



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 11/05/2020

Consent Agenda

Department:

Budget

Presenter(s):

Jennifer Barnette, Budget Director

Contact(s):

Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources

Ariel Zijp, Farmland Preservation Coordinator

Jennifer Barnette, Budget

Subject:

FY2021 Conservation Easements

Brief Summary:

As part of the FY21 Budget, Future Conservation Easement dollars were set aside with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal in mind of preserving farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts. The Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board requests transaction costs for three easements, totaling \$120,000, be moved from Future Conservation Easement dollars. The three projects are:

- 1) Ramsey Preservation: Joe Ramsey is a lifelong farmer and one of the last tobacco growers in Buncombe County with 40 acres of prime agricultural farmland in Weaverville.
- 2) Burleson Preservation: Jan Burleson has 28 acres of farm and forestland adjacent to several conserved properties in Barnardsville.
- 3) Splendor Valley Farm Preservation: Splendor Valley LLC farm has 25 acres of prime agricultural soils and has been in the family for generations and is in the heart of the Sandy Mush Valley with protected farmland adjacent on all sides of this parcel. The protection of this parcel would continue the significant efforts of protected land across the Sandy Mush Valley.

By protecting these three properties, Buncombe County would be bridging gaps in designated priority regions as well as protecting working family farms that have been within families for over a century. The transaction costs would provide a match for grant applications for easement funding.

Recommended Motion & Requested Actions:

Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation:

County Manager recommends as presented