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## *Agricultural Advisory Board*

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### **FINAL Minutes**

#### Agricultural Advisory Board

July 20, 2020 7:00 PM CCACC (Chatham County Agriculture Conference Center)

**Called to order**, 7:08 pm

**Present:** Ben Shields (Chair), Cathy Jones (Vice-Chair), Bobby Tucker (Secretary), Sharon Day, Tenita Solanto, Christopher Hart, Susannah Goldston (CSWCD Director), Ginger Cunningham (NCCES County Director) GUESTS: Emily Moose (Planning Board liaison), Erin Dillon (NCCES intern)

**Absent:** Doug Burleson, Sarah Justice, Andy Wilkie (BOC liaison),

#### 1. Introduction of Guests

All attendees present introduced themselves to the group.

#### 2. Agenda Review and Approval

Susannah added a short presentation of the Farmland Presentation updates.

#### 3. Review and Approval of Minutes

The May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed. Cathy called to attention that the number of terms for her and Bobby were actually ending their second terms, not their first. Bobby also noted that he was absent from the last meeting. The amended minutes were approved unanimously.

#### 4. Review of New Applicants

The new board member applications were reviewed to fill Tandy's vacant position. The board also voted to remove Sarah Justice as a board member due to her number of meeting absences. It was noted that there is currently no representation from the Southeast quadrant due to Sarah's removal. The board discussed some

of the applicants but decided to take more time to review given the number of qualified applicants and well and repost the solicitation for new members. The motion was approved to repost the opening with a deadline of two weeks prior to the next meeting.

### 5. Election of Officers

New officer positions were nominated and voted upon. Bobby will serve as the new chair, Ben will serve as the Secretary, and Cathy will remain as Vice-Chair.

### 6. Review of AAB Annual Presentation to the BOC

Per the Ordinance, the AAB is required to present to the BOC annually. Ben, Ginger, and Susannah assembled a draft presentation that he overviewed. Cathy, Sharon, and Emily mentioned the presentation may further emphasize the role of the AAB in promoting the protection of water supply and water quality in the County, as well as encouraging the previously submitted water supply resolution to be solidified into a County Ordinance. Cathy further stressed the point that the AAB presentation needs to assert that the Board's responsibility in looking out for the interest of all Chatham farmers.

### 7. New Business

Cathy wants the AAB to revisit the water supply resolution and work to get this adopted by the BOC as formal policy.

### 8. Updates on Farmland Preservation

Bryan Thompson encouraged Susannah and Ginger to start the formal process to ask for Farmland Preservation Plan funding in next year's budget which would include a Request for Proposals to hire a consultant to develop the FPP and perform an updated cost-of-services study. The County is also interested in funding for natural resource preservation in addition to agriculture land. To confirm, this is separate from the funding requested for specific farmland preservation actions from rollback-taxes from Article 46.

The next meeting is planned for August 11th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.