

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: August 25, 2011

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large/Vice Chair
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Melissá English- At Large
Bo Glenn- Open Space & Trails Representative
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Demetrius Thompson- At Large
Ron Bodkin- Business Representative
Samantha Gasson- At Large
John Monroe- At Large
Roger Tilley- At Large
Will Wilson- Eno VAD

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak-Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Manager, Open Space
Wendy Seddon- Open Space and Real- Estate
Michelle Wallace- Horticultural Agent

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday August 25, 2011, 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 July 21, 2011 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Neil Frank to approve the minutes. Douglas Daye seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Financial Report-** no update
3. **VAD Update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - **Voluntary Agriculture Districts – House Bill 406; Session Law 2011-219-** This bill provides three separate changes to voluntary agriculture district requirements. First, it removes the requirement that the property participate in the farm present-use value taxation program to be included in a voluntary agriculture district and replaces it with the requirement that the property must be engaged in agriculture to be included in a voluntary agriculture district. Second, if any lot on the land is used for a non-farm purpose, the bill states that the lot is subject to municipal zoning requirements. Third, the bill exempts voluntary agriculture district conservation agreements from having to be recorded at the Register of Deeds office like other conservation agreements. This bill was enacted and effective June 23, 2011.
 - The board decided to table this topic until the next board meeting

4. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
 - **State-**Received notice that they received State grant for Prodigal Farm.
 - State grant agreement for Prodigal Farm was approved by the BOCC on 8/22/11.

5. **Ag Economic Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - **Farmers Market /Producer meeting-**
 - 1st meeting was held on 8/1/11. They discussed potential market locations, the idea of a mobile market, etc
 - BCBS grant- submitted a grant to BCBS for a second farmers market, a mobile market and an Ag Development Coordinator position. Should hear back from grant early September.
 - Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 30th at 1:30pm.
 - **Watershed Issues-** Trying to get everyone signed up by January 2012. 1st WOC meeting is today. Dupree passed out a copy of the signup brochure that will be mailed out next week.
 - **Jordan High School-** Have not met new teacher.
 - **Southern High-** Potential CCAP project may buy all of their trees from Southern High School OSC kids.
 - **Northern High School-** Need 40-60 students to get the Agricultural Education Program up and running. Rick Sheldahl would like the Farmland Board to come up with a field trip package for 8th grade Carrington Middle School students. Mike Dupree and Rick Sheldahl are scheduled to meet soon. Melissa English agreed to organize the field trip.
 - **School of Science and Math**
 - **BETC** - the Experiment Station portion of the BETC Program was accepted by the School of Math and Science and will be implemented in the coming school year
 - Going to start raising Tilapia in their school greenhouse

6. **Tax Administration update:** Tax office was unable to attend meeting but they drop off a handout for the board. Kathryn Spann passed out a copy of the Tax instruction sheet. Bo Glenn is going to speak with Ellen Reckhow about the tax equipment issue.

7. **Food Policy Council update:** Kathryn Spann reported that she attended the last meeting on July 27th. Gave update to the board.

New Business

1. **Sustainable Community-**Kathryn Spann reported that this grant is for \$10,000 and the deadline for submitting the grant is October 3rd.
2. **Breakfast Series-** Board discussed the idea of having breakfast series
3. **Website updates-** tabled until next meeting
4. **Newsletter-** tabled until next meeting
5. **Business Card-** Kathryn is going to work on a design. Lisa is going to try and work on logo. Mike Dupree said that his wife may be able to help.

Set Next Meeting Date – September 15, 2011 at 8am

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am.

Kathryn Spann

Chairman

Neil Frank

Vice Chairman