

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 06 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: July 16, 2009

Advisory Board Present:

Kathryn Spann- Soil & Water Representative/Chair
Neil Frank- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Gus Gray- Cape Fear VAD
Becky Heron- County Commissioner
Aileen Glasgow- Business Representative
Talmage Layton- Falls/Lick Creek VAD
Billy Cooley- Farm Bureau Representative

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Director Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager
Wendy Seddon, Open Space & Real-estate
Gerry Cohn- consultant
Richard Morgart-

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday July 16, 2009, and called to order at 8:03 am by the chair. The meeting was held at the Soil and Water office, the chairman and vice chairman being present.

- 1. Minutes** – A draft copy of June 2009 minutes was sent to members prior to this meeting. A motion was made by Aileen Glasgow to approve the minutes. Neil Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Financial Report-** A Farmland Protection Advisory Board financial report was given by Lisa Marochak. The Farmland Board has a budget of \$4,500 for FY2010. Jane Korest gave an update on the Capital Improvement Plan. The County budget was approved leaving \$550,000 for Open Space and Farmland in FY2010's budget.
- 3. Membership Update**–Kathryn Spann reported that At Large member Allen Powell verbally indicated to her that he would like to resign from the Farmland Advisory Board. Spann reported that she has asked Allen Powell to send in a letter of resignation, and noted that the Board will now have several open positions. Several names were suggested as possible candidates. Spann asked staff and Board members to think of potential candidates and bring their names back to the next board meeting. Jane Korest reported that the board has the authority to appoint 5 at large seats in addition to the two vacant VAD seats.
- 4. Farmland Plan update-** Gerry Cohn gave an update on the Farmland Plan and went over the draft of the plan that was sent out prior to the board meeting. Cohn reported that the deadline to make any changes to the Farmland Plan is July 24th.
- 5. Easement Projects Status Update** – Jane Korest reported that since the last board meeting they closed on two of three easements for Roger Tilley's farm. The two easements are the ones funded solely with the State funds. Tilley's appraisal still needs federal approval for the 3rd easement. Everything is ready to go on Little Mountain Farm except for the appraisal that still hasn't received federal approval.

Korest reported that since the last meeting they received word that the Van Ellis Farm and Jimmy Coats Farm received Federal funding. There was \$12 million in grant requests and only about \$2.7 million available in federal funding. The Carrington Farm did not receive federal funding but it is under contract with the County, which has approved payment for 50% of the easement.

6. **Falls Lake:** Jennifer Brooks reported that the next Falls Lake meeting is scheduled for today 1pm-4pm. Anyone that lives in the Falls Lake Watershed especially farmers should try to attend one of the meetings.
7. **Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, August 27th at 8:00am
8. **Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Kathryn Spann adjourned the meeting at 9:24am.

Kathryn Spann
Chairman

Neil Frank
Vice Chairman