

**Henderson County
Farmland Preservation Taskforce: November 18, 2024**

The Farmland Preservation Taskforce held a meeting on November 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room located at 100 N. King Street.

Taskforce Member	Present	Absent
Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair	✓	
Commissioner David Hill, Chair	✓	
Hunter Marks – Planning Board		✓
Danny McConnell – Soil & Water Conservation District	✓	
Gary Steiner – NC Cooperative Extension		✓
Jimmy Cowan – NC Farm Bureau	✓	
Joffrey Merrill – AgHC	✓	
Randy Newman – Hendersonville Board of Realtors	✓	
Jason Edney – At large	✓	
Justin Patwin – At large		✓
Linda Pryor – At large	✓	
Alan Ward – At large	✓	
Danielle McCall – At large	✓	

Also present:

Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager
 Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director
 Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner
 Liz Hanson, Planner
 Jonathan Wallin, Henderson County Soil & Water
 April Hoyt, Henderson County Soil & Water
 Dr. Terry Kelley, NC Cooperative Extension
 Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina

R = attended remotely

Commissioner and Taskforce Chair David Hill called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall lead the invocation and pledge after the meeting was called to order.

Adjustment and Approval of Agenda:

Taskforce member Jimmy Cowan motioned to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment for this meeting.

Adjustment and Approval of August 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall motioned to approve the November 18, 2024; meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Updates:

Staff provided a brief update on the status of the NC ADFP Agricultural Growth Zone (AGZ) grant. Staff shared that the deadline for applications has been extended to January 17th, 2025. Staff also shared that they have been working on the grant application since receiving approval from the Board of Commissioners to proceed with the AGZ grant.

Discussion:

Agricultural Growth Zone (AGZ) Grant Application – Scoring Criteria & Priority Areas

Staff has been working to complete two main items for the AGZ grant application that require input from the Taskforce. The first discussion was regarding the scoring criteria used for Henderson County Agricultural Conservation Easement applicants. This scoring criteria allows additional scoring “points” for applicants who wish to apply for AGZ funding (if Henderson County is awarded). The second discussion item focused on the geographical priority areas or “zones”, that will be deemed “Agricultural Growth Zones”. These priority areas were created based on a variety of data inputs, such as existing Voluntary Agricultural Districts, Present-Use Value, and residential development.

The Taskforce discussed the scoring criteria and priority areas at length and had the opportunity to share their changes and opinions with Staff. Staff took note of all requested edits to the scoring criteria and priority areas and will bring revised versions to the next scheduled Taskforce meeting to share with members. In the meantime, Staff is also working on other sections of the AGZ grant application.

Next Meeting:

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 9th, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair and Commissioner David Hill, Chair
Henderson County Farmland Preservation Taskforce