

**BUNCOMBE COUNTY
LAND CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
8:00 AM, FEBRUARY 21, 2024. ZOOM**

Members present: Nancy Nehls Nelson – Vice-Chair Joel Mazelis Jacob Wiseman Bob Turner Sarah Fraser (quorum = 5/9)	Non-members present: Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD Avni Naik – BCSWCD Angelica Tyler – BC Staff
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There was a quorum, as there were at least 5 members present. The following discussion occurred between members present:

The meeting was called to order at 8:11pm

- Vice-Chair Nancy Nehls Nelson called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda

- Nancy Nehls-Nelson made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024, agenda, seconded by Robert Turner, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- Bob Turner made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Joel Mazelis, and the motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

- No public comment.

Approval of 2024 Board Meeting Calendar

The LCAB adopted the Farmland Preservation Ranking last month for agricultural easement evaluations. BC staff presented a few options on how the evaluation system could be completed between the applicants, Staff, and the Board since many questions on the new evaluation are objective and wouldn't differ based on board member's opinion. Mr. Turner agreed that the Board filling out the application seemed redundant since the answers would be the same across for each question. Ms. Laggis of SAHC stated that land trusts already have the information in the evaluation for their personal ranking and they would be able to fill it out to save staff time and resources. Ms. Nehls Nelson hoped to have a place to have subjective answers in addition to the objective answers in the evaluation – this could be done via email or staff could create a form. Mr. Wiseman asked who would decide which ranking to use for projects that weren't obviously agriculture but had an element of it, and the Board agreed that leaving that up to the land trusts to decide which category to present the project under would make the most sense.

- **Jacob Wiseman made a motion to select the second option where land trusts would fill the evaluation and BC Staff would confirm their responses and report back to the Board, seconded by Sarah Fraser, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Updates from Land Conservation Agencies:

- Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy
Jess Lagis
The Full Sun Farm II CE closed at the end of January & Young Homeplace should be closing in the next month – LCAB approved transaction costs for both of these projects. South McDaris also closed in the last few months.
- Conserving Carolina
Tom Fanslow
Hoping to work on/apply for a few new easement projects in the County and ask for easement purchase.
- RiverLink
Hannah Coates
Working with Mountain True on a stream restoration along Hominy Creek – anticipate seeking transaction costs from this Board for potential easement they’ll hold in that area.

Ag Advisory Board (AAB) Update - Ms. Zipp

- Staff closed on the Dragonheart Farm Conservation Easement (~35 acres in Sandy Mush) a month ago. Commissioners last week approved the first two Open Space Bond conservation easements projects (Lake Eden & an AAB agricultural easement) and were supportive of the projects. BC Parks and Rec is working on a Master Plan that will include an Open Space Plan. There have been public meetings around these plans.
- Ag Breakfast scheduled for March 26th at the Leicester Community Center – talking about the PUV program at the County.
- Ms. Zipp sent the board an overview of progress around the annual Conservation Donor Dinner scheduled for June 13th at Claxton Farm, which is under an easement.. Ms. Nelson mentioned the Ramsey Farm that recently closed in Barnardsville after years of work – she thanked BC staff for working on the easement project and Staff thanked Ms. Nelson for helping them during the process as well.

Passive Recreation Lands

- There will be an informational webinar for applicants hoping to apply for the funding available. The application window has been open for at least a month now. Mr. Turner is curious to see the types of applications that will be brought forward given the difficulty around management of the land/property over a long period of time.

Announcements and Discussions

No other announcements or discussions at this time.

With no other announcements or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 am.