

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 11 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: October 16, 2008

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

Bo Glenn, Open Space Representative  
Douglas Daye, Flat River VAD  
Aileen Glasgow, Business Representative  
John M. Jones, Little River VAD  
Becky Heron, County Commissioner  
Soil & Water Representative, Kathryn Spann

#### **Others Present:**

Eddie Culberson, Director Soil & Water  
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water  
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water  
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager  
Wendy Seddon, Open Space  
Richard Morgart, Tax Administration

- 1. Welcome** –Second Vice Chairman Bo Glenn called the Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:12 AM.
- 2. Minutes** –County Commissioner Becky Heron made a motion to approve the minutes. Soil & Water Representative Kathryn Spann seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 3. Workshop** – Open Space Representative Bo Glenn gave the board members an update on the workshop. Glenn reported that the subcommittee met on October 9<sup>th</sup> and made a lot of progress. Glenn went over what the subcommittee discussed and told the board the tentative date is going to be January 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 4. Countywide Farmland Plan**- Jennifer Brooks with Durham Soil & Water reported that the contract for the grant has been signed and submitted back to the state. It is now up to the state to get the paper work back to us so that we can fill it out and request the money. Brooks reported that the budget has been amended by the County Commissioners so that we can get the \$30,000 placed into our line item to dispense as needed. Brooks reported that she is going to set up a meeting with Gerry Cohn in the near future to hammer out his proposal, the dollar amount issues and discuss the time frame of who does what when. Brooks reported that she hopes to have everything ready by the next board meeting
- 5. VAD Update** – Director Eddie Culberson reported that there are no VAD's to report since the last meeting. Culberson reported that since the last meeting he met with Wallace Jones off of Baptist Road to discuss the VAD program and some of the other programs that are available to him.
- 6. Easement Update** – Jane Korest Open Space Manager reported that Ann Ross and Jack Ellis had both contacted her in July about potential easements on their property but that there had been multiple scheduling conflicts in meeting them so far. They were both interested in having their names on the list to be considered for an easement. Korest reported that they have had a total of 12 names submitted to this board with the two she just gave. Korest reported that they are getting into new grant cycles that they can choose to put applications in for or not. Korest reported that they really need to start interviewing and assessing the farms.

Korest reported that they now have a ranking system as a starting point but in addition they now have a new application for interested farms to fill out once they state that they are interested in a conservation easement.

Korest reported that the new application is called the “Application of Interest” and it has already been sent to all 12 farms that have been brought to the farmland board along with a letter asking them to fill out the application and to call them so the interview process can be started. Korest reported that most of the questions on the application of interest are not technical and can be answered with little or no research.

Korest reported that there is a lot of information that they need to know on the initial application so when Korest or Seddon meet with the landowner they give them a packet. One of the things that are in the packet is the “Owner description of detailed property conditions”.

Korest reported that in the top right hand corner of the application/form they could add the Farmland Board’s logo. A motion was made by business representative Aileen Glasgow to add the Farmland Protection Board logo to the top right corner of the “Application of Interest” and the “owner description of detailed property conditions”. Little River VAD, John Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

Korest reported that this upcoming State grant cycle they are capping off projects at \$50,000 which is not much money compared to what we got last year from the State.

Korest is planning to have some farms that we can rank at the next subcommittee meeting using the new ranking system.

7. **Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, November 6th at 8:00am for the subcommittee meeting and Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am for the board meeting.
  
8. **Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, 2nd Vice Chairman Bo Glenn adjourned the meeting at 9:21 AM.

Neil Frank  
Chairman

Talmage Layton  
Vice Chairman

Bo Glenn  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman