



***Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board***

Meeting Agenda for July 18, 2023, at 11:00 am

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Approval of July 18, 2023, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of June 20, 2023, meeting minutes	Board
Board Member Reports	Board
FY24 Bond Project Proposals	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Announcements and Discussion	Board





## Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting

### Farmland Preservation Program Report

July 18, 2023

Avni Naik

- Meeting with Citizen Times on July 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act update.
- Working on creating fund for bond project estimates – BOC meeting this evening.
- Hoping to confirm/schedule grant project visits in August.
- New Board position will be taken to the BOC meeting this evening.
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – survey in review, deed work starting
  - Wesley Easement – survey & forest management plan in progress
  - SAHC Garrett –hope to start survey in August
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute
  - Sluder Easement– appraisal completed, received edits from NCDA and are working on incorporating and submitting those.
  - Ramsey Easement – working to resolve Ph II ESA findings; federal grant rep should be coming out to the property for final review; appraisal reviewed
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – Starting deed work; survey review complete and approved; environmental assessments and appraisal completed and under review
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –refinancing to get subordination agreement signed
  - Clark Easement – postponed - banks reviewing subordination agreements
  - Worthen & Krekel – Letter of Intent Signed, scheduling initial visit with surveyor
  - Soden – Letter of Intent Signing and scheduling initial visit with surveyor



- **Ms. Wells made a motion to approve the four VAD applications and one EVAD application, seconded by Mr. Lee, and the motion passed on the vote.**

### **Farmland Preservation Report**

- 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– deed work in review and appraisal completed
  - Ramsey Easement –resolving Phase II EA findings & Appraisal reviewed
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – starting deed work, 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

**FY24 Project Proposal Presentation:** Staff proposed projects and potential funding sources for each project for FY24. Ms. Zipp stated some of this may shift after Staff hears back from grant funding agencies of what FY23 projects have been approved vs. denied. The following projects were presented:

- Fairacres Farm, Fairview, +/- 155 acres
- Parham Farm, Leicester, +/- 30 acres
- Gillespie Farm, Leicester, +/- 22 acres
- Reed Farm, Fairview, +/- 16.5 acres
- Slocumb Farm, Leicester, +/- 122 acres
- Okoboji Farm, Fletcher, +/- 40 acres
- Shady Place Farm, Leicester, +/- 188 acres
- Clyde Denny Farm, Weaverville, +/- 26 acres

The Board discussed funding mechanisms for all projects. Ms. Wells stated the board visits will be helpful to see the properties in-person. Staff will coordinate site visits between now and July. Mr. Lee stated that he has some concerns over timber production and processing and the economics of forestry in Western North Carolina with the closing of the Canton mill and other mills.

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 12:22 am.