



***Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board***

Meeting Agenda for May 14, 2024, at 11:00 am

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Public Comment	
Approval of May 14, 2024, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of April 16, 2024, meeting minutes	Board
Board Member Reports	Board
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Short-Term Rentals Update	Gillian Phillips, BC Planning Dept.
FY25 Project Proposals	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
Announcements and Discussion	Board

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Appl. No.
Archer Covington, Simmons Covington Lettre	Sandy Mush	145.6	VAD	Eligible-Renewal	4/15/2024	750-Covington
		0				
	<b>VAD Totals</b>		<b>EVAD Totals</b>		<b>VAD/EVAD Combined Totals</b>	
<b>Totals as of February 2024</b>	Number of Farms	320	Number of Farms	21	341	
	Total Acreage	22615.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24874.26	
<b>New totals for March 2024 if proposed applications are approved</b>	Number of Farms	321	Number of Farms	23	344	
	Total Acreage	22740.11	Total Acreage	2414.59	25154.7	



## Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting

### Farmland Preservation Program Report

May 14, 2024

Ariel Zijp & Avni Naik

- Easement Monitoring in the works.
- Continuing planning for the Conservation Donor Dinner – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm
  - Sending out invitations
  - Planning awards for the conservation donors
  - Preparing presentations, etc.
- Working on potential new projects & getting landowner estimates
  - Mike Adams & Katie Grear -Lady Luck Farm, Sandy Mush
  - Curtis Hawkins, Sandy Mush
  - Richard Kendricks, Alexander
  - Geoffrey Barndt, Alexander
  - Tom Battle, Candler
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement –closed easement on April 18
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – working to exclude the disputed area.
  - Clark Easement – waiting on subordination agreement resolution.
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – NCDA final document review is taking longer than anticipated, hopefully for a June closing
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –refinancing has been approved, but another set back
  - Worthen & Krekel – addition of 24 acres to the parcel, waiting for new attorney to start deed work
  - Soden – completed title search and starting deed work
  - Parham/Fortner Farm – starting survey
  - Rogers Farm Trust – survey and environmental assessment finished, starting appraisal
  - David Rogers – survey and environmental assessment started, starting appraisal
  - Scott Fisher– survey and environmental assessment finished, starting appraisal, starting baseline documentation report and deed work





- **Wayne Welch made a motion to approve the VAD/EVAD renewal applications with the corrected township/region, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**

**Tone Hollar Expansion Request:** Ms. Zijp presented an update on the Tone Hollar CE. The landowners recently acquired an additional +/-25 acres adjacent to their current tract; they would like to add to that acreage to their easement. A draft survey has been completed or the project so far but other than that it is still in the early phases to where adding acreage is still feasible.

- **Kyle Guie made a motion to approve the Tone Hollar CE expansion request, seconded by Wayne Welch, and the motion passed on the vote.**

**Farmland Preservation Report:**

- Easement Monitoring in with Equinox
- Grant Application site visits
  - NCDA applications – Roberson backed out of process & Slocumb didn't rank well.
  - USDA applications – Roberson backed out & didn't have enough funding to reach Okoboji.
  - Agricultural Growth Zone application- interview on the 25<sup>th</sup> with NCDA ADFP Trust Fund.
- Reminder to Mark Your Calendars
  - Conservation Donor Dinner – June 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm – working on invitations.
- Working on potential new projects & getting landowner estimates
  - Mike Adams & Katie Grear - Lady Luck Farm, Sandy Mush
  - Curtis Hawkins, Sandy Mush
  - Richard Kendricks, Alexander
  - Geoffrey Barndt, Alexander
  - Tom Battle, Candler
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement –finishing appraisal and scheduled closing in April 18.
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – final review & tentative closing set for May.
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –refinancing has been approved, now subordination process.
  - Clark/Maddox Easement – on pause until agreement resolution.
  - SAHC Community Farm Expansion Easement – working to exclude the disputed area.
  - Tone Hollar Farm – title work and starting deed work.
  - Soden – title work and starting deed work.
  - Parham/Fortner Farm – contracting with surveyor & starting up survey.
  - Rogers Farm Trust – survey and environmental assessment finished.
  - David Rogers – survey and environmental assessment started.
  - Scott Fisher– survey draft in review and environmental assessment finished.
- Staff is planning the upcoming project approval process and funding sources and hopes to bring forward the projects and plan during the May meeting. They are proposing moving the meeting up a week to May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Terri Wells made a motion to move the next AAB meeting up a week to May 14, 2024, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**
- Staff received one application for the Ag Advisory Board position. Ms. Grier is familiar with the applicant's husband who works in ag but has not met the applicant herself. The Board discussed Ms. Boyd's application and agreed that she seemed like a good prospect, but they wanted to ensure she could make the meeting times since she works as a teacher. Staff informed the Board they would reach out and forward her response.

- **Chase Hubbard made a motion to approve Erica Boyd, seconded by Kyle Guie, and the motion passed on the vote.**
- The Planning Board has been having discussions around short-term rentals (STRs) and Mr. Guie and Ms. Wells asked Staff to provide information around the policy. Ms. Zijp forwarded the Board an infographic that Ms. Gillian Phillips from the Planning Dept. provided. Ms. Phillips will also be coming to the May AAB meeting updating them on how the Planning Board votes on the policy during their upcoming meeting.

### **Announcements & Discussions**

Mr. Duckett recently started a new position as the Western Region Director with NC Extension that has increased his travel outside of the County. This has affected his ability to attend meetings as frequently as he used to be able to and he is planning to step down as Chair. Mr. Hubbard stated he would be willing to take on as Chair and Mr. Welch is willing to take on Vice-Chair.

- **Steve Duckett made a motion to appoint Chase Hubbard as Chair and Chase Hubbard as Vice-Chair, and the motion passed unanimously.**

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting ended at 11:53am.