

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes March 16, 2011

Members present: Barbara Alphin, Jane Barringer, Wayne Watson, Wayne Yarborough, Tony Ragan, Donald Nicholson, Molly Whitaker, Tom Boerger, A.K. Griffin, Ed Angel, Jerry Lemmond

Absent: Worth Pickard, Bill Minard

County staff present: Seth Holt, Susan Condlin, Rhonda Gaster

Opening Remarks: Donald Nicholson, Chair, called the meeting to order. No public comments.

Business:

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was established. Tom Boerger made a motion to accept the minutes. Barbara Alphin seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

Fund Balance –The current VAD fund balance as of March 16, 2011 = \$1,101. Receipts = \$630 and expenses were \$74.

Review and Approval of Applications – Received five Voluntary Agricultural District applications since the last meeting.

- 1) Leland Duane Jackson - Barbara Alphin made a motion to approve the application, Jane Barringer seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 41.44.
- 2) Gary M. Thomas & Pamela D. Thomas – Wayne Watson made a motion to approve the application, Tony Ragan seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 610.75.
- 3) Steve Walter Thomas & S. Wayne Thomas – Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve the application, Ed Angel seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 134.79
- 4) Steve Walter Thomas – Tom Boerger made a motion to approve the application, A.K. Griffin seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 354.08.
- 5) Steven L. and Kathleen F. McNeill – Ed Angel made a motion to approve the application, A.K. Griffin seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 68.90.

Total landowners is now 20 with 3,097.72 acres enrolled.

Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Programs and Farmland Protection Planning for Counties and Municipalities was held February 16, 2011 at the McSwain Center. Great workshop and good attendance from Lee County. Attending was Barbara Alphin, Jane Barringer, Don Nicholson, Molly Whitaker, Wayne Watson Tommy Brooks and Susan Condlin.

Report on County Commissioners Request for a nominee to serve on Environment Impact RC&D Council – AK Griffin suggested Jerry Batchelor. Susan and Tommy spoke with Jerry and he submitted his application, which was approved by the Lee County Board of Commissioners to represent Lee County on the Environmental Impact RC&D Council. Jerry Lemmond mentioned there would be an Environmental Impact RC&D Board meeting soon and the funding for the council is in jeopardy.

Township Sign Update – Three sites, White Hill, Steel Bridge and Carbondon Road have been approved and marked for General Services. They will erect signs as soon as possible.

Membership Update – The board currently has one vacancy in East Sanford. If you know someone in this township that will be willing to serve on the board, please have them notify Gaynell Lee, Clerk to the Lee County Commissioners.

Update: Request by landowner to purchase a 36 x 24 sign – Gary Thomas requested two large signs for his farm. A discussion ensued about the fee to charge. Tony Ragan made a motion to charge \$135 for a large (36 x 24) double-sided. A.K. Griffin seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

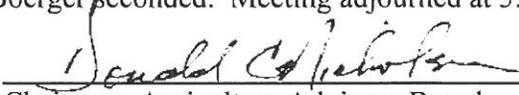
Sandhills Farm to Table Co-op – Susan stated the Sandhills Farm to Table originated at North Carolina Cooperative Extension in Moore County with Taylor Williams, Horticulture Agent. Fenton Wilkinson, Sandhills Farm to Table Cooperative Coordinator, contacted Susan about bringing the Co-op to Lee County at the McSwain Center. The annual membership fee to join the Co-op is \$25. The program is 18 weeks beginning April 21 and running through August 18. Individuals interested in signing up have the following options: Standard Box (1-2 people) = \$21 +tax/week, Family Box (3-4 people) = \$38 +tax/week. They also offer delivery every week or every other week. The Lee County pick-up site will be the McSwain Extension Education Center every Thursday from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. Farmers currently participating are from Lee, Moore, Richmond, Montgomery and Anson Counties. The benefit of this program is buying local food.

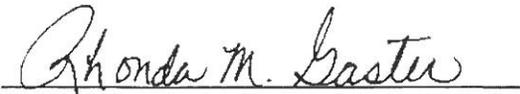
Announcements:

Condolences were expressed to Ed Angel at the passing of his wife in January after a short illness. Natural Gas Workshop – Follow-up from the June 16, 2010 meeting. Russ Patterson will speak at the Environmental Affairs meeting at the City’s Municipal Center Tuesday, April 26 at 4:00 pm. Ted Feitshans from the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics at NCSU will give a natural gas update at the McSwain Center at 7:00 pm. He will also speak at the Environmental Affairs meeting that same day.

Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Jerry Lemmond moved to close the meeting. Tom Boerger seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board