

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 18, 2012

Members present: Tom Boerger, Wayne Watson, Molly Whitaker, AK Griffin, Jane Barringer, Worth Pickard, Tony Ragan

Absent: Mary Lou Jones, Ed Angel, Donald Nicholson, Jerry Lemmond, Bill Minard, and Wayne Yarborough

County staff present: Susan Condlin, Tommy Brooks and Rhonda Gaster

Opening Remarks: In the absence of the chair and vice-chair Susan Condlin and Tommy Brooks conducted the meeting. Susan called the meeting to order. No public comments.

Business:

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was established. Worth Pickard made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. Tony Ragan seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

Fund Balance – The VAD balance as of April 18, 2012 is \$1,681.49

Receipts = \$335.00

Expenditures = \$156.00

A.K. Griffin made a motion to approve the fund balance. Tom Boerger seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed

Applications: No new applications were submitted for enrollment in the VAD program. Currently we have 6,358.89 acres and 37 landowners enrolled in the program.

Revocation of Land in VAD - Susan distributed a copy of a Revocation/Nonrenewal of Conservation Agreement from Wilkes County that she adapted to our county information. The committee asked that Dale Talbert look at the document to determine if and where the PIN should go to identify the property that is coming out of Voluntary Agricultural District. Worth Pickard made a motion that we approve the Voluntary Agricultural District Revocation/Nonrenewal of Conservation with any additions to be made by the County Attorney. Wayne Watson seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

GIS Update – A map showing the VADs located in each township was included with the agenda. The ½ mile notification area was shown. We now have participating landowners in each township and need to place the large district signs in the following townships: southern side of Jonesboro and northern side of Greenwood. The committee will think about possible locations and report at the May meeting. We now have 6,358.19 acres in VAD with 37 landowners.

Voluntary Agriculture District Map – A statewide VAD map showing the counties participating in the program was included with the agenda. It was revised in November 2011. Most counties have a VAD or Potential VAD and some have an EVAD.

Change in Board Members – If you received notification from the county that your term is coming to an end, please consider renewing. If you are not renewing, please suggest someone in your community that may be interested in serving. Expiring Terms in June 2012 are Mary Lou Jones, Tom Boerger, Bill Minard, Jerry Lemmond, Wayne Yarborough and Worth Pickard. This will give us 2 vacancies in Pocket, 1 vacancy in Jonesboro, 2 vacancies in East Sanford, 1 vacancy in West Sanford and 1 vacancy in Cape Fear townships. Applications are available on line at <http://www.lee-county-nc.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ubfplUejQ9U%3d&tabid=61> or can be obtained from Gaynell Lee, Clerk to the Board by calling 919-718-4605 x5507.

Pending Applications:

William Dalrymple II – 118.82

Clyde A. and Hetty Lee D. Nicholson – 237.56 acres

John Harrington Gross, William Glen Gross, Kathy McNeill, Susan Thomas - 40.01 acres

Kenneth and Sharon Patterson – 23.408 acres

Evenly Brown Sloan – 84.53 acres

2012 VAD and Farmland Preservation Workshop in Moore County – Tom Boerger, AK Griffin, Wayne Watson, Tommy Brooks and Susan Condlin attended. Discussion was held on the House Bill 406, Session Law 2011-219, which did away with present-use as criteria for enrolling in a VAD and the recording of conservation agreements. Not a lot was known about the new law. We learned the new law originated out of Farm Bureau in Bertie County. Julian Philpott from NC Farm Bureau, whose agency assisted Representative Jordan with writing the bill, has been invited to speak to our group at our May 16, 2012 meeting and will discuss the new law.

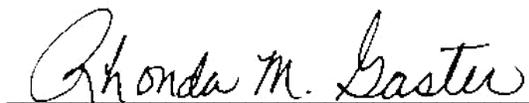
Donald Nicholson made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners in March informing them of USDA's decision to close the FSA office in Carthage. There is some talk of trying to shift USDA decision to the Lee County office. He asked the Commissioners for their support of the Lee County Farm Service Agency and explained its importance to our county farms. The Commissioners agreed for Chairwoman Linda Shook to write a resolution in support of FSA. They also approved Don sending a support letter on behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Board.

Announcements – None

Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Worth Pickard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tony Ragan seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board