

Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806 with optional Zoom
February 21, 2023, at 11 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Steve Duckett, Wayne Welch, Anne Grier, Ed Bulluck, Bruce Snelson, and Chase Hubbard.

Others Present: Ariel Zijp and Avni Naik (BCSWCD Staff), Angelica Tyler (BC Staff).

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

Approval of the February 21, 2023, Meeting Agenda

Information about the PUV program will be presented during the March meeting; the Board agreed to revise the agenda to remove the PUV presentation from today's agenda.

- **Bruce Snelson made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023, meeting agenda as revised, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Ms. Angelica Tyler from the Buncombe County CAPE Dept. will be livestreaming the board meetings from now on in an effort to increase transparency with the public.

Approval of the January 2023, Meeting Minutes

- **Bruce Snelson made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Board Member Reports: No reports at this time.

VAD and EVAD Applications (Ms. Naik):

There are five VAD renewal applications and one new VAD application.

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Appl. No.
Kenneth & Linda Reed	Fletcher	16.52	VAD	Eligible - Waiting Approval	9/1/2022	647-Reed
Ray Roberts	Weaverville	16.38	VAD - Renewal	Eligible - Waiting Approval	1/27/2023	648-Roberts
Charles Ray Gillespie	Leicester	114.88	VAD- Renewal	Eligible - Waiting Approval	1/23/2023	649-Gillespie
Kenneth Roberts	Weaverville	21.26	VAD- Renewal	Eligible - Waiting Approval	1/28/2023	650-KRoberts
Steve Duckett	Leicester	227.94	VAD-Renewal	Eligible - Waiting Approval	1/27/2023	651-Duckett
Jerry Roberts	Weaverville	90.13	VAD-Renewal	Eligible - Waiting Approval	2/8/2023	652-Jroberts

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

Farmland Preservation Report:

- Friends of Ag Breakfast – April 18th at Weaverville Community Center

- Conservation Family Dinner – May 11th at Elida Home Event Center
- Grant Funding Plan for 2023 – contacting landowners to determine interest
- Bond funding plan for 2023 – contacting landowners to determine interest
- **Easement Project Updates**
 - Larson Easement – survey starting this week
 - Wesley Easement – survey starting this week
 - SAHC Garrett – starting survey in March
 - Sluder Easement–in NCDA reviewing survey
 - Ramsey Easement – NCDA reviewing survey
 - Jasperwood Farm – all 4 easements – NCDA reviewing survey
 - Clark Easement –deed work in progress, finishing baseline, appraisal,
 - Berner Easement –deed work in progress, finishing baseline, appraisal,
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute
 - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –appraisal in review and final deed work, subordination agreement – closing in spring
- Arc GIS Story Map finished – Land Conservation in Buncombe County
- Land Conservation evaluation criteria/evaluation process – timeline extended
- Passive Recreation Lands criteria/evaluation process – working with Recreation services and new Open Space Bond Manager
- Hope to bring two donation easement projects to the Board in the March, complete the site visits after that meeting, and then bring the landowners to the April meeting.

With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 pm.