

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 03 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: March 24, 2005

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank, Chairman – At Large
Talmage Layton, Vice Chairman
Douglas Daye – Flat River VAD
Wayne Cash, Open Space & Trail Commission
Gus Gray – Cape Fear VAD

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson, Soil & Water
Millie H. Tilley, Soil & Water
Lynwood Faison, Soil & Water
Mike Giles, Engineering
Colleen Scarlett, Tax Office
Porcha Brooks, Tax Administration
Richard Morgart, Tax Administration
Ramon Tancinco, Guest
Paul McKenzie, Cooperative Extension
Andrew Branan, Director, NC Farm
Transition Network

1. **Welcome** – Chairman Neil Frank called the Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:10 AM.
2. **Minutes and Financial Report** – Gus Gray read over the Minutes and the financial report from the January 21st meeting. Porcha Brooks requested a correction to the minutes; it was not her that reported on the Durham County Farm Equipment Tax, it was Jessie Purdie. A motion was made with the correction by Vice Chairman Talmage Layton to approve the minutes and receive the financial report. Douglas Daye seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Finalize 2004 Annual Report** – Frank brought up the Annual Report for discussion to make certain he had incorporated the changes everyone had suggested. Frank stated he added in a separate item called Proposed Farmland Easement Budget with an initial request of \$500,000 and in the Program Goals, he has requested eliminating the Farm Equipment Tax as one of our goals. Frank requested from Director Eddie Culberson to get him a slot on the Agenda for the next working session of the Board of County Commissioners which would be April 4th.

Layton requested the Farmland Board be emailed when the date is nailed down.

Gray made the motion to accept the 2004 Annual Report. Layton seconded it. Motion passed without dissent.

4. **Durham County Farm Equipment Tax** – Porcha Brooks, Tax Administration reported there was not that much in value as far as farm equipment for Durham County. Brooks stated there is a NC Statue on the Farm Equipment Tax and if we wanted it changed, we would need to go before the State

5. **NC Farm Transition Network** – Andrew Branan, Director of the North Carolina Farm Transition Network, Inc. gave a presentation on “Partnering to Serve Farm Businesses in Transition.” Some of his topics were – Passing the Plow to the Next Generation, Addressing the Risks of Farm Business Succession, and Who We Serve. Branan stated the mission was to ensure that working farms remain in agricultural production by assisting retiring and aspiring farms in the effective transition of arm businesses.
6. **Other Business** –Mike Giles reported that he is taking the applications of the two Tilley farms to the Board of County Commissioners Agenda for Monday, March 28th. Giles stated that both farms scored high in historic quality. Giles reported the Board approved \$150,000 but he was asking for \$186,000 to cover the County’s Cost in closing the easements and the County’s 25% match cost. Giles stated they have about \$210,000 left in their Open Space Acquisition Budget and these two easements will take most of it.

Frank reported there was a Farm Bureau Day at the Legislature Building the first Wednesday in March that he and Layton attended. Layton reported there were 30 attendees from Durham County and 1,955 attendees from the State of North Carolina.

Frank reported he had gotten a phone call from Jim Wise with the News & Observer. Culberson stated there will be an article on Durham County farmlands and easements, in the Durham edition this Saturday, March 26th.

Cash reported that our Board has the opportunity to elect At Large members on their own and he would like to nominate Ramon Tancinco for an At Large seat. After some discussion, Gray made the motion to accept the nomination. Cash seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Culberson reported he had a new VAD for W.R. Harris for 45.7 and 33.1 acres of land. Cash made the motion to accept. Daye seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Lynwood Faison reported he had contacted Southern and Northern High to inquire about the students in the shop class putting the Farmland VAD signs together since we do not have the proper equipment to do so. Lynwood reported that Southern High was willing to help us out and he composed a letter over Neil Frank’s signature and asked for it to be signed so that he could take it to Southern to let them know how much we appreciated their willingness to help us out.

7. **Set Next Meeting Date** – The next meeting was set for May 20, 2005 at 8:00 AM.
8. **Adjourn** – Cash made the motion at 9:30 AM to adjourn the meeting. Daye seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

Neil Frank

Chairman

Talmage Layton

Vice Chairman