

# LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

*Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow*

## **Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**May 18, 2011**

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

**Absent:** Barbara Alphin, Ed Angel, Tony Ragan

**County staff present:** Susan Conclin, Tommy Brooks, Rhonda Gaster

**Opening Remarks:** Jerry Lemmond, Vice-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. Worth Pickard seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

**Fund Balance** –The current VAD fund balance as of May 18, 2011 = \$980.24 Receipts = \$200 and expenses were \$320.76.

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

- 1) John McKay Burns & Chris VL Burns - Worth Pickard made a motion to approve the application, Tom Boerger seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 85.91.
- 2) William H. (Billy) & Annie K. Buchanan – Bill Minard made a motion to approve the application, Wayne Watson seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 70.16.
- 3) Tony Craig – Worth Pickard made a motion to approve the application, Tom Boerger seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 50.05
- 4) John Gross – Tom Boerger made a motion to approve the application, A.K. Griffin seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 44.23.

Total landowners are now 24 with 3,348.07 acres enrolled.

Discussion was held on RWD Properties Limited Partnership owned by Robert W. Dalrymple. Total acreage is 1,451.38. This application ran into ownership questions. Robert Dalrymple has ownership with all of the property. However the tax department review showed that on some parcels he jointly owns the property with various family members. None of the family works the property; they leave that up to Robert entirely. Robert signs all documents and carries out all the business of farming in the best interest of his family.

Mr. Dalrymple's applications were redone based on ownerships. Mr. Dalrymple now has 7 applications and has paid the standard \$50 fee for one application. Total acreage for Mr. Dalrymple's property alone is 144.04 acres. Susan Condlin asked the board to consider allowing the Dalrymple property to go into the VAD with one \$50 application fee for the property owned entirely by Robert Dalrymple and the other 6 applications that he owns jointly with various family members to enter the program for the filing fee of \$14 each. This is the fee charged by the register of deeds. Discussion was held. Jane Barringer suggested we check with Attorney Dick Hoyle to verify ownership and to seek his advise on allowing the property into the VAD. AK Griffin made a motion to accept the acreage of 1,451.38 at a future date and to table the approval of the application until the county attorney is contacted. Wayne Yarborough seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed. Susan will contact the attorney and report back at the next meeting.

**Pending Applications** – Waiting for signatures and/or payment:

- 1) William Dalrymple II – 118.82 acres
- 2) William E. & Carolyn L. Dalrymple – 132.42 acres
- 3) Craig Buchanan – 19.55 acres
- 4) John Harrington Gross, William Glen Gross, Kathy McNeill, Susan Thomas – 40.01 acres
- 5) Clyde A. and Hetty Lee D. Nicholson – 237.56 acres
- 6) Ammons Farmland LLC – 1,068.64 acres
- 7) RWD Properties Limited Partnership (Robert W. Dalrymple) – 1,451.38 acres

**Tornado Disaster Damage on Lee County Farmland** - On Saturday, April 16, 2011 tornadoes came through Lee County leaving a line of destruction. Sunday, April 17, a press conference was held at the McSwain Center. County Commissioners, the County and City Managers, US Representative Renee Elmers, NC Representatives Mike Stone and Jamie Boles, Emergency Management Personnel and the Extension staff were present. After the conference, officials rode out to the devastated areas. On Thursday, April 21, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Assistance) set-up operations from Meeting Room B in the Lee County Farm Bureau Auditorium at the McSwain Center and began operating on Friday, April 22. They will remain in our facility until they feel all claims have been processed.

Susan reported that David and Gay Watson, with Watson Nursery, took a major hit and lost most of their home and nursery operation. Several groups have helped with the clean-up effort. She also reported Misty Creek Horse Farm was hit hard with thirteen horses were killed. Gary Thomas had light structure damage; mangled tobacco barns and greenhouses but the storm did not damage any of the tobacco plants. Steve and Tim Thomas had major damage to structures and equipment. Susan showed photos of the tornado destruction on our area farms. Additional agriculture damage photos are located on Extension Facebook page, North Carolina Cooperative Extension- Lee County Center

**Township Sign Update** – Tommy Brooks stated he talked to Marc Clark, with General Services today and he said the signs would go up in the next two weeks.

Susan asked how the committee would like to distribute the VAD signs? The group discussed and decided to distribute at the Commissioners meeting on July 18 at the 6:00 pm meeting. The group wanted to wait to get on the agenda until after the June meeting to list the names to receive signs.

**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.

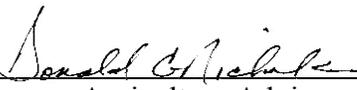
**Sandhills Farm to Table Co-op Update**– Susan stated we have 95 + members enrolled in the Co-op. Three Lee County farmers have signed up to supply produce.

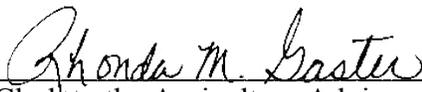
**Announcements:**

None

**Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Donald Nicholson moved to close the meeting. AK Griffin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm

  
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Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board

  
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Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board