



Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for November 21, 2023, at 11:00 am

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Approval of November 21, 2023, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of October 17, 2023, meeting minutes	Board
Board Member Reports	Board
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
PUV Presentation	Whitney Meadows, BC Tax
Announcements and Discussion	Board

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date
Wesley Alderfer	Leicester	19	VAD	Eligible	10/27/2023
		19			
	VAD Totals		EVAD Totals		VAD/EVAD Combined Totals
Totals as of October 2023	Number of Farms	319	Number of Farms	21	340
	Total Acreage	22596.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24855.26
New totals for November 2023 (if proposed applications are approved)	Number of Farms	320	Number of Farms	21	341
	Total Acreage	22615.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24874.26



Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting
Farmland Preservation Program Report
November 21, 2023
Ariel Zijp & Avni Naik

- Working on grant applications:
 - Submitted two USDA applications for the IRA funding pool (mid-November deadline)
 - Will submit the two same applications for the regular ACEP pool as well to increase chances of funding
 - Working on 3 NCDAs applications (December deadline)
- LCAB voted on Lake Eden Preserve easement purchase request for SAHC.
- Ag Breakfast on Nov. 14th at Claxton Farms was a success!
- Easement Project Updates
 - Larson Easement – BDR and EA complete, working on deed.
 - Wesley Easement – forest management plan & EA complete; hope to start on BDR soon.
 - SAHC Garrett – on hold as per SAHC’s request, hope to start survey soon.
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – working with SAHC on options to move forward.
 - Sluder Easement– submitted additional funding application.
 - Ramsey Easement –Final documents under review with grant agencies. Hoping to close on this easement soon.
 - Jasperwood Farm Easements – starting deed work and hoping to wrap up baselines soon. Environmental assessments and appraisals are complete.
 - Splendor Valley LLC Easement – waiting on Ag South Farm Credit for subordination agreement.
 - Clark Easement – landowners checking in with their loan officers on subordination.
 - Worthen & Krekel – started survey work.
 - Soden – starting survey work.

Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787
October 17, 2023, at 11:00 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Steve Duckett, Terri Wells, Chase Hubbard, Suzy Rankin, Wayne Welch, and Anne Grier.

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 am by Vice-Chair Chase Hubbard as Chair Steve Duckett arrived later.

Approval of the October 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda

- **Ed Bulluck made a motion to approve the October 17, 2023, meeting agenda, seconded by Suzy Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Approval of the September 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- **Anne Grier made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Suzy Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Public Comment: No public comment.

Board Member Reports: No reports at this time.

VAD and EVAD Applications (Ms. Naik): No new VAD applications.

Farmland Preservation Report:

- NCDAs applications from FY23 all approved!
 - Rogers Family Farm
 - David Rogers Tract
 - Scott Fisher Farm
- Transaction costs for the three grant projects and one donation project approved by BOC.
- Working with land trust representatives and LCAB on bond projects they hope to bring forward.
- Working on revamping Farm Heritage Trail social media. Driving the trail this week to gather media.
- Planning next Ag Breakfast for Nov. 14th
- Easement Project Updates
 - Larson Easement – BDR and EA complete, working on deed.
 - Wesley Easement – forest management plan & EA complete; hope to start on BDR soon.
 - SAHC Garrett – on hold as per SAHC’s request, hope to start survey soon.
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – working with SAHC on options to move forward.
 - Sluder Easement– Additional funding application should be open soon, will work on the application this cycle.
 - Ramsey Easement – Working on title commitment revision, all other documents under final review with grant agencies. Hoping to close on this easement soon.

- Jasperwood Farm Easements – starting deed work; environmental assessments and appraisals are complete.
- Splendor Valley LLC Easement – waiting on Ag South Credit Union for subordination agreement.
- Clark Easement – landowners checking in with their loan officers on subordination.
- Worthen & Krekel – started survey work.
- Soden – starting survey work.

Board and Program Overview Presentation

With the addition of three new board members over the last few months, Staff presented an overview of the Ag Advisory Board history, purpose, and goals; as well as the Farmland Preservation Programs (conservation easements, VAD/EVAD, ag events and agritourism platforms).

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.