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## *Agricultural Advisory Board*

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### **DRAFT Minutes**

#### Agricultural Advisory Board

October 9, 2018 7:00 PM CCACC (Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center)

**Called to order**, 7:03 pm

**Present:** Cathy Jones (Vice-Chair), Bobby Tucker (Secretary), Esta Cohen, Henry Outz (Chatham Soil and Water), Sharon Day, Terrill Ellington, Dr. J. Dykers, Ginger Cunningham (NCCES Director), Emily Moose (Planning Board liaison)

**Absent:** Tandy Jones (Chair), Walter Petty (BOC liaison), Joe Wachs

#### 1. Introduction of Guests

No guests were present for the board meeting.

#### 2. Agenda Approval

Cathy introduced the meeting and solicited input on the proposed agenda. No edits were suggested.

#### 3. Discussion/Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes, seconded, and approved unanimously.

#### 4. Update on Ground Water in Chatham County

Emily Moose provided a presentation previously provided by Ann Lowry with the Chatham County Environmental Health. The presentation focused on permitting of onsite septic systems, offsite septic systems, system types, location of non-discharge permits, NPDES permits, proposed area for mandatory galvanized steel pipe casing, and ground water quantity. Currently, minimal state regulations governing the quantity of

use of a private drinking water well. Emily solicited input from the Ag Board regarding protections for agriculture ground water supply for the Planning Board.

### 5. Status of Draft Ordinance

The County Attorney Jep Rose is currently reviewing the Ordinance and the draft model provided by the State Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation (ADFP).

### 6. Proposed Policy for Drop-In Guests

Cathy introduced the draft policy that applies to guests at a meeting without being listed on the Proposed Agenda. Discussion ensued, and the following policy was approved:

- Guests are required to introduce themselves to the entire board at the beginning of the meeting and briefly state their desire to speak and the subject they would like to address.
- Guests will then be allotted three minutes to speak. This time and placement in the agenda is at the discretion of the Chair.

### 7. Board Vacancies and Ad for New Members

Tiffany Hancock updated the application to reflect the geographic requirements specific to the Ag Advisory Board.

### 8. New Business

Bobby mentioned the work of the Chatham Community Food Policy Council and the upcoming forum to discuss food system issues. He expressed the need to engage the Council and possibly collaborate on issues pertaining to agriculture. One of the questions posed for the forum was “what are the biggest challenges/obstacles to each person’s farm and/or business”. This question was posed to the Ag Board, which provided the following responses.

Esta: Lack of consistent markets (wholesale and retail)

Cathy: Reliable, motivated, labor

Dr. Dykers: Weather and low market prices

Sharon: Consistency in market demand (what do the customer’s want from year to year)

Terrill: Market prices at stockyard

Henry: Markets and labor

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.