



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: October 3, 2023

Consent Agenda

Department: Agriculture and Land Resources

Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget Director

Contact(s): Jennifer Harrison, Agriculture and Land Resources Director
Avni Naik, Farmland Preservation Coordinator

Subject: Establish Four Conservation Easements

Brief Summary: The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) requests transaction costs for four new conservation easement projects. The projects consist of Slocumb Farm and Shady Place Farm in Leicester, Okoboji Farm in Fairview, and Hobby Knob Farm in Weaverville.

- Slocumb Farm, +/- 122 acres in Leicester - \$54,000
- Shady Place Farm, +/- 170 acres in Leicester - \$94,000
- Okoboji Farm, +/- 47 acres in Fairview - \$43,000
- Hobby Knob Farm, +/- 37 acres in Weaverville - \$38,000

This aligns with the 2025 Strategic Plan Goal: Preserve farmland and environmentally sensitive tracts.

Buncombe County has previously funded projects that will bring the total acreage of land protected in the County up to 79,763 acres. With these additional acres, Buncombe County will have 80,139 acres of protected land and will need 3,957 additional acres to achieve the 20% by 2030 conservation goal.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action: Approve budget amendment

County Manager's Comments & Recommendation: County Manager recommends as presented