

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 10 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: December 15, 2011

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large/Vice Chair
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Demetrius Thompson- At Large
Pam Karriker- County Commissioner
Will Wilson- Eno VAD
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD
Melissa English- At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak-Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jane Korest- Manager, Open Space
Wendy Seddon- Open Space and Real- Estate
Michelle Wallace- Cooperative Extension/Horticulturalist

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday December 15, 2011, and called to order at 8:07am by the chair. The meeting was held at 721 Foster Street in the second floor conference room, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

1. **Minutes** – A draft copy of November 16, 2011 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes with the correction of the next meeting date. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Financial Report-**
 - Lisa Marochak gave an update on Farmland Advisory Board budget.
 - Jane Korest gave an update on the CIP budget
3. **Membership Update-** Kathryn Spann reported on the following:
 - **New Member-** Chairman, Kathryn Spann welcomed the newest member to the board, County Commissioner Pam Karriker.
 - **New Procedure for Citizen Appointments-** The BOCC voted at their October 10 meeting to approve a new procedure for citizen appointments.
 - Marochak is going to arrange a training date with the Clerk To The Board for board members to be trained and sworn in.
 - Spann will secure guidance in response to the Board's questions regarding the new citizen appointees' rules.
 - Marochak is responsible for sending the attendance record of all board members along with the minutes from the board meetings to the Clerk To The Board.
4. **VAD Update-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - No new applications but some VAD signs were hung since the last meeting.
 - We should keep handling VAD applications as we have in the past until the Ordinance is updated.

- Marochak reported that the board needs 5 Flat River VAD signs. A motion was made by Neil Frank to allow staff to purchase 5 Flat River VAD signs. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
5. **Easement Updates-** Jane Korest reported on the following:
 - New appraisal completed on Caywood Farms last week.
 - FRPP has not issued a deadline date yet.
 - Working on 7 pending farms.
 6. **City/County Planning’s Comprehensive Plan-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - Culberson encouraged Farmland Board members to look at the revisions to Chapter 7 of the Comprehensive Plan and Chapter 2 about the Urban Growth Boundary.
 - Marochak will forward a copy of the City/County Planning Comprehensive Plan to the Board.
 - A subcommittee comprised of Will Wilson, Demetrius Thompson and Jane Korest will meet to discuss the proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.
 7. **AgWRAP-** Eddie Culberson reported on the following:
 - Landowners can apply for a new program called AgWRAP that is administered by the NC Division of Soil and Water. This program will assist landowners in utilizing alternate watering sources (new pond construction, old pond renovation, wells, micro irrigation and others) to address water resource concerns.
 8. **Farmers Market /Producer meeting-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - a. **Market locations:**
 - **Sutton Station-** has submitted a letter of intent to host the market on Saturdays.
 - **Tom Maddy-** has indicated a willingness to have farmers sell on his property “anytime they want”
 - **Straw Valley-** Scott Bendaz told Eddie Culberson and Mike that he was going to host a market.
 - b. **RAFI Grant-** will be delivered today! Requesting \$8,330 for startup costs including early market manager work.
 - c. **Supporting Local Markets-** Would like the board to consider putting the map or brochure together for distribution at HOA meetings next year. This topic was tabled until the next meeting since there was no longer a quorum at the meeting.
 - d. **Money-** Kathryn Spann reported that at last month’s board meeting the board approved \$1,000 to be spent toward attorney fees for the market. The Durham County Attorney’s office has expressed some concern about using an outside attorney. Spann is going to contact Carol Hammett with the Durham county Attorney’s office to see if they can help with the review.
 - Need to get the Articles of Incorporation filed within the next week.
 - e. **Interim Board-** Kathryn Spann reported that an interim board needs to be formed in December. Three members will be from Durham County, one from the Farmland Board and one Cooperative member. An email was sent out asking for interested candidates. Spann went over the interested applicant’s bio. Michelle Wallace with Cooperative Extension also volunteered to serve on the interim board. The board decided that it would

be best to allow the ones that were interested to serve on the interim board until the final board is formed.

- f. **JCCPC-** Kathryn Spann is going to send a letter to JCCPC asking them to change zoning for markets.

9. Watershed Issues- Mike Dupree reported on the following:

Jordan Watershed Update–

- The FSA crop reports have been received for 1998 to 2001
- Sent a list of parcels to Rob Cushman to measure buffer acres and area impacted by buffer acres.
 - Once buffer data is received from Rob Cushman, will enter into NLEW for the baseline

Falls Update-

- Registration deadline is approaching for farmers.
- Falls Ag Subcommittee meeting for developing monitoring model 2nd Friday of the month January 13th.
- Falls WOC meetings are 3rd Friday of the month. The next meeting will be January 20th 9 to 12 at the Farm Bureau Office on Miami Blvd.

10. Ag Economic Development Coordinator update- Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- a. Working on Farmland Board's top 3 goals

11. Schedule- The Farmland Board will continue to meet the 3rd Thursday of every month except January 2012. Marochak will send out possible dates for the January meeting.

Set Next Meeting Date – Marochak will send out possible January meeting date

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:08am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman