

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 8 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: September 15, 2011

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large/Vice Chair
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Melissa English- At Large
Demetrius Thompson- At Large
Ron Bodkin- Business Representative
Samantha Gasson- At Large
John Monroe- At Large
Will Wilson- Eno VAD
John Monroe- At Large

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 September 15, 2011, and called to order at 8:06 am by the vice 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 25, 2011 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes. Ron Bodkin 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**- Culberson contacted Dewitt Hardee and he indicated that the Durham Farmland Protection Board can keep handling the VAD applicants as we have in the past as long as it is in the bylaws. Kathryn Spann is going to contact Dewitt Hardee to ask him which counties were behind the push for the new law. Ron Bodkin is going to contact City/County Planning to see what the signage rules are in urban areas.
4. **Easement Updates**- Jane Korest reported on the following:
 - Appraisals underway for 5 farms. Received a 4th revision on Neil Frank's farm yesterday.
 - 2 appraisals should be done soon on the Ellis and Coates Farms
 - Hired a new appraiser to do Carrington and Thacker's appraisals
5. **Ag Economic Development Coordinator**- Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - **Farmers Market /Producer meeting**-
 - **Farmers Market** - committee met with Mr. Scott Bednaz at Straw Valley. Mr. Bednaz has a potential farmer's market location.

- The parking lot faces 15/1501 and New Hope Commons.
 - Mr. Bednaz is willing to advertise for the market at no cost.
 - **Mobile Market-** Kathryn Spann & Mike Dupree met with Bryan Huffman with the YMCA. Mr. Huffman is very interested in the mobile market idea.
 - Willing to provide an open top bus
 - Willing to provide driver for the mobile market
 - Interested in giving food to low income communities
 - Mr. Huffman also spoke about a possible future site
- **Breakfast Series-** The first of several breakfast series will take place on October 12th 7:30am-9am at the Agricultural Building in the 1st floor conference room. A motion was made by Will Wilson to allow staff to spend up to \$3 per person on food per event. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
 - Kathryn has drafted a letter to send out to potential market members.
- **Watershed Issues-** Trying to get everyone signed up by January 2012.
 - Falls Lake- 9 out of 200 + have registered so far.
 - Jordan Lake- (Fertilizer App.) would like to get a committee to review crops and fertilizer rates for the Jordan baseline years.
- **Southern High-** Will be assisting on rain garden & butterfly garden
 - **Trees-** selling to HOA
 - **BMP's-** Eddie Culberson reported that they are proposing a series of BMPs that will catch the runoff from the roof & parking lot and treat it. After the water is treated it will go into two reservoirs where the water will be used to water the athletic fields. We are hoping that this will be incorporated into the studies at Southern High School. Durham SWCD has received a grant from DWR and we have submitted grant to Clean Water Management Trust Fund. All CWMTF projects have been capped at \$400,000 this year. The whole project at Southern would cost \$800,000 so we are going to try and do it in two phases.
 - **Agricultural Education Program-** Ag Education Program was not approved for Southern High School but it was approved for Northern High.
- **Northern High School-** Need 40-60 students to get the Agricultural Education Program up and running. Melissa English is working on organizing the field trip package for 8th grade Carrington Middle School students.
- **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

- **R.N. Harris School-** Michelle Wallace reported that Cooperative Extension will be training the teachers at R.N. Harris on '4H Soil Solutions'.

6. Food Policy Council update: Kathryn Spann reported that she attended the 2nd meeting. The council is now working on a mission statement.

New Business

- 1. Durham Soil & Water Field Days-** Jennifer Brooks reported that Durham SWCD will be holding field days this year October 4, 5, & 6th on the District land. We would like to be able to have a tent at each station but right now we only have 2 tents and 10 stations. Will Wilson made a motion to allow staff to spend up to \$300 on a nice 10X10 tent that the Farmland Board would lend to Durham SWCD. Samantha Gasson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Ron Bodkin to sponsor \$100 for 1 day of food for the presenters. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Set Next Meeting Date – October 20, 2011 at 8am

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 10:05 am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman