

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 07 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: August 27, 2009

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD
John Jones- Little River VAD
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Bo Glenn- Open Space & Trails Representative

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager
Wendy Seddon, Open Space & Real-estate
Gerry Cohn- consultant
Richard Morgart- Tax

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday August 27, 2009, and called to order at 8:00 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 August 2009 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Neil Frank to approve the minutes. Bo Glenn seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** A Farmland Protection Advisory Board financial report was given by Lisa Marochak. Eddie Culberson, Kathryn Spann & Lisa Marochak met with Drew Cummings Assistant County Manager and several others on August 11 to start working on next years budget.
Jane Korest gave an update on the Capital Improvement Plan. The County budget was approved leaving \$550,000 for Open Space and Farmland in FY2010's budget.
- 3. Membership Update**–Kathryn Spann reported that they received a letter from At Large member Allen Powell indicating that he wishes to resign from the Farmland Advisory Board effective 7/20/09. Kathryn Spann noted that the Board will now have several open positions. Several names were suggested as possible candidates. Spann asked staff and Board members to think of potential candidates and bring their names back to the next board meeting.
- 4. Farmland Plan update-** Gerry Cohn gave an update on the Farmland Plan and went over the draft of the plan that was sent out prior to the board meeting. Cohn reported that the deadline to make any changes to the Farmland Plan is September 4th. Jennifer Brooks reported that she is going to forward a copy of the draft plan to the state for review. We will post the draft of the Farmland Plan to Durham Soil & Waters website so the public can have a chance to review the plan and make comments. The plan should be finalized and ready to be presented to the Board of County Commissioner by the end of November.
- 5. Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported that the State has 2 million this year for Easements. Korest reported that the subcommittee will need to plan a meeting date some time in September or October to discuss if we want to submit an

applicant this time or not. Since the last meeting they interview Russell Ellis & Michael Ellis. They have received 1 new application for Gerald Thacker. The appraisal for the McFarland Farm has finally been accepted by the Federal Review Office. They are now waiting on the Title for the McFarland Farm. On Roger Tilley Easement they are working on their 2nd round of amendments.

- 6. Report from Assessor's Office on proposal for farm equipment property tax:**
Richard Morgart with the Tax Department reported that this matter has to go through the State Legislative. Kathryn Spann asked Richard Morgart if the Tax Department could give the board the total amount of proceeds the county receives from the equipment property tax. Kathryn Spann and Talmage Layton volunteered to make a couple of phone calls and meet with a couple of people regarding this matter.
Richard Morgart reported that the tax department is going to start the prequalification of Present Use Parcels around the first of the year. The Farmland Board will be provided with a list of all of the properties that are being re-qualified.
- 7. Plan a Breakfast Series, livestock agent-** Tabled until next meeting
- 8. Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, September 24th at 8:00am
- 9. Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman