

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 21, 2013

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

Absent: Bill Minard, Jerry Lemmond

County staff present: Susan Condlin, Ryan Faulk, Kim Tungate and Rhonda Gaster

Stronger Economics Together (SET) – Paige Burns. Horticulture Agent in Richmond County gave an overview of the SET Project. The USDA RD (United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development) introduced a nationwide program to promote economic collaboration between urban and rural counties to improve and enhance regional economies. The goal of the SET process is for the collaborative regions to develop a Strategic Economic Development Plan, which can then be implemented by the region. Lee Moore and Richmond Counties want to develop a Strategic Economic Plan for agriculture. All Agriculture Advisory Boards are invited to attend our “Roll Out” event that is September 26, 2013 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The Barn.

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

Business:

Approval of Minutes – Worth Pickard made a motion to approve the March minutes. A.K. Griffin seconded the motion. Upon a vote the results were as follows:

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

Nay: None

Absent: Minard, Lemmond

The chairman ruled the motion passed unanimously.

Fund Balance – The VAD balance as of August 21, 2013 is \$1,884.73

Receipts = \$.00

Expenditures = \$104.00

Staff Additions – Donald welcomed Ryan Faulk, Soil Technician with Lee County Soil and Water Conservation and Kim Tungate, Agriculture Agent with NC Cooperative Extension

Donald welcomed two new members of the Agriculture Advisory Board, Steve Baber – Deep River Township and Harvey Godfrey – Pocket Township. Pocket has three members. Ray Covington is willing to change his township from Pocket to Jonesboro if needed. Susan will check with Gaynell Lee to see if this is possible.

Reappointments: Ed Angel – Greenwood
Don Nicholson - Greenwood

Jane Barringer - Deep River
Wayne Watson - Jonesboro
A. K. Griffin – Cape Fear (once application is approved)

Leaving the Board: Tony Ragan – Deep River

Board Vacancies – 3 vacancies

Jonesboro (1) – Vacant position
East Sanford (1) – Vacant position
Cape Fear (1) – Vacant position

Board applications are available online at:

<http://www.leecountnc.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=ubfplUejQ9U%3d&tabid=61> or you can obtain from Gaynell Lee, Clerk to the Board by calling 919-718-4605 ext. 5507.

Review and Approval of Applications – None

Total to Date – 7,637.83 acres and 44 landowners

Township Update – A. K. Griffin has talked to the Castleberry's about placing a sign in the Broadway District. They are open to placing a sign on his property. Donald mentioned that the person responsible for erecting our signs is in a nursing home recovering from a severe stroke.

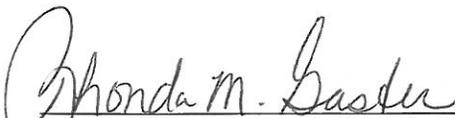
Several VAD signs have been stolen in the Pocket Community. If a sign is stolen it is the owners responsibility to replace.

Announcements: On Monday, August 19, Susan went before the Board of Commissioners to get approval for a grant from NC Agricultural Development Farmland Preservation Trust Fund (ADFPTF) operated through NCDA&CS, to help fund our pilot food hub for \$15,000. We did receive funding of \$7,500. The grant will help farmers bring food into institutions such as resorts, hospitals, and restaurants etc.,.

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair – A piece of paper was given to each member to vote for a chair and vice chair. A count was completed with the following results: Donald Nicholson was voted Chair and Jerry Lemmond will be Vice-chair.

Next Meeting Date: January 15, 2014 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board