

Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board
Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806 with optional Zoom
September 20, 2022, at 11 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Vice-Chair Bruce Snelson, Ed Bulluck, Terri Wells, Steve Duckett, and Anne Grier.

Others Present: Ariel Zijp, Avni Naik, David Rogers, Will Harlan, Mary Jo Rogers, Craig Rogers, and Russ Roberson.

Meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by Bruce Snelson.

Approval of the September 20, 2022, Meeting Agenda

- **Terri Wells made a motion to approve the September 20, 2022, meeting agenda, seconded by Steve Duckett, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Approval of the August 23, 2022, Meeting Minutes

- **Steve Duckett made a motion to approve the August 23, 2022, meeting minutes, seconded by Ed Bulluck, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Board Member Reports: None presented.

VAD and EVAD Applications: No new applications.

Farmland Preservation Report: Ms. Zijp presented the farmland preservation report.

- Easement Project Updates
 - New Projects for AAB board approval
 - Donation Easements –
 - Bruce and Jean Larson- 70 acres in Sandy Mush
 - Linda “Tarana” Wesley – 31 acres in Sandy Mush
 - SAHC Garrett Cove – 100 Acres in Sandy Mush
 - Grant Fund Applications–
 - NCDA- Scott Fisher
 - NCDA – Will Harlan
 - NCDA – Roger’s Family Farm part 1: Roger’s Family Trust
 - NCDA- Roger’s Family Farm part 2: David Rogers
 - USDA – Russ Roberson
 - Funded projects
 - Sluder Easement 90 acres – NCDA approved, USDA denied, starting survey
 - Ramsey Easement 40 acres– NCDA approve, USDA approved \$224,000, starting survey in fall
 - Anthony Cole Farm 38.2 acres– Grant funds awarded, starting survey in fall
 - Gary Cole Farm 28.9 acres– Grant funds awarded, starting survey in fall
 - Jasperwood Phase 1 - 113 acres – a Grant funds awarded, starting survey in fall
 - Jasperwood Phase 2 - 98 acres– Grant funds awarded, starting survey in fall
 - Survey & Deed work
 - Clark Easement – starting deed work and appraisal
 - Berner Easement –starting deed work and appraisal
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – deed work finalizing, scheduling closing
 - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –survey in review, deed work, baseline/maps

FY23 Project Votes: Ms. Zijp presented the Rogers' Family Farm, David Rogers, Russ Roberson, and Will Harlan projects to the Board. The presentation included photos and maps showing current and planned housesits locations, farmstead areas, right of ways, funding options, conserved lands nearby, and development pressure. The landowners were also present; they talked a little about their properties and reasons for their interest in conservation easements. Landowners also answered any questions that the Board presented them with.

Mr. Duckett, Mr. Snelson, Mr. Bulluck, and Ms. Wells visited some of the properties and spoke about the natural resources, land stewardship, location, and general impressions of the properties. Ms. Zijp stated that Mr. Fisher does not drive due to his age and thus, was unable to make the meeting. Ms. Wells and Mr. Bulluck talked about their visit to Mr. Fisher's property and their conversations with him. They both spoke in favor of the property and stated that Mr. Fisher is a good steward of the land – his project was a good fit for the Board.

Landowners then left the meeting, and board members voted on the projects.

- **Steve Duckett made a motion to approve the David Rogers, Rogers' Family Farm, Will Harlan, Russ Roberson, and Scott Fisher projects, seconded by Anne Grier, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Announcements and Discussion: Ms. Wells stated Mr. Lee had talked to her about his position as Board Chair and his difficulty attending meetings. He stated he would be alright with staying on as a board member but assigning the Chair position to another member. Board members discussed each of their availability and ability to step in as Board Chair, and Mr. Duckett stated he would most likely be able to take the position but would have to double-check his capacity. Mr. Snelson stated he would stay on as Vice-Chair but wouldn't have the capacity to take on the Chair position.

Ms. Zijp stated she was also in the process of finding a Board member that could represent the Barnardsville region. The Board agreed to return to the conversation during the October meeting.

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 12:01 pm.