



***Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board***

Meeting Agenda for January 16, 2024, at 11:00 am

49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28806

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|--|----------------------|
| Call to order                                  | Steve Duckett, Chair |
| Public Comment                                 |                      |
| Approval of January 16, 2024, meeting agenda   | Board                |
| Approval of November 21, 2023, meeting minutes | Board                |
| Board Member Reports                           | Board                |
| Board Terms                                    | Board                |
| 2024 Board Meeting Calendar Approval           | Board                |
| Applications for VAD and EVAD                  | Avni Naik, BCSWCD    |
| Farmland Preservation Report                   | Ariel Zijp, BCSWCD   |
| Announcements and Discussion                   | Board                |



# Soil and Water Conservation Department

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Ariel Zijp  
*Farmland Preservation Manager*

## Agricultural Advisory Board 2024 Board Meeting Calendar

- **January 16, 2024**
- **February 20, 2024**
- **March 19, 2024**
- **April 16, 2024**
- **May 21, 2024**
- **June 18, 2024**
- **July 16, 2024**
- **August 20, 2024**
- **September 17, 2024**
- **October 15, 2024**
- **November 19, 2024**
- **December 17, 2024**





## Buncombe County Ag Advisory Board Meeting

### Farmland Preservation Program Report

January 16, 2024

Ariel Zijp & Avni Naik

- VAD GIS layer update and VAD renewals/removals
- Program process update & Program Workdays
  - Planning to start estimates & title searches upfront.
  - Updating process documents & determining landowner commitment
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – deed final edits and review, ROW negotiations, scheduling closing
  - Wesley Easement – deed final edits and review & scheduling closing
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – working to exclude the disputed area – should resolve in a couple months.
  - Sluder Easement – waiting for additional funding
  - Ramsey Easement – final documents submitted to request closing funds!
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – BDR submitted for review and deed work drafts
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement – Needing to request extension/final conversation with lender
  - Clark Easement – waiting on subordination agreement resolution – March/April
  - Worthen & Krekel – survey in progress and starting deed work
  - Soden – survey in progress
  - Parham/Fortner Farm – Bond easement purchase request to commissioners in February
  - Rogers Farm Trust – NCDA contract signed & starting survey in January
  - David Rogers – NCDA contract signed & starting survey in January
  - Scott Fisher – NCDA contract signed & starting survey in January



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board - Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787**  
**November 21, 2023, at 11:00 am**

**Ag Advisory Board Members Present:** Terri Wells, Suzy Rankin, Wayne Welch, Anne Grier, Mark Diaz.

**Others Present:** Whitney Meadows, Keith Miller, Ariel Zijp, Avni Naik, Johanna Cano (BC Staff).

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 am by Terri Wells due to lack of quorum at the beginning of the meeting. The Board and Staff presented their reports first. Once the quorum was established, all items requiring votes were addressed.

**Board Member Reports:** Ms. Wells and Mr. Duckett attending NC Ag Tech last Friday – had good information available and hopes there'll be more conversation around ag economic viability. They mentioned studies showing that ag land is a net positive tax base for NC. There will be a new program from the NC Ag Manufacturing and Processing Initiative through the Appropriations Act providing \$20 million over the next two fiscal years to invest in infrastructure. They hope to have applications ready to go by 2024.

**Farmland Preservation Report:**

- Working on grant applications:
  - Submitted two USDA applications for the IRA funding pool (mid-November deadline)
  - Will submit the two same applications for the regular ACEP pool as well to increase chances of funding
  - Working on 3 NCDAs applications (December deadline)
- LCAB voted on Lake Eden Preserve easement purchase request for SAHC.
- Ag Breakfast on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> at Claxton Farms was a success!
- Easement Project Updates
  - Larson Easement – BDR and EA complete, working on deed.
  - Wesley Easement – forest management plan & EA complete; hope to start on BDR soon.
  - SAHC Garrett – on hold as per SAHC's request, hope to start survey soon.
  - SAHC Teague Property Easement – working with SAHC on options to move forward.
  - Sluder Easement– submitted additional funding application.
  - Ramsey Easement –Final documents under review with grant agencies. Hoping to close on this easement soon.
  - Jasperwood Farm Easements – starting deed work and hoping to wrap up baselines soon. Environmental assessments and appraisals are complete.
  - Splendor Valley LLC Easement – waiting on Ag South Farm Credit for subordination agreement.
  - Clark Easement – landowners checking in with their loan officers on subordination.
  - Worthen & Krekel – started survey work.
  - Soden – starting survey work.
- Ms. Nesbitt reached out to Staff asking for a few changes to the easement homesites and exclusions. Staff are bringing back those changes to the Board since they are different from what the Board approved a few months

