

# LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

## Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes February 15, 2012

**Members present:** Donald Nicholson, Tom Boerger, Wayne Watson, Molly Whitaker, AK Griffin, Jane Barringer, Bill Minard, Wayne Yarborough, Jerry Lemmond

**Absent:** Mary Lou Jones, Worth Pickard, Tony Ragan, Ed Angel

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

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

### **Business:**

**Approval of Minutes** – A quorum was established. Bill Minard made a motion to accept the minutes as posted. A.K. Griffin seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

**Fund Balance** – The VAD balance as of February 15, 2012 is \$1,502.49  
Receipts = \$316.00  
Expenditures = \$00

**Consolidation of FSA Office** - A public meeting was held in Moore County Wednesday, February 1, 2012 to discuss the proposed closing of the Carthage Farm Service Agency (FSA). Six offices are proposed to close in North Carolina. A final decision will be made by the end of March. A discussion ensued about the possibility of closing the Lee County office. Wayne Watson made a motion that the Agriculture Advisory Board draft a letter to the Lee County Board of Commissioners for a resolution in support of not closing Farm Service Agency in Lee County. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

Donald Nicholson will draft a letter with the following points:

- Facts and figures how the office is used
- Youth Loan Program
- Roll played after the tornado disaster
- Usage of office
- What does FSA do for farmers
- Created the McSwain Center for a “One-Stop-Shop” for agriculture
- Rural Development is located at the McSwain Center

Susan will request to get on the Commissioners agenda for March 5, 2012.

**VAD Fees** – A discussion was held on the fee charged to enroll in VAD. With the new House Bill #406, Session Law 2011-219, it is no longer required to file at the Register of Deeds. Our

current fee is \$50, which includes the \$14 filing fee. The fee increased at Register of Deeds to \$26. Bill Minard made a motion to charge \$50 for sign only and \$65 if filing at Register of Deeds, effective March 1, 2012. Jane Barringer seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

**Sandhills Farm to Table** – Will start up for the 2012 season on April 19, 2012. The first session will run for 18 weeks. The membership fee to join is \$25. This year the program will offer the following:

Standard Box (1-2 people) for \$22+tax/week

Bread Box (new)  $\frac{3}{4}$  the produce + loaf fresh homemade bread = \$22+tax/week

Family Box (3-4 people) = \$40+tax/week

A brochure was distributed to members and participation encouraged.

**Natural Gas Update** – Held a Well Water Testing Program on February 9, 2012 at 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Sponsors of the event were USGS, Duke Nicholas School of the Environment, Chatham County Public Health, Lee County Public Health and NC Cooperative Extension. USGS will identify landowners in the Triassic Basin, Deep River area, who currently have wells on their property and have completed and signed the permission slip to monitor and test. They will monitor 75 wells. Also at the meeting, Central North Carolina Seismic Survey will set up 25 monitoring stations to monitor seismic activity. DENR is continuing to work on their report that is due to legislators by May 1, 2012. NC Cooperative Extension in Lee County is looking into booking a trip to Pennsylvania to see the drill sites and talk to landowners.

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

Elizabeth Smith Lawrence (Betty) – 89.84 acres in the Cape Fear District

Michael R. & Keshia L. Harrington – 50.54 acres in the East Sanford District

Jeffrey C. & Tammy W. Harrington – 10.49 acres in Greenwood District

Tom Boerger made a motion to approve Elizabeth Smith Lawrence, Michael R. & Keshia L. Harrington and Jeffrey C. & Tammy W. Harrington applications, Jerry Lemmond seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

Samuel C. Harrington – 178.90 acres in East Sanford & Greenwood Districts

Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve Sam Harrington's application, A.K. Griffin seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

Early M. & Grace D. Douglas – 134.93 acres in West Sanford and Pocket Districts – 2.90 acres are not eligible.

Tom Boerger made a motion to approve Early & Grace Douglas less the 2.90 acres for a total of 132.03 acres, A.K. Griffin seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

**Total to Date – 6,327.12 acres (37 landowners)**

## **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

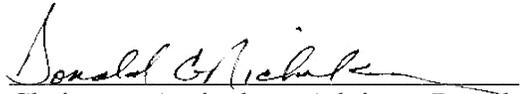
**Township Sign Update** – Tommy Brooks has flagged the location for the township sign on Gary Thomas' property on Lower River Road in the Deep River District. General Services will erect the sign in the near future. A. K. Griffin has talked to the Castleberrys in the Cape Fear District and left the permission slip for a signature.

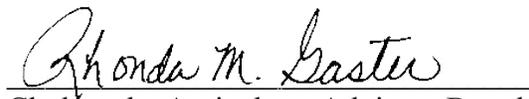
Susan passed around a photograph of a VAD sign on a Welcome to Montgomery County DOT sign. The committee asked Susan to send to our commissioners and have them forward to NCDOT and ask why we cannot put on our Welcome to Lee County.

**Announcements** – None

**Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Jerry Lemmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, A.K. Griffin seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

  
Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board

  
Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board