Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: July 16, 2024

Consent Agenda

Department: Agriculture and Land Resources
Presenter(s): John Hudson, Budget Director

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

Subject: Establish 3 new conservation easements and the Conservation Easements Administration project

Brief Summary:
The Agricultural Advisory Board (AAB) requests transaction costs totaling $184,000 for the following three new conservation easement projects:

**Kestrel Herb Farm** - 70.1 acres in Sandy Mush - $50,000
**Sandy Hollar Farm** - 150 acres in Sandy - $66,000
**Battle Forest** - 167 acres in Candler - $68,000

Easement purchase costs for these three easement projects will be requested at a future meeting from Open Space Bond funds.

Agriculture and Land Resources staff also requests to combine two previously created projects:

- Pre-Appraisals - ($15,000)
- Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act - ($10,000)

into one new project with an additional $30,000 titled:

Conservation Easements Administration - $55,000

This project will be used for due diligence pre-work on conservation easements such as pre-appraisals and title checks.

**Recommended Motion & Requested Action:**
Approve budget amendment

**County Manager’s Comments & Recommendation:**
County Manager recommends as presented