



Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Agenda for April 18, 2023, at 9:30 am

60 Lakeshore Dr, Weaverville, NC 28787

Call to order	Steve Duckett, Chair
Approval of April 18, 2023, meeting agenda	Board
Approval of March 21, 2023, meeting minutes	Board
Bond Criteria Discussion	Board, County Staff
Board Member Reports	Board
Applications for VAD and EVAD	Avni Naik, BCSWCD
Farmland Preservation Report	Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD
Announcements and Discussion	Board



Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting

Farmland Preservation Program Report

April 18, 2023

Ariel Zijp & Avni Naik

- Conservation Family Dinner – May 11th at Elida Home Event Center
- Grant & Bond Funding Plan for 2023 – contacting landowners to determine interest
- Open Space Bond –
 - Passive Recreation Lands criteria/evaluation process
 - Land Conservation – Public Input session & website & Info video
 - Land Conservation Criteria & Evaluation – March 21st BOC meeting
- Working with LCAB to commit all of FY23 funding to projects by June
- BOC requested edits to Bond Easement Criteria/evaluation system –
 - Made edits and have revised system to discuss today
 - Present edits to Bond system at Environmental Subcommittee
 - Present revised system to BOC on May 2nd meeting
- 2 donation easements coming to BOC May 2nd
 - Ami Worthen & Jason Krekel – 23 acres in Weaverville/Barnardsville
 - Scott and Susan Soden – 48 acres in Fairview
- Easement Project Updates
 - Larson Easement – survey in progress
 - Wesley Easement – survey & forest management plan in progress
 - SAHC Garrett – postponed because of SAHC approval process - survey in summer
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute
 - Sluder Easement–NCDA reviewing survey and Deed
 - Ramsey Easement – Survey approved, deed in review, baseline & EA in the works
 - Jasperwood Farm – All phases – survey in review with NCDA
 - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –waiting for subordination agreement approval by lender
 - Clark Easement –Banks reviewing subordination agreement
 - Berner Easement – all approved – closing March 24th



Berner Easement Closing!

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Phone Number	Appl. No.
Davis, Ronnie Jason	Leicester	47.27	VAD	Eligible (renewal) - Waiting Approval	3/21/2023	828-699-0855	658-Davis
Iris Lanning Curry Rev Tst	Fletcher	70.5	VAD	Eligible (renewal) - Waiting Approval	4/2/2023	828-778-4472	659-Curry
Clyde Denny	Weaverville	27.21	VAD	Eligible - Waiting Approval	3/22/2023	910-512-5785	660-Denny
			144.98				
Totals as of March 2023							
VAD Totals		308	EVAD Totals		VAD/EVAD Combined Totals		
Number of Farms		308	Number of Farms		328		
Total Acreage		21852.28	Total Acreage		24056.36		
New totals for April 2023 (if proposed applications are approved)							
Number of Farms		311	Number of Farms		331		
Total Acreage		21997.26	Total Acreage		24201.34		

Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Road, Asheville, NC 28806 with optional Zoom
March 21, 2023, at 11 am

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Steve Duckett, Wayne Welch, Anne Grier, Ed Bulluck, David Lee, Terri Wells (virtual).

Others Present: Ariel Zijp and Avni Naik (BCSWCD Staff), Angelica Tyler (BC Staff), Scott and Susan Soden (landowners), Ami Worthen and Jason Kreckel (landowners).

Meeting was called to order at 11:06 am by Chair Steve Duckett.

Approval of the March 21, 2023, Meeting Agenda

- **David Lee made a motion to approve the March 21, 2023, meeting agenda, seconded by Ed Bulluck, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Approval of the February 21, 2023, Meeting Minutes

- **David Lee made a motion to approve the February 21, 2023, meeting minutes, seconded by Ed Bulluck, and the motion passed on the vote.**

FY23 Spring Project Proposals

Staff presented two donation easement proposals – one in Fairview and one in Barnardsville. Landowners for both properties were present and answered questions from the Board. Staff also discussed cost estimates and funding for the projects.

- **Wayne Welch made a motion to approve the Soden and Worthen/Kreckel donation easements, seconded by David Lee, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Vacation Position

Staff received a letter of resignation from board member Annie Louise Perkinson. She emailed Staff stating she has enjoyed her time serving but has scheduling conflicts that make it difficult for her to attend. Ms. Zijp reached out to the County Management office and asked to list the board vacancy online. The Board discussed having Suzy Rankin as a Board Member during a previous meeting – Ms. Zijp reached out to Suzy, and she stated she's interested in serving. Suzy is a farmer and has an easement with BCSWCD. Mr. Lee stated he has worked with the Rankins in the past and Suzy would make a good board member. Ms. Wells suggested staff ensure that they list which region the Board is looking for representatives from as this would help the public understand why a certain applicant may have been picked over another.

- **Anne Grier made a motion to support the nomination of Suzy Rankin, seconded by David Lee, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Board Member Reports: No reports at this time. Mr. Lee asked when bond funding would be available for easement projects. Ms. Zijp stated she will be presenting the criteria to the Commissioners that evening and if they approve, bond funds will then be available to use.

VAD and EVAD Applications (Ms. Naik):

There is one new VAD application.

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date
Bruce & Jean Larson	Sandy Mush	70	VAD	Eligible - Waiting Approval	2/15/2023

- **Bruce Snelson made a motion to approve the VAD applications and renewals, seconded by Chase Hubbard, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Farmland Preservation Report: Friends of Ag Breakfast – April 18th at Weaverville Community Center

- Conservation Family Dinner – May 11th at Elida Home Event Center
- Grant & Bond Funding Plan for 2023 – contacting landowners to determine interest
- Arc GIS Story Map– [Land Conservation in Buncombe County](#)
- Open Space Bond –
 - Passive Recreation Lands criteria/evaluation process
 - Land Conservation – Public Input session & website & Info video
 - Land Conservation Criteria & Evaluation – March 21st BOC meeting
- Working with LCAB to commit all of FY23 funding to projects by June
- 2 new donation easements coming to AAB-
 - Ami Worthen & Jason Krekel – 23 acres in Weaverville/Barnardsville
 - Scott and Susan Soden – 48 acres in Fairview
- Plant the seed – Do we need a formal MOU between AAB and SWCD?
- Easement Project Updates
 - Larson Easement – survey in progress
 - Wesley Easement – survey & forest management plan in progress
 - SAHC Garrett – postponed because of SAHC approval process - survey in summer
 - SAHC Teague Property Easement – closing postponed due to boundary dispute
 - Sluder Easement–NCDA reviewing survey and Deed
 - Ramsey Easement – Survey approved, deed in review, baseline & EA in the works
 - Jasperwood Farm – All phases – survey in review with NCDA
 - Splendor Valley LLC Easement –finishing final appraisal then submitting subordination agreement – closing in April
 - Clark Easement –Appraisal being reviewed –banks reviewing subordination agreement – Closing in April
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With no other announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.