

MINUTES

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

Meeting Number: 7 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: August 18, 2016

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank- Chairman
Will Wilson-Vice Chair
Kathryn Spann- Soil and Water Representative
Talmage Layton- At Large
Wendy Jacobs- BOCC Representative
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Mark Waller – Farm Bureau Representative
David Heeks- At Large
Samantha Gasson - At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jane Korest-Open Space
Cheralyn Berry- Horticultural Agent
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension
Elizabeth Zander- Soil & Water Contractor & PCC
Neal Curran- Business Representative
Marqueta Welton- Economic Development Officer
Nicole Connelly- citizen
Heidi Hannapel- Land Spring Group
Jeff Masten- Land Spring Group

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, August 18, 2016 and called to order at 8:00am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St., Durham, NC 27701, in the 2nd floor classroom.

1. **Minutes** – A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes from the June minutes as presented. Mark Waller 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. No appointments to boards were made in July. The BOCC will vote on board appointments Monday, August 19th.
3. **Budget-** Lisa Marochak reported that there is \$3,870 in the Farmland Board budget. Staff will need to purchase coffee supplies for the meetings and upcoming breakfast series.
4. **Durham County Economic Development Officer-** Marqueta Welton discussed her new role as the Durham County Economic Development Officer. She went over the draft copy of the Ag. Economic Incentive Policy and will email a copy to Lisa Marochak, so she can share it with the board. Any feedback on the Economic incentive Policy that the FPAB members have should be emailed to Lisa Marochak. A subcommittee consisting of Kathryn Spann, Neal Curran, Mike Dupree and Jane Korest will meet to go over the policy. The FPAB will send any recommendation on changes to the policy after the next FPAB meeting on September 22nd.
5. **Ag Development Coordinator-** Mike Dupree reported on the following:
 - a. **National Association of Conservation Districts Urban Agriculture Initiative**
technical assistance grant of \$50,000 for Urban Ag technical assistance was awarded to Durham. Farmer Food Share, Reinvestment Partners, Interfaith Food Shuttle, Piedmont Conservation Council, DPS Hub Farm are the partners that submitted letters of support. The grant has an Initial Transaction Agreement that was signed and sent to the NACD

on July 26, 2016. The NACD sent a check for \$5000. The formal packet will be issued by the NACD soon.

Timetable and the deliverables include 8 training events. Two half day trainings with lunch and 6 breakfast with short presentations. The presentations will be hosted at the Bull City Cool and the DPS Hub Farm. The 1st ½ day GAP training will be held on September 22 at Bull City Cool. The Farmland Board will host 3 breakfast. Lisa Marochak will send out the breakfast dates along with the location and proposed topics. New topic ideas should be sent to Lisa Marochak by September 9th so that the data can be compiled for the Farmland Board meeting on September 15th.

- b. **2018-Ag Business School in Person County-** will offer a regional training opportunity for farmers
- c. **Local Food Purchase Agreement by the Durham County Detention Center**
Elizabeth Zander reported that a meeting will be held on August 29th at 2 pm to tour the detention facility and discuss the feasibility of using locally grown products in the facility.

6. 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. Could possible go to the September 12th Durham County BOCC meeting.

7. Farmers Market update-

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

- August was a slow month (Most markets see a decrease in sales during the month of August).
- **Fall Kick-off** - Planning to have a Fall kick-off on September 10th.
 - Durham County TV show- Lisa Marochak will ask Deborah Craig-Ray if a couple of people with Durham Roots Farmers Market can speak on the show.
- **Volunteers-** Heidi Hannapel is a volunteer at the market along with 2 other volunteers.

New Business:

- 1. **Incubator Farm-** Jeff Masten and Heidi Hannapel spoke to the FPAB about possibly creating an incubator farm. Jane Korest reported that the FPAB already has a subcommittee working on the idea and would welcome them to join the subcommittee.
- 2. **Group GAP Program-** Neal Curran reported that a group is being created to facilitate group audits so USDA only has to do spot audits. This will reduce the cost of the audit.

Next Meeting– September 21, 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

December 15, 2016
Date approved