

# 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**  
**May 23, 2018**

**Members present:** Donald Nicholson, Jerry Lemmond, Jane Barringer, A.K. Griffin, Cecil Cameron, Molly Whitaker, Wayne Watson

**Unexcused Absence:** George Gilliam, Ed Angel, Paul Garner

**Excused Absence:** Tom Haislip

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

**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** – Wayne Watson made a motion to approve the February minutes. A.K. Griffin seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Whitaker, Watson

Nay: None

Absent: Gilliam, Angel, Garner, Haislip

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of Agenda** –Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve the Agenda. Wayne Watson seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Nicholson, Lemmond, Barringer, Griffin, Cameron, Whitaker, Watson

Nay: None

Absent: Gilliam, Angel, Garner, Haislip

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

**Financial Report:** The VAD balance as of May 23 is \$2,210.50

Receipts = \$00

Expenditures = \$26

The financial report was approved as submitted.

**VAD Promotion and Education Campaign** – Bill stated at our last meeting we talked about how we could increase enrollment in the VAD. Bill gave some Lee County statics. There are 165,120 acres in Lee County. Of that number, 40% or 66,000 acres are in some type of land use. This is 1,900 parcels. Currently we have 8,031.34 acres, 51 landowners enrolled in VAD in Lee County. That is 4.8% of the land in this county in VAD. Currently 8.2% of eligible land is in land use and VAD. A lot of this campaign will be education and awareness. Some people may not know what VAD is, the benefits and why it is important. Don Kovasckitz put together a list of 742 land owners that are in land use and not in VAD. Would love to strive to get the VAD participation number up to 10% in the next couple of years. The staff are looking at mailing an informational post card about the benefits, how to enroll and contact information. The cost to send postcards will be under \$300. This figure includes postage stamps (\$.35), labels and card stock. Cecil Cameron made a motion to spend up to \$300 for expenses to send a postcard to eligible VAD landowners. A.K. Griffin seconded. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

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

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

What will go on the card? The county logo and the VAD sign. Hit the highlights, protection from immanent domain and nuisance protection. The postcard should have color on the card. Something that will catch their eye. You are receiving this postcard because you are eligible to participate in the Volunteer Agriculture District (VAD). Include the website, phone number and post on facebook. Rhonda will get a draft of the postcard and send out electronically as soon as possible.

**County Extension Director Comments** – Report to the People is June 14 at 5:30 pm. We have Stephen Briggs, Director from the North Carolina Plant Science Initiative at NCSU as our guest speaker. Jerry Lemmond stated that he will not be available to attend and wondered if it can be posted to facebook or on YouTube?

The planning department is developing a new land-use plan. Will be holding soft roll-outs in June and July with the official plan coming out in August. David Montgomery stated agriculture was very well represented in the new plan.

**Announcements** – Zack mentioned that he and Ryan attended a regional VAD meeting in Alamance County a couple of weeks ago and he reminded the board that this board is not only looking at VAD issues, we have the power to make recommendations to the county and discuss agricultural relevant issues to the board of commissioners.

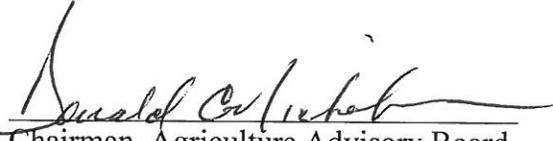
Donald Nicholson mentioned Extension and Soil and Water had a Pond Workshop this past weekend. It was a really nice workshop. The Nature Center at San-Lee Park is very nice. The rain was heavy at times but other than that, it was well done.

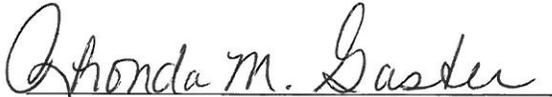
Next meeting date is Wednesday, June 20, 2018, if needed.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.

  
Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board

  
Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board

