

LEE COUNTY

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 17, 2010

Members present: Donald Nicholson, Jerry Lemmond, Worth Pickard, Tom Boerger, Tony Ragan, Jane Barringer, Barbara Alphin, Darrell Doby, Wayne Yarborough, Wayne Watson

Absent: Ed Angel, LaVerne Joyner, and George Wilberg

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

Opening Remarks: In the absence of the Chair and the Vice chair, Susan Condlin, County Extension Director, called the meeting to order. No public comment.

Business:

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was established and Darrell Doby made a motion to accept the minutes as mailed. Wayne Yarborough seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carried.

Fund Balance – The balance of the NCDFP Trust Fund grant is \$8,065.46. There were no transactions to report.

Presentation of Brochure - Tom Boerger distributed the new VAD brochure. Jane Barringer presented the brochure to the committee members. All members commented that it looked great. Rhonda sent e-mails to 5 different vendors soliciting quotes for the printing of the VAD Brochure. Records of those quotes are on file at the Extension Center. Since NCSU has an agreement with FedEx/Kinkos for printing, they gave us the best price for printing the brochures. Committee members suggested presenting the brochures at the next Commissioners meeting and also to the Town of Broadway at their monthly board meeting.

Sign Update - The sign is finalized and a copy was included with this meeting's agenda. A chicken and horticulture shrub was added to the design. Correction Enterprise is our vendor. The signs are being made and should be ready in a couple of weeks.

The 2009 Agricultural Statics for Lee County - compiled by NCDA, were distributed for members to review. The committee members suggested having copies for the Commissioners Meeting and the Town of Broadway Meeting.

VAD Program Application Process - After visiting the Register of Deeds office and talking to Mollie McInnis a few tweaks were made to the Conservation Agreement, which will be notarized in the Extension office by Rhonda or Kay. Once signed, the agreement is in place for a period of ten (10) years and is automatically renewed, if not terminated, for an additional ten (10) years. Owner(s) may revoke the Agreement, any time with thirty (30) days written notice to the Agriculture Advisory Board. A revocation fee, which is the current fee charged by the Register of

Deeds office to file a document, must be paid. Landowner will receive a letter from the Agriculture Advisory Board acknowledging their revocation. Landowner will be asked to remove their VAD sign. The Board agrees this cannot be enforced.

A discussion took place about when to accept VAD applications. Worth Pickard made a motion to start accepting application April 1, 2010. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carried.

The Lee County Commissioners will meet March 1 and March 15. Susan will contact Gaynell Lee, Clerk to the Board and ask for the Agriculture Advisory Board to be on the March 1 agenda to present an update and distribute the new Voluntary Agricultural District brochure. Susan will send a notice to confirm the date. Agriculture Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend to support the effort.

Presentation Updates:

- Forestry Association and Area Farmers presentations went well. Had a good turnout and all were interested. The meal was paid by the NCDFP Trust Fund grant.
- Donald Nicholson, chairman, will speak about the Volunteer Agriculture District at a Lee County Farm Bureau meeting tonight.
- Donald will also speak about the VAD to the Lee County Livestock Producers on Tuesday, April 13.

Term Appointments:

The following Agriculture Advisory Board member's term will expire June 2010:

Ed Angel
Jane Barringer
Donald Nicholson
Tony Ragan
Wayne Watson
George Wilberg

If you would like to remain on the committee, notify Susan and she will contact Gaynell Lee for instructions on reappoint to the committee.

Announcements:

In Kind Report – Members were instructed to complete their NCDACS ADFP Trust Fund Timesheet for today's meeting.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center

Adjournment: Darrell Doby made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tony Ragan seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.