

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2013

Members present: Jane Barringer, Jerry Lemmond, Donald Nicholson, Wayne Watson, Molly Whitaker, Ray Covington, Ed Angel, A.K. Griffin and Worth Pickard

Absent: Bill Minard and Tony Ragan

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

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

Business:

Approval of Minutes – Ray Covington made a motion to approve the October minutes. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Barringer, Lemmond, Nicholson, Watson, Whitaker, Covington, Angel, Griffin,
Pickard

Nay: None

Absent: Minard and Ragan

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Fund Balance – The VAD balance as of January 16, 2013 is \$1,743.73

Receipts = \$.00

Expenditures = \$.00

Board Vacancies – 1 in Jonesboro, 1 in East Sanford, and 1 in Cape Fear townships. We currently have 1 representative in each of the townships, and strive to have two members from each township.

Review of Approval of Applications – None

Total to Date – 7,267.09 acres and 40 landowners

Discussion of Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance Changes: All received a copy via e-mail or postal service. The Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance was given to Kerry Shmid and Neil Yarbrough, county attorneys for their review. Corrections were sent back. The next date for the commissioners to approve the proposed updates to the Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance is February 4 or February 18, 2013. The majority can make it to the February 4, 2013 Commissioners Meeting at 6:00 pm.

The following changes were recommended to the proposed December 18, 2012 Lee County Volunteer Agricultural District Ordinance:

Article III – Purpose – Third bullet

Currently reads: The program informs non-farming neighbors and potential land purchasers that the participating farm may emit noise, dust, forestry operations and smells (this feature may help avoid conflicts between neighbors and potential nuisance claims);

Change to: The program informs non-farming neighbors and potential land purchasers that the participating farm may emit noise, dust, odors and forestry operations (this feature may help avoid conflicts between neighbors and potential nuisance claims);

B. Implementation – a.

Currently reads: The District shall contain at least one of the following contiguous acreages of farmland: 5 acres of horticultural land (3 acres)

Worth Pickard made a motion to change 5 acres of horticultural land to 3 acres of horticultural land. Ed Angel seconded the motion. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Barringer, Lemmond, Nicholson, Watson, Whitaker, Covington, Angel,
Pickard

Nay: None

Abstained: Griffin

Absent: Minard and Ragan

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

A. K. Griffin made a motion to approve the proposed updates to the Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

Aye: Barringer, Lemmond, Nicholson, Watson, Whitaker, Covington, Angel,
Pickard, Griffin

Nay: None

Absent: Minard and Ragan

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Lee County Economic Growth Plan - There was no mention about agriculture in the current plan being developed by consultants for the County Commissioners. No agriculture leaders or businesses were interviewed about agriculture. Agriculture is an economic engine in our county and needs to be included in any economic development plan. Donald Nicholson will write a letter to the commissioners about the importance of agriculture being part of the economic plan on behalf of the Agriculture Advisory Board. Susan will see if she can get a meeting together with the Lee County economic planning consultants and the Agriculture Advisory Council before March 1, 2013.

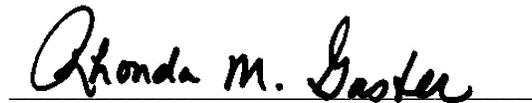
Township Sign Update: No update

Announcements: We are without an agriculture agent. We plan to hire one full time position-Ag. Agent and one part-time position – Horticulture Agent

Next Meeting Date: Special called meeting in February. Next meeting date March 20, 2013 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Adjournment: A. K. Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Lemmond seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board