

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 1 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: January 21, 2010

#### **Advisory Board Present:**

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair  
Neil Frank- At Large  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Bo Gleñn- Open Space & Trails Representative  
Becky Heron- County Commissioner  
John Monroe- At Large  
Will Wilson- At Large  
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  
Michelle Wallace- Cooperative Extension

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday January 21, 2010, and called to order at 8:05 am by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.*

- 1. Election of Officers-** A motion was made by Neil Frank to nominate Kathryn Spann as Chair of the Farmland Preservation Board. Becky Heron seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Billy Cooley made a motion to nominate Neil Frank as Vice Chair of the Farmland Preservation Board. Becky Heron seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Neil Frank to nominate Bo Glenn as second Vice Chair of the Farmland Preservation Board. Billy Cooley seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Minutes –** A draft copy of November 2009 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Becky Heron to approve the minutes. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** Lisa Marochak reported that since the last board meeting \$310.19 has come out of the Farmland budget to pay for copies of the Farmland Plan.
- 3. Membership Update–** Lisa Marochak reported that she emailed the Clerk to the Board the vacant Little River VAD position. The Business Representative and Eno VAD vacant positions are currently being advertised on Durham County's new TV Show "In Touch with Durham County", and also on the Durham County internet.
- 4. Farmland Plan update-** Jennifer Brooks reported that the final version of the Farmland Plan was adopted by the Durham County BOCC on December 14, 2009. Jennifer Brooks reported that the final paper work has been sent to the NC Department of Agricultural. Kathryn Spann reported that a presentation of the Farmland Plan should be made to the City Council.

5. **Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported on the following
- **Caywood Farm** - Caywood Farm appraisal has been revised and is now going through federal review
  - **Roger Tilley Easement** – December 17<sup>th</sup> closed on last 56 acres for Roger Tilley easement.
  - **Carrington Easement** – Easement application was submitted to the state Farmland Preservation Trust Fund in December for the Carrington Farm. The state is planning to do a site visit in February.
  - **Van Ellis** – working on survey for Van Ellis.

**New Business:**

1. **Farm Business Plan Workshop** – Michelle Wallace reported that the farm business plan workshop will take place Wednesday nights February 24<sup>th</sup>-April 7<sup>th</sup>. The workshop will be held at the Durham Technical Community College North Durham Campus. The cost of the workshop will be \$100. Michelle Wallace reported that she would like to see the Farmland Board support the Durham County Farmers by reimbursing them a portion of the class fee. A motion was made by John Monroe to reimburse Durham County farmers 50% of the class fee once they have completed the program and attended 5 out of 6 classes. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Farmers Market** – The Durham’s Farmer’s Market only has 1 Durham County resident on the board. Durham Farmers Market does not give priority to Durham farmers. The Farmland Preservation board would like to explore ways to give Durham farmers a local market outlet.
3. **Legislative/County Commissioner Tour**- Kathryn Spann reported that it would be a good idea to hold another tour this year for Legislative and County Commissioners. Michelle Wallace, Samantha Gasson, Neil Frank and Douglas Daye agreed to meet with Kathryn Spann on January 28, 2010 to further discuss the idea of a possible tour.
4. **Farm Bureau Scholarship** – Billy Cooley announced to the board that Farm Bureau is currently accepting application for their scholarship.
5. **Utility Tax Reduction**- John Monroe reported that the Department of Revenue is giving a Utility tax reduction to farmers.
6. **Duke Law Students** – Kathryn Spann reported that she will be meeting with a Duke Law student on Monday about a potential continuing legal education program to educate lawyers on farm issues.
7. **Local Government TV Show:** Becky Heron reported that Durham County Government has a TV show “In Touch with Durham County” that if the board would like they can set up a time for Kathryn Spann and Talmage Layton to talk about farmland preservation and what the Farmland Preservation and Soil & Water boards are doing.

**Set Next Meeting Date** – February 18, 2010 at 8am

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:00 am.

*Kathryn Spann*  
Chairman

*Neil Frank*  
Vice Chairman