

Henderson County
Farmland Preservation Taskforce: August 26, 2024

The Farmland Preservation Taskforce held a meeting on August 26, 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
 Liz Hanson, Planner
 April Hoyt, Soil & Water Conservation District
 Jonathan Wallin, Soil & Water Conservation District
 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:

Commissioner and Taskforce Chair David Hill lead the invocation and pledge after the meeting was called to order.

Adjustment and Approval of Agenda:

Taskforce Chair David Hill motioned to add an additional agenda item to discuss Taskforce goals and next steps. Taskforce member Randy Newman motioned to approve the agenda with Mr. Hill's addition. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Lynn Williams gave a public comment on Farmland Preservation and the County's 2010 Agricultural Preservation Plan.

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

Taskforce member Alan Ward motioned to approve the August 12, 2024; meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Guest Speaker:

Staff were previously requested by the Taskforce to contact a landowner who has experience putting their land in a Conservation Easement. Donald Smart, who runs Smart Farms in Haywood and Madison County, was able to speak to the Taskforce about his experience putting his farmland in an Agricultural Conservation Easement. Taskforce members had an opportunity to ask Mr. Smart questions about his experience.

Staff Updates:

Planning Staff had previously been asked by the Taskforce to meet internally along with the Henderson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Conserving Carolina, and the NC Cooperative Extension to draft amendments to Chapter 45. Staff worked to incorporate the requested amendments into the existing Chapter 45 document, and it was shared with the Taskforce prior to the meeting. Mrs. Radcliff provided an overview of the most recent changes to Chapter 45 to the Taskforce.

Discussion:

2010 Agricultural Preservation Plan: The Taskforce had previously requested a presentation on Henderson County's 2010 Agricultural Preservation Plan. This plan was prepared for the County's Agricultural Advisory Board through funding from the NC Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. The plan was officially adopted by the County Board of Commissioners on October 28, 2009. Staff provided an overview of the Plan to the Taskforce, including the Plan purpose, data, and recommendations. The Taskforce had an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the Plan further.

Taskforce Goals and Next Steps: Mr. Hill lead a discussion regarding where the Taskforce is currently at and what the next steps are to reach their goals.

Next Meeting:

The next Taskforce meeting was scheduled for September 9, 2024, but has been rescheduled at the request of the Taskforce Chairs to Monday, September 16, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

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