



## ***Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board***

Meeting Agenda for June 20, 2023, at 11:00 am

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Approval of June 20, 2023, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of May 16, 2023, meeting minutes	Board
Board Member Reports	Board
New Board Member Opening	Board
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
FY24 Project Proposals	Ariel Zijp, Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Announcements and Discussion	Board

June, 2023 VAD/EVAD Applications

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date
Gary Houser	Fairview	142.05	VAD	Eligible	5/19/2023
Geoffrey Barndt	Alexdander	64.89	VAD	Eligible	6/7/2023
Neal & Ava Morgan	Leicester	188	VAD	Eligible	6/14/2023
Anita King	Leicester	54.5	EVAD	Eligible	6/12/2023
John Lloyd & Peggy Baldwin	Leicester	9.5	VAD	Eligible	1/27/2023
		<b>458.94</b>			
	<b>VAD Totals</b>		<b>EVAD Totals</b>		<b>VAD/EVAD Combined Totals</b>
<b>Totals as of May 2023</b>	Number of Farms	312	Number of Farms	20	332
	Total Acreage	22033.16	Total Acreage	2204.08	24237.24
<b>New totals for April 2023 (if proposed applications are approved)</b>	Number of Farms	317	Number of Farms	20	337
	Total Acreage	22492.1	Total Acreage	2204.08	24696.18



## Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting

### Farmland Preservation Program Report

June 20, 2023

Ariel Zijp & Avni Naik

- Successful Conservation Family Dinner – May 11<sup>th</sup>
- The Good Road TV show– Helped coordinate locations & topics for filming the Farm Heritage Trail
- Coordinating new projects and proposals for board approval this summer
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – survey in review, deed work starting
  - Wesley Easement – survey & forest management plan in progress
  - SAHC Garrett –starting survey in August
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute
  - Sluder Easement– Deedwork in review and Appraisal completed
  - Ramsey Easement –resolving Phase II EA findings & Appraisal reviewed
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – Starting Deedwork, environmental assessments and Appraisal completed and in review
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –refinancing in order to get subordination agreement signed
  - Clark Easement – postponed - banks reviewing subordination agreements
  - Worthen & Krekel – Letter of Intent Signed and contracting with surveyor
  - Soden – Letter of Intent Signing and contracting with surveyor

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787**  
**May 16, 2023, at 11:00 am**

**Ag Advisory Board Members Present:** Chair Steve Duckett, Vice-Chair Bruce Snelson, Wayne Welch, Anne Grier, Ed Bulluck, David Lee, Chase Hubbard, and Terri Wells.

**Others Present:** Ariel Zijp, Avni Naik (virtual) Angelica Tyler (BC Staff).

Meeting was called to order at 11:00am by Chair Steve Duckett.

**Approval of the May 16, 2023, Meeting Agenda**

- **Bruce Snelson made a motion to approve the May 16, 2023, meeting agenda, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**

**Approval of the April 18, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

- **Anne Grier made a motion to approve the March 21, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Ed Bulluck, and the motion passed on the vote.**

**Board Member Reports:** Ms. Wells thanked Staff for hosting the LCAB Conservation Awards Dinner after a five-year break. She also thanked a few of the Ag Advisory Board members that volunteered at the event. There were approximately 100 attendees and many of the Farmland Preservation Program easement landowners were present.

Ms. Grier informed board members that she is a member of the Citizens’ Climate Lobby and was recently asked to join an Agricultural Advisory Committee for Rep. Chuck Edwards (Congressman, District 11). The Advisory Committee was formed to gather input on agricultural topics that could be addressed/supported in the Farm Bill. Ms. Grier encouraged Board Members to let her know of any ideas or suggestions to take to the Advisory Committee. Mr. Duckett suggested discussing crop and income insurance particularly for small producers that have fewer options. Many federal programs target large producers and small growers don’t have the same options. Ms. Zijp stated they’ve heard some funding from the IRA funding is supposed to be funneled towards easements through NRCS, but staff has also heard that a lot of that funding will be going towards the coast – most likely because those projects tend to be bigger with better soils (more competitive). Staff has given feedback stating they wish the USDA would follow the state process of picking projects regionally instead of competing state-wide.

**VAD and EVAD Applications (Ms. Zijp):** One VAD renewal application.

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date
Jerry & Tina Orr	Candler	35.9	VAD	Eligible (renewal) - Waiting Approval	4/25/2023
		35.9			
	<b>VAD Totals</b>		<b>EVAD Totals</b>		<b>VAD/EVAD Combined Totals</b>
<b>Totals as of March 2023</b>	Number of Farms	311	Number of Farms	20	331
	Total Acreage	21997.26	Total Acreage	2204.08	24201.34
<b>New totals for April 2023 (if proposed applications are approved)</b>	Number of Farms	311	Number of Farms	20	331
	Total Acreage	22033.16	Total Acreage	2204.08	24237.24

- **Chase Hubbard made a motion to approve the VAD renewals, seconded by Bruce Snelson, and the motion passed on the vote.**

### **Farmland Preservation Report**

- Conservation Family Dinner – May 11<sup>th</sup> at Elida Home Event Center
- Working with LCAB to commit all of FY23 funding to projects by June
- Suzy Rankin AAB application coming to BOC meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> meeting for appointment
- All FY23 funding will be committed by June 6<sup>th</sup> BOC meeting
- Open Space Bond – May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Land Conservation Criteria APPROVED!
- Ranking Bond projects & preparing plan for Grant season
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – survey in review
  - Wesley Easement – survey & forest management plan in review
  - Sluder Easement– finishing baseline, Deedwork and Appraisal
  - Ramsey Easement –finishing baseline & resolving Phase II EA findings & appraisal in review
  - Jasperwood Farm – all phases – Starting Deedwork and Appraisal, contracting for EA
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –ready to close – but subordination agreement still in review
  - Clark Easement – postponed - banks reviewing subordination agreements
  - Worthen & Krekel – Budget approved now scheduling Letter of Intent Signing
  - Scott and Susan Soden – Budget approved now scheduling Letter of Intent Signing
  - Scott Fisher – Waiting to hear back from NCDCA grant on funding
  - Rogers Family Farm – Waiting to hear back from NCDCA grant on funding
  - David Rogers– Waiting to hear back from NCDCA grant on funding
  - Russ Roberson– Waiting to hear back from USDA grant on funding

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.