Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787
August 15, 2023, at 11:00 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Wayne Welch, Terri Wells, Chase Hubbard, Suzy Rankin, Mark Diaz, and David Lee.

Others Present: Avni Naik, Angelica Tyler, Johanna Cano (BC Staff).

Board Chair Steve Duckett was unable to attend and the Board will be voting to fill the Vice-Chair during the next meeting. The Board agreed that Mr. David Lee would run this meeting.

Meeting was called to order at 11:02am by Chair Steve Duckett.

Approval of the August 15, 2023, Meeting Agenda

➤ Chase Hubbard made a motion to approve the August 15, 2023, meeting agenda, seconded by Wayne Welch, and the motion passed on the vote.

Approval of the July 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes

➤ Terri Wells made a motion to approve the July 18, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Suzy Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.

Board Member Reports: No reports at this time.

Ag Advisory By-Laws: The BC Ag Advisory Board discussed the adoption of a set of bylaws for the Board. Discussion of easement purchase estimates for bond projects that are not approved by the Board of Commissioners would require a closed session as outlined in the bylaws. The Board reviewed the AAB Bylaws draft. Ms. Wells asked Staff to include language to clarify board reappointments and terms as per language written in the ordinance. A suggestion to add public comment to the agenda was also made. Other than that, the Board had no further comments. They agreed to adopt the Bylaws as presented with the term reappointment language included.

➤ Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the Bylaws as presented with the term reappointment language included, seconded by Ms. Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.

VAD and EVAD Applications (Ms. Naik): Two new VAD applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Determination</th>
<th>Appl. Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Astrid Hoffman</td>
<td>Weaverville</td>
<td>23.58</td>
<td>VAD</td>
<td>Eligible - Waiting Approval</td>
<td>5/9/2023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice Plemons</td>
<td>Candler</td>
<td>89.1</td>
<td>VAD</td>
<td>Eligible - Waiting Approval</td>
<td>7/7/2023</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

112.68

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VAD Totals</th>
<th>EVAD Totals</th>
<th>VAD/EVAD Combined Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Acreage</td>
<td>22484</td>
<td>2258.58</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Totals as of July 2023

| New totals for August 2023 (if proposed applications are approved) |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Number of Farms        | 319                         | 21                          | 340                       |
| Total Acreage          | 22596.68                    | 2258.58                     | 24855.26                  |

**Notes:**
- VAD: Vertical Drainage Applications
- EVAD: Environmental VAD Applications
Mr. Hubbard made a motion to approve the VAD application, seconded by Mr. Welch, and the motion passed on the vote.

Farmland Preservation Report

- New board position approved – Mark Diaz. The Board welcomed Mark Diaz as a new member.
- Hoping to confirm/schedule grant project visits in August.
- Bond projects – Open Space Bond Manager & Finance to go through internal processes before taking to BOC, working on pre-appraisals to get quotes.
- Waiting to hear back on FY23 grant applications.
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – starting BDR and EA
  - Wesley Easement – forest management plan & EA in progress; hope to start on BDR soon.
  - SAHC Garrett – on hold as per SAHC’s request, hope to start survey soon.
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute.
  - Sluder Easement – adding in edits from NCDA, additional funding opportunity.
  - Ramsey Easement – Federal representatives visited site in July, Ph II EA and updated BDR currently under review.
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – starting deed work; environmental assessments and appraisals are completed and under review.
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement – refinancing to get subordination agreement signed. Ag South Credit says earliest they’d have things complete is the end of Aug.
  - Clark Easement – postponed until September - banks reviewing subordination agreements.
  - Worthen & Krekel – started survey work.
  - Soden – Letter of Intent is signed, scheduling initial visit with surveyor.

Closed session

Ms. Wells made a motion to enter closed session as per GS. 143-318.11 section 5, seconded by Ms. Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.

The Board discussed easement purchase ballpark estimates for the two bond project proposals.

Ms. Wells made a motion to leave closed session, seconded by Mr. Welch, and the motion passed on the vote.

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 am.