

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting
McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center
2420 Tramway Road, Sanford, NC 27332
Minutes
February 28, 2018

Members present: Donald Nicholson, Jerry Lemmond, Jane Barringer, A.K. Griffin, Cecil Cameron, Paul Garner, Tom Haislip, Ed Angel, Molly Whitaker

Unexcused Absence: George Gilliam, Wayne Watson

County staff present: Bill Stone, Zack Taylor, Rhonda Gaster and Ryan Faulk

Guest: Don Kovasckitz from GIS Strategic Services

Opening Remarks: Donald Nicholson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm and declared we have a quorum.

Public Comments - None

Approval of Minutes – Ed Angel made a motion to approve the July minutes. A.K. Griffin seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Garner, Angel, Haislip, Whitaker
Nay: None
Absent: Gilliam, Watson

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Agenda – There is an addition to the agenda, we have an application from Brian & Lindsay Crissman to approve. Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve the Agenda with the addition. Ed Angel seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Garner, Angel, Haislip, Whitaker
Nay: None
Absent: Gilliam, Watson

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report: The VAD balance as of February 28 is \$2,236.50

Receipts = \$65

Expenditures = \$26

Cecil Cameron made a motion to approve the financial report. Paul Garner seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Garner, Angel, Haislip, Whitaker
Nay: None
Absent: Gilliam, Watson

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Introduction of guest speaker - Donald Nicholson introduced Don Kovasckitz from Lee County GIS Strategic Services.

Review and Approval of Application – Brian R & Lindsay J. Crissman – 101.42 acres in the Cape Fear Township.

Cecil Cameron made a motion to approve Brian R & Lindsay J. Crissman’s Volunteer Agriculture District application. Jerry Lemmond seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Garner, Angel, Haislip, Whitaker
Nay: None
Absent: Gilliam, Watson

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Enrollment as of February 28: 8,031.34 and 51 landowners

Township Sign Update – General Services have installed all district Voluntary Agriculture signs. Trying to get one in the Broadway area.

Zack spoke on Bill’s behalf about the VAD enrollment. The county manager approached Bill about the VAD application process slowing down and that the enrollment has been stagnate now for a couple of years. In an effort to try to get new members, Bill talked to Don Kovasckitz about the possibilities of maps so we could see landowners that are eligible to be in VAD.

Donald Nicholson turned the meeting over to our guest speaker, Don Kovasckitz, Director for Lee County GIS Strategic Services. The motto is: IF YOU CAN VISUALIZE IT, WE CAN DO IT. He explained that GIS maps for Lee County, Sanford and the town of Broadway. If it is location based, they can map it. He has a layer with land-use and people that are currently in the VAD. Don stated that once an application is approved, it is sent to GIS so they can enter in the mapping as Voluntary Agriculture District. Before the next VAD meeting, Bill will call Don to remind him to give the board a map with the land-use and current VAD participants. Bill commented that the forestry land-owners may be the target group we need to contact. Don can give us a list of names and addresses that are in the forestry land-use, weeding out duplicates and corporate businesses.

County Extension Director Comments – The Cost of Community Services Study is complete and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners Monday, March 19 at 6:00 pm. Bill encouraged the board to attend.

The Sanford Farmers' Market is discussing the possibilities of opening the market on March 31 instead of April 7. The feedback from the move to the McSwain Center has been very positive. The market is expecting new farmers to join this year. The client traffic for the market is great.

Announcements – Jerry Lemmond mentioned that he serves on the board for Johnston, Lee, Harnett Community Action and they are selling raffle tickets for a fund raiser for the agency. Anyone interested in purchasing tickets can see him after the meeting.

Next meeting date is Wednesday, May 23, 2018. At this meeting, a list of forestry owners will be presented to the board.

A.K. Griffin mentioned the Sanford Herald conducting a "Take Five" interview with Donald Nicholson on the Voluntary Agriculture District. This will get readers to take notice.

With no further business to come before the board, A.K. Griffin made a motion to adjourn. Ed Angel seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

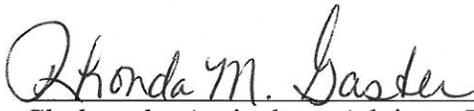
Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Garner, Angel, Haislip, Whitaker

Nay: None

Absent: Gilliam, Watson

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board

