-** Kathryn Spann reported that she tried to present the Farmland Plan to the City Council on March 17th at 1pm but she sat in the room for 4 hours and was never called on to speak.
- 5. Voluntary Agricultural Districts overview-** Eddie Culberson reported that he will be attending a VAD workshop on April 28th in Johnston
- 6. Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported on the following:
 - NRCS did a site visit in April on the Blalock's, Carrington's and Thacker's. All 3 applicants were submitted to the state on March 1st. Hopes to know results in 3-4 weeks.
- 7. Agricultural Economic Development Officer Position** – Eddie Culberson reported that Agricultural Development and Watershed Conservationist position has been posted. The position will be opened up externally. The plan is to hopefully fill the position soon so that the person can start on June 1st.

8. **Farm Business Plan Workshop-** Kathryn Spann reported that the workshop wrapped up last week. Samantha Gasson reported that the workshop was very helpful and worthwhile for the 1st time taking a class like this. Suggestions were made by John Monroe to improve & revise the curriculum.
9. **County Commissioner/Legislative event planning-** Kathryn Spann reported that the Legislative Tour will take place on May 5th. Kathryn Spann reported that she needs the planning committee to meet so that everything can get finalized. The planning committee will meet at Ole NC Bar-B-que on Tuesday April 20th at 6pm.
Board would like Lisa Marochak to order some Farmland hats to giveaway on the Legislative Tour.
10. **Durham County farmer market (second)/ Farmer Market logo-** Tabled until next meeting.
11. **After school farm camp for kids** – Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

1. **Cost of Community Services Study** – Jane reported a cost of community services study has been conducted for Durham County. NC State did the study. Preliminary findings conclude that ag pays more than other sectors in taxes but uses less in community services. Full report should be done before next meeting. Kathryn asked to include summary of results in tour packet.
2. **Jordan High School Representative-** Danielle Melino a teacher with Jordan High School reported on the Jordan High FFA program and resource needs.
3. **Karen McAdams replacement-** Durham County will not be part of the dual county livestock agent replacement for Karen McAdams former position. Orange County and Alamance County will be collaborating.
4. **Annual Report** – Lisa reported that the Farmland Advisory Board's Annual Report was due in January 2010

Set Next Meeting Date – May 20, 2010 at 8am

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman