

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 15, 2012

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

County staff present: Susan Condlin and Rhonda Gaster

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

Guest Speaker: As a result of questions raised over new state VAD rules, Julian Philpot, Secretary and General Counsel to the NC Farm Bureau Federation was invited to discuss the changes to the state Voluntary Agriculture District Law. He made the following recommendations for changes to Lee County's ordinance:

ARTICLE IV DEFINITIONS

Qualified land: Land enrolled in, or qualified to be enrolled in, the present-use value taxation program. Delete this definition for Qualified Land. No replacement.

ARTICLE VI CREATION OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS

Under B. Implementation

Delete: 1. The District shall contain a minimum of 5 contiguous acres of qualified land; and.

Replace with: 1. The district shall contain at least one of the following contiguous acreages of qualifying farmland:

- a. 5 acres of horticultural land
- b. 10 acres agricultural land: or
- c. 20 acres of forest land

ARTICLE VI CREATION OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURE DISTRICTS

Under D. Addition and Withdrawal

Delete: 1. Qualified land in a region with an existing district shall be added to the district as herein provided.

Replace with: 1. Qualifying land in a region with an existing district shall be added to the district as herein provided.

ARTICLE VII CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF FARMLAND

Delete: 1. Be participating in the farm present-use-value taxation program established by N.C.G.S. §105-277.2 through §105-277.7, or is otherwise determined by the county to meet all the qualifications of this program set forth in G.S. 105-277.3;

Replace with: 1. Be engaged in agriculture as that word is defined in N.C.G.S. 106-581.1

Business:

Approval of Minutes – Bill Minard made a motion to approve the May minutes. Worth Pickard seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carried.

Fund Balance – The VAD balance as of August 15, 2012 is \$1,756.73

Receipts = \$115.00

Expenditures = \$200.76

Board Appointment – Bill Minard (East Sanford) has been reappointed by the Lee County Board of Commissioners to serve an additional 3-year term.

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 – Received three Voluntary Agricultural District applications since the last meeting:

Christopher S. & Angela G. Wood – 31.46 acres

William E. Dalrymple II & Joy B. Dalrymple – 118.82 acres

Knight Land & Cattle Company, LLC – John A. Knight – 758.68 acres

Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve all three applications, Ray Covington seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

Total to Date – 7,267.09 acres and 40 landowners

The pending applications - Bill Minard made a motion: If applications are not completed by the landowner within six months, they are to be placed in an archive file. Worth Pickard seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

Changes to Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance: Ray Covington made a motion to accept the recommended changes suggested by Julian Philpot. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carried.

Susan will get the recommended changes to the Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance on the commissioner's agenda. Donald will explain the revision in a presentation to the Commissioners at an upcoming meeting. Julian agreed to be present to answer any questions the Commissioners may ask.

Revocation of the Land in VAD – Susan passed out Revocation forms that the county attorney approved for the Board to review. Wayne Watson made a motion to approve the Revocation forms. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion carries.

Township Sign Update: No update

Other: Susan has received questions from landowners about landowner protection related to drilling for natural gas. Would enrolling land in a VAD prevent drilling for natural gas? Ray said nothing is going to happen soon and a lot of issues and concerns need to be checked on.

Ray will remember this question and bring it up at a meeting of the NC Mining and Energy Commission.

Announcements: none

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Adjournment: Jerry Lemmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Worth Pickard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.


Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board


Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board