

# LEE COUNTY

*Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow*

## **Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes January 19, 2011**

**Members present:** Donald Nicholson, Tom Boerger, Barbara Alphin, Jane Barringer, Wayne Yarborough, Wayne Watson, A.K. Griffin, Jerry Lemmond, Bill Minard, Molly Whitaker

**Absent:** Tony Ragan, Ed Angel, Worth Pickard

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

**Opening Remarks:** Jerry Lemmond, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. No public comments.

### **Business:**

**Approval of Minutes** – A quorum was established. Barbara Alphin made a motion to accept the minutes. Tom Boerger seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

**Membership Update** - The board has 2 new members. Bill Minard appointed November 15, 2010 by Lee County Commissioners to represent East Sanford and Molly Whitaker appointed January 18, 2011 by the Lee County Commissioners to represent West Sanford. Both members will serve a 3-year term from 2011-2013. We currently have a vacancy for East Sanford. Would like to have two board members for each township. If you know someone in East Sanford, please encourage him or her to serve on our board. The committee members introduced themselves.

**Fund Balance** –The current VAD fund balance is \$545. Received \$50 for a VAD application since the last report. Expenses were \$70, sent 5 applications to the register of deeds. VAD balance as of January 19, 2011 is \$545. Jane Barringer made a motion to accept the Fund Balance. Tom Boerger seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

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

- 1) Vernon E. and Brenda M. Riggins - Barbara Alphin made a motion to approve the application, Donald Nicholson seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 17.67.
- 2) NC Agricultural Foundation – Application was submitted October 20, 2010. Staff was asked to seek the county attorney’s opinion as to eligibility. Consulting with the attorney and the tax office it was determined that the business of the Foundation is raising funds and not agriculture and therefore the property is not eligible for present use. The application was denied.

**Township Sign Update** – Board discussed the hold up on putting the District signs in place. Consensus was that if we have VAD members enrolled in a township, places needed to be identified and the decision made as to where the signs will go. Members were reminded to get permission to put VAD Township signs up on personal property. Barbara Alphin will get permission from the Howington’s to put a sign up in the Pocket Community.

**Request from County Commissioners** – The Lee County Commissioners have requested that a member of the Agricultural Advisory Board, or someone they suggest, serve on Environmental Impact's RC&D Council. This identifies project dealing with environmental issues that can affect the citizens of Lee County. They help with the grant writing process to secure funding for projects to assist with environmental issues in the county. The council meets four times a year. The County Commissioners will meet February 7 and 21, 2011 so if you or someone you know will be interested in serving on the committee, please let Susan know.

**North Carolina Association of County Commissioners'** – Richard Hayes is our Lee County Representative to the Association. NCACC's top five priority goals are: 1) Ensure adequate mental health funding, 2) Oppose Shift of State Transportation Responsibilities to Counties, 3) Reinstate ADM and lottery funds for school construction, 4) Preserve the existing local revenue base, and 5) Authorize local revenue options. Other goals supporting Agriculture are: Support conservation of working lands and farmland preservation; Fund agricultural research and extension services; and Support Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council recommendations.

**Request by landowner to purchase a 36 x 24 sign** – A farmer has requested to purchase a large VAD sign for his property when he enrolls in the VAD. The cost for a custom, double sided 36 x 24 sign will be \$100.38 with a \$50 set-up fee. The sign will read: Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Member. Tom Boerger made a motion to approve the request for a VAD member to purchase a 36 x 24, double-sided sign if he pays all expenses. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed. If other members would like to purchase a large sign they should pay the same price.

**Announcements:**

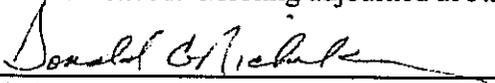
Ed Angel's, board member, wife has stage 4 cancer. Please keep both in your prayers.  
Worth Pickard, has been in the hospital over the holidays and returned home last week.

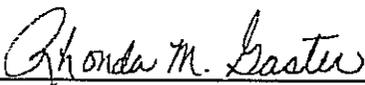
**Voluntary Agricultural District (VAD) Programs and Farmland Protection Planning for Counties and Municipalities** will be held here on February 16, 2011 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. This workshop is for board members, program staff, planners and others from counties and municipalities with VAD and EVAD programs—and those considering adoption of a VAD or EVAD ordinance. This is a free workshop; there will be a voluntary lunch donation.

**Keeping the Farm - A Workshop for Wake County Landowners and Operators** - Topics include: Land Use Tax Value, Updates on Taxes and Produce Laws, Health and Safety Information, Forestry, Agricultural Alternatives, and more! Wednesday, January 26, 2011 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at the Wake County Office Park – Commons Building 4011 Cary Drive, Raleigh, NC.

**Next Meeting Date** – Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Jerry Lemmond moved to close the meeting. A.K. Griffin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

  
Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board



Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board