

Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for April 16, 2024, at 11:00 am 49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Public Comment	
Approval of April 16, 2024, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of March 19, 2024, meeting minutes	Board
Board Member Reports	Board
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Tone Hollar Expansion	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
Announcements and Discussion	Board

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Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Appl. No.
Katrina Killian & Kaye Brown	Arden	22	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/7/2024	739-Killian
Kristi & Lori Brown	Hendersonville	47.4	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/14/2024	740-Brown
Annette & James Merrill	Leicester	28.5	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/6/2024	741-Merrill
Terri Wells	Leicester	111.6	EVAD	Eligible · Renewal	2/5/2024	742-Wells
Douglas Barbash	Black Mountain	62.44	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/27/2024	743-Barbash
Mark Ammons	Weaverville	89.05	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/12/2024	744-Ammons
Shannon M. Roberts & Shonda Rae Gunter	Weaverville	13.54	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	2/21/2024	745-Roberts
Jeff Diamond	Leicester	72.1	VAD	Eligible - Renewal	3/27/2024	746-Diamon
		0				
					VAD/EVAD Combined	
	VAD Totals		EVAD Totals		Totals	
Totals as of February	Number of Farms	320	Number of Farms	21	341	
2024	Total Acreage	22615.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24874.26	
			0			
New totals for March	Number of Farms	321	Number of Farms	23	344	
2024 if proposed applications are approved	Total Acreage	22740.11	Total Acreage	2414.59	25154.7	



- Easement Monitoring in with Equinox
- Grant Application site visits
  - NCDA applications Roberson backed out of process & Slocumb didn't rank well
  - USDA applications Roberson backed out & didn't have enough funding to reach Okoboji
  - Agricultural Growth Zone application- interview 25th
- Reminder to Mark Your Calendars
  - Conservation Donor Dinner June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm working on invitations
- Working on potential new projects & getting landowner estimates
  - Mike Adams & Katie Grear -Lady Luck Farm, Sandy Mush
  - Curtis Hawkins, Sandy Mush
  - Richard Kendricks, Alexander
  - Geoffrey Barndt, Alexander
  - Tom Battle, Candler
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement finishing appraisal and scheduled closing in April 18
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements final review & tentative closing set for May
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement refinancing has been approved, now subordination process
  - Clark/Maddox Easement on pause until agreement resolution.
  - SAHC Community Farm Expansion Easement working to exclude the disputed area.
  - Tone Hollar Farm title work and starting deed work
  - Soden title work and starting deed work
  - Parham/Fortner Farm contracting with surveyor & starting up survey
  - Rogers Farm Trust survey and environmental assessment finished.
  - David Rogers survey and environmental assessment started.
  - Scott Fisher– survey draft in review and environmental assessment finished.

# Meeting Minutes Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District 49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787 March 19, 2024, at 11:00 am

<u>Ag Advisory Board Members Present</u>: Vice-Chair Chase Hubbard, Wayne Welch, Terri Wells, Kyle Guie, Anne Grier, and Mark Diaz.

Others Present: Ariel Zijp, Avni Naik, Johanna (BC Staff).

> Terri Wells made a motion to appoint Mark Diaz to lead the meeting until Vice-Chair Chase Hubbard was available, Anne Grier seconded, and the motion passed on the vote.

The meeting was called to order at 11:01am by Mark Diaz.

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

#### Approval of the March 19, 2024, Meeting Agenda

made a motion to approve the March 19, 2024, meeting agenda, seconded by, and the motion passed on the vote.

# Approval of the February 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Anne Grier made a motion to approve the February 20, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Kyle Guie, and the motion passed on the vote.

**Board Member Reports:** Board members introduced themselves to the newest Ag Advisory board member, Kyle Guie. Mr. Guie owns Mountain Meadows Landscaping and, in the past, worked with Land of Sky as a Planner for some time. He also worked for the Lancaster Farmland Trust for a while and is familiar with the easement work. He and his wife own a farm in the area.

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Appl. No.
Charles Hensley	Alexander	129.18	VAD	Eligible-Renewal	1/28/2024	735-Hensley
Janet Peterson	Fletcher	195.28	VAD	Eligible-Renewal	1/30/2024	736-Peterson
Justin & Heather Hodges	Leicester	32.31	VAD	Eligible-Renewal	2/20/2024	737-Hodges
Roland & Bonnie Reece	Weaverville	31.1	VAD	Eligible-Renewal	2/27/2024	738-Roland
		0				
					VAD/EVAD Combined	
	VAD Total	VAD Totals EVAD Totals		Totals		
Totals as of February	Number of Farms	320	Number of Farms	21	341	
2024	Total Acreage	22615.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24874.26	
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2024 if proposed applications are						
approved	Total Acreage	22740.11	Total Acreage	2414.59	25154.7	

VAD and EVAD Applications: Four VAD renewal applications:

Terri Wells made a motion to approve the VAD renewal applications, seconded by Mark Diaz, and the motion passed on the vote.

# Farmland Preservation Report:

• Easement Monitoring in the works with Equinox

- Landowner Packets for throughout the easement process
- NCDA grant application site visits next week
- Reminder to Mark Your Calendars
  - Friends of Ag Breakfast March 26th on PUV at Leicester Community center!
    - Myth busting and PUV packet for landowners. Packet put together that will be handed out at the Ag Breakfast and hope to have it at the Tax Department that can be handed out for new PUV landowners. Include information around easements, VAD/EVAD
  - Conservation Donor Dinner June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm looking for sponsors to raise \$1,000.
- Working with the County to hire two new attorneys to replace Lynn Cox as she plans for retirement.
- Meeting with new potential projects
  - o Mike Adams & Katie Grear -Lady Luck Farm, Sandy Mush
  - Thom Lindheimer, Reems Creek (donation)
  - o Curtis Hawkins, Sandy Mush
  - Richard Kendrick, Alexander
  - o Geoffrey Barndt, Alexander
- Easement Project Updates
  - o Larson Easement –finishing appraisal and scheduled closing on April 18
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement working to exclude the disputed area.
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements BDR & Deed drafts submitted for review scheduling closing for April/May.
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –refinancing has been approved, now subordination process.
  - Clark Easement waiting on subordination agreement resolution.
  - Worthen & Krekel waiting for new attorney to start deed work.
  - Soden waiting for new attorney to start deed work.
  - Parham/Fortner Farm contracting with surveyor & starting up.
  - Rogers Farm Trust survey and environmental assessment started.
  - David Rogers survey and environmental assessment started.
  - Scott Fisher– survey and environmental assessment finished.

# **Announcements & Discussions**

Staff will be working with the County attorney to update our Farmland Preservation Program ordinance to clarify some language especially around the VAD/EVAD programs. The State has provided a VAD ordinance template that Staff is planning on reviewing with County Legal to ensure the language is up to date.

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting ended at 11:31 am.