

LEE COUNTY

NORTH CAROLINA

Committed Today for a Better Tomorrow

Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 17, 2011

Members present: Donald Nicholson, Wayne Watson, Tom Boerger, Jerry Lemmond, Wayne Yarborough, Jane Barringer and Worth Pickard by telephone

Absent: AK Griffin, Mollie Whitaker, Tony Ragan, Ed Angel, Bill Minard

County staff present: Susan Conclin, Seth Holt and Rhonda Gaster

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

Business:

Approval of Minutes – A quorum was established. Wayne Watson made a motion to accept the minutes as received. Jerry Lemmond seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

Fund Balance – The VAD balance as of August 17, 2011 is \$1,102.49

Receipts = \$50.00

Expenditures = \$43.75

In July Register of Deeds began charging \$.25 per copy for copy fees. Susan will check on this fee.

Complying with the State Open Meetings Law – The “Open Meetings Law” is a set of statutes that establishes requirements for scheduling, providing notice, conducting and creating records of the meetings of public bodies to ensure that citizens may know how the government is conducting the public’s business. The following is a summary of its most significant provisions:

- All Lee County Boards are “public bodies” and therefore, the Open Meetings Law applies to their meetings.
- A committee of a Board is a public body.
- A Board may conduct the public’s business only in an “official meeting”.
- Boards may not take action unless a majority of the members participate.
- Official meetings may be conducted with one or more members participating by telephone or video conferencing.
- Soliciting votes on an agenda item through separate telephone calls or e-mail messages to Board members or actually voting on an agenda item in the same manner does not constitute an official meeting.
- The public must be given advance notice of all official meeting of a Board.
- All people, including representative of the media, have an absolute right to attend a Board’s official meetings, except for “closed sessions”.

- Any person may photograph, film, record, broadcast, or otherwise reproduce any part of an official meeting, except for closed sessions.
- The public and the media may be excluded from closed sessions of official meetings.
- A closed session may be conducted only when it is required for purposes specifically authorized by the Open Meetings Law.
- A closed session may be convened only by following a specific procedure.
- A Board may vote on a matter in closed session only if a vote is specifically allowed by the Open Meetings Law.
- A Board may only take action upon a motion and favorable vote.
- A Board is required to keep full and accurate minutes of all open sessions and a “general account” of closed sessions.
- Any person may bring a civil court action against a public body for past violations or possible future violations of the Open Meetings Law.

Review and Approval of Applications – Received one Voluntary Agricultural District application since the last meeting. Richard T. and Debra W. Gillis - Jerry Lemmond made a motion to approve the application, Wayne Watson seconded, application approved. Total acreage enrolled in VAD is 51.19.

With the above land placed in VAD we have a total 4,741.89 acres (28 landowners) enrolled.

Pending Applications still on hand include:

William Dalrymple II – 118.82
 Craig Buchanan – 19.55 acres
 Clyde A. and Hetty Lee D. Nicholson – 237.56 acres
 John Harrington Gross, William Glen Gross, Kathy McNeill, and
 Susan Thomas - 40.01 acres
 Kenneth and Sharon Patterson – 98.54 acres

Susan asked board members to encourage the above listed to complete the necessary paper work so that the land can be put into the VAD Program.

Township Sign Update – The VAD signs are going up in the townships. Discussed placing the VAD sign under the “Welcome to Lee County” sign found on major roads entering the county. Tom Boerger made a motion to attach the Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District sign under the Welcome to Lee County sign. Jane Barringer seconded. All approved with a show of hands. Marc Clark, employee of General Services for the County of Lee, will put some of the signs up and see if it will work.

The Commissioners meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm on September 19 has been changed to 3:00 pm. The VAD sign presentation was going to take place at the 6:00 pm meeting so the farmers could attend. The next 6:00 pm meeting will be held October 17. A suggestion was made to present at our Farm-City Week Banquet on November 21, 2011. A decision will be made at the Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting on September 21, 2011.

Election 2011-2012 Officers – Jane Barringer made a motion to keep our current officers, Donald Nicholson – Chairman and Jerry Lemmond – Vice Chairman for another year. Tom Boerger seconded the motion. All approved with a show of hands. Motion passed.

Announcements – The Lee Regional Fair will be Tuesday, September 13 – Sunday, September 18. Susan asked Donald Nicholson if we would be available to man the “Ask A Farmer” and answer questions about the Voluntary Agricultural District. He will check his calendar and plan to attend.

Seth stated that the Lee County Area Farmers would include a map of the VAD participants in their display.

Mark your calendar for the Farm-City Week Banquet on Monday, November 21, 2011.

Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

Jerry Lemmond made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wayne Watson seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.



Chairman, Agriculture Advisory Board



Clerk to the Agriculture Advisory Board