Agriculture Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes
July 28, 2009


Absent: Darrell Doby, Wayne Yarborough

Guest present: Doc Oldham, Amy Dalrymple, Richard Hayes, Julian Philpot, John Cameron

County staff present: Susan Condlin, Tommy Brooks, Rhonda Gaster

Opening Remarks: were made by Susan Condlin and Tommy Brooks. Both welcomed committee members and special guests. Each person gave a brief introduction and shared their interest and background in agriculture.

Susan stated that the Lee County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance was officially adopted September 15, 2008. Since the adoption of this ordinance the town of Broadway has approved a MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for VAD (Voluntary Agricultural Districts) in the city limits.

Agriculture Advisory Board notebooks were passed out and a review was conducted.

Richard Hayes, Chairman, Lee County Commissioners was called on to give his charge to the Board.
- Historic event for Lee County
- Commissioners understand and are supportive of this venture
- Congratulated the committee on their appointment

Julian Philpot, Secretary and General Counsel for NC Farm Bureau Federation, spoke to the group explaining the importance of Voluntary Agriculture Districts.
- Orange was the first county to implement the Voluntary Agriculture District Ordinance.
- Committee member’s role is to advise and make recommendations to the Commissioners as it relates to agriculture.
- Agriculture Boards can be a helpful planning tool in preserving farmland in North Carolina.

Business:

Terms for Members: member drew from a basket a slip of paper with the terms listed on the paper. The following terms were identified:
Albert Adcock – 1 year
Barbara Alphin – 2 year
Ed Angel – 1 year
Jane Barringer – 1 year
Thomas Boerger – 3 year
Darrell Doby – 3 year
La-Verne Joyner – 3 year

Jerry Lemmond – 3 year
Donald Nicholson – 1 year
Worth Pickard – 3 year
Tony Ragan – 2 year
Wayne Watson – 2 year
George Wilberg – 2 year
Wayne Yarborough – 3 year

**Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson:** through a written ballot process Donald Nicholson was elected Chairperson and Jerry Lemmond was elected Vice-Chairperson. Commissioners Hayes and Oldham tallied the ballots.

**Future Meeting Dates:** monthly meetings till the end of the year will be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 4:00 pm. Meeting will take place at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

**NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund Grant:** Tommy Brooks reported that the Lee Soil and Water District has received a grant from NC Agricultural Development & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund in the amount of $8,212.00. The money will be used to support the first year of operation of the Agriculture Advisory Board and help to implement the VADs. A major amount of the money is allocated to signage for the Districts. The grant period ends June 2010.

John Cameron, Lee County Farm Bureau President, invited Susan Condlin and Tommy Brooks to attend Lee County Farm Bureau’s meeting on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 to present a VAD program update and to make a request for support of the Voluntary Agriculture District program.

**Proposed Bylaws:** a draft proposal for Board Operating Procedures and Bylaws was passed out for review. Members were asked to take this home for review and come to the next meeting with corrections or additions.

**Request from Commissioner Reives:** Commissioner Reives asked Susan to bring before the Agriculture Advisory Board, the rezoning request of the property located on the corner of Bruce Coggins and Tramway Roads, the location of the former Tramway Supply business. This property is currently zoned RA (Residential/Agriculture) and the owners would like to have it rezoned to HC (Highway/Commercial). Marshall Downey, from Lee County Planning and Development, made a presentation concerning this matter. After discussion from the Board, Worth Pickard made a motion to support the rezoning request. Albert Adcock seconded the motion. All approved.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, August 19, 2009 at 4:00 pm at the McSwain Extension Education and Agriculture Center.

**Adjournment:** Barbara Alphin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Albert Adcock seconded the motion. All approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm