

Buncombe County Agenda Item Information Sheet

AGENDA ITEM:

Conservation Easement Funding Request

MEETING DATE:

November 18, 2014

REQUESTED BY:

Land Conservation Advisory Board (LCAB), Agricultural Advisory Board, and Planning Department

Background information:

The Farmland Preservation Ordinance was amended in 2001 in order for the Agricultural Advisory Board, administered by the Soil & Water Conservation District, to recommend, negotiate, and hold conservation easements. The LCAB was established in December 2003 and was directed to inventory protected land and to recommend land for future protection. The LCAB and Agricultural Advisory Board have recommended funding for the transaction costs for four conservation easements. The easements would permanently protect 287 acres.

Pro's

The easements would protect 287 acres that are in conservation priority areas. The \$118,400 in County dollars requested to cover transaction costs would leverage \$2,084,000 in grants, private donations, and landowner donated value.

Con's

None

Funds required:

\$118,400

Alternatives:**Action recommended:**

Approval of funding is recommended by the Land Conservation Advisory Board and the Agricultural Advisory Board.