

## MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 6 (Farmland Advisory Board)      Date: June 23, 2016

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

Neil Frank- Chairman  
Will Wilson-Vice Chair  
Kathryn Spann- Soil and Water Representative  
John Monroe- At Large  
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative  
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD  
Perry Whitted - Open Space Representative  
David Heeks- At Large  
Samantha Gasson - At Large

#### **Others Present:**

Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water  
Jane Korest-Open Space  
Wendy Seddon- Open Space  
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension  
Glenda Clare- Fragile Families Network  
Neal Curran- Bull City Cool Food Hub Coordinator  
Elizabeth Zander- Soil & Water Contractor & PCC

*The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 23, 2016 and called to order at 8:10am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St., Durham, NC 27701, in the 1st floor classroom.*

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Kathryn Spann to approve the minutes from the May minutes as presented. Will Wilson seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
2. **Membership-**
  - Vacant positions- Lisa Marochak reported that the vacant Business Representative position and Fall VAD position are currently being advertised. Neal Curran expressed an interest in applying for the Business Rep. position. Lisa will email Neal a link to the online application.
3. **VAD Application-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following:
  - **10yr VAD renewal** - presented a VAD renewal application for William Waller & Mark Waller for 42.346 acres. A motion was made to approve the renewal of the VAD application as presented. Perry Whitted seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
4. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Lisa Marochak reported on the following for Mike Dupree:  
**Grant updates**
  - **UL award.** The BETC program was selected in the second phase of the awards program. It was one of a few interviewed out of over 100 in Canada and the US. The program was not selected for a one time cash award. The National Association of Environmental Educators is going to set up a 30 minute follow up phone conference and stated “*your application was one of the few to make it to the second phase of judging and we do want to acknowledge the tremendous work coming out of your program. As such we will be sending you an award to commemorate your program’s status as a finalist in our 2016 selection process.*”
  - **Smith Richardson Foundation-** We were to hear by June 30th. This grant is for \$50,000 to assist the BETC Program and fund half of an FTE.

- **NACD** technical assistance grant of up to \$50,000 for Urban Ag technical assistance. Other partners, Farmer Food Share, Reinvestment Partners, Interfaith Food Shuttle, Piedmont Conservation Council.

### **BETC Program**

- TLG conference presentation was last week on the 15th. We had about 70 people in attendance. The presentation was a success and was highlighted on the Twin Cities Blog and the Transforming Local Government facebook page. Danielle Adams, Mike Dupree were presenters with Amy Jenkins and Len Curington from Southern High.
- Lowe's Grove Middle School was recently named STEM School of the Year by US 2020. Three schools were named finalist, (Envision Science Academy, Lowe's Grove Middle School, and Wake STEM Early College High School). The winner was announced at a ceremony in Research Triangle Park. Thank you for being a supporter of Lowe's Grove Middle School!
- BETC Summer Intern Program
  - Currently 17 students (Southern 7, 5 from Jordan, 5 from Northern)
  - The teachers that will receive extended employment. They will be installing rain gardens at Jordan, Lowe's Grove, Morehead Montessori and EK Powe Elementary this summer. 7 rain gardens two critical area planting projects.

### **Local Food Purchasing Program**

- There was a meeting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Bull City Cool to discuss the Durham County Detention facility and the possibility of buying local food products from Durham Farmers. The Sheriff's office, Larry Ricks, Farmers Food Share, Reinvestment Partners and Drew Cummings with the county Managers office were present. The next meeting is scheduled for 2pm on July 8, at the Detention Facility. Soil & Water Conservation staff will investigate how and research how the Cabarrus County 10% local food purchasing requirement is working.

**DFFN - Farming and Natural Resources Action Circle**- Kathryn Spann reported that the DFFN Economy Action Circle is going to Focus on a **Durham Farmer Resource website** - AKA "Start Here Button" – as a place to gather and make available all resources to support farmers. The Farming and Natural Resources Action Circle meets every second Monday of the month at 902 N. Mangum St. in Durham from 6-8pm.

### **Ag Economic Development Coordinator Position**

Wendy Jacobs reported that Eddie Culberson spoke to the BOCC on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Eddie reported on the couple of items for Soil and Water that weren't recommended by the County Manager (*Ag Economic Development Coordinator position and small farmer grant*).

### **5. Easement update-** Jane Korest reported on the following:

- Still waiting to receive cooperative agreement back on the 4 Federal applications that were submitted this year.
- This will be the last FPAB meeting for Wendy Seddon. Wendy and her family are moving. Jane Korest and Neil Frank thanked Wendy for all of her hard work the past 10 years especially monitoring on farms.

## **6. Farmers Market update-**

Will Wilson gave an update on the Durham Roots Farmer's Market.

- **T-shirts-** in the process of creating t-shirts for the market.
- **Market Manager-** still looking for an intern to fill the Market Manager spot.

### **New Business:**

- 1. Metamorphic Therapeutic Garden-** Glenda Clare spoke to the FPAB and told them about what she does to help families. Glenda shared her contact info with the board.
- 2. Economic Development Officer-** The FPAB asked Lisa Marochak to invite Marqueta Welton to attend the next FPAB meeting on August 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting**– August 18, 2016 at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701 (second floor conference room)

**Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:15 am.

Neil Frank  
Chair

Will Wilson  
Vice-Chair

August 18, 2016  
Date approved