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*Agricultural Advisory Board*

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**DRAFT Minutes**

**Agricultural Advisory Board**

**June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7:00 PM Zoom Remote Video**

1. Vice-Chair Cathy Jones called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm.
2. Roll Call - Present members identified themselves.
  - a. Present: Tenita Solanto (Chair), Cathy Jones (Vice Chair), Sharon Day, Doug Burleson, Jeff Vaughan, Amy Fulford, Ginger Cunningham (Cooperative Extension), Brandy Oldham (Chatham SWCD)
  - b. Absent: Chris Hart, Robert Logan (Chatham County Commissioner Liaison)
3. Appoint New Secretary
  - a. With Ben Shields resignation, there is no secretary. The Board discussed this and the possibility of electing officers for the new fiscal year. They would like to wait until all vacancies are filled before choosing officers. Current officers will remain in their roles until that time. Board discussed the possibility of recording the meeting through Zoom. Ginger can do this and will ensure it is ok to do so.
4. Approval of Minutes
  - a. Date on minutes is incorrect, date corrected. No other amendments noted. Sharon made a motion to approve with that correction. Cathy seconded. Motion carried.
5. Voluntary Agricultural District Update
  - a. Brandy presented 4 applications including 11 parcels, totaling 365.48 acres for approval. All parcels are eligible. 10 parcels are in the Siler City ETJ are eligible

due to the existing MOU between Siler City and Chatham County which allows VAD within their ETJ. Some of these parcels were previously enrolled but now have a new owner. Must be re-enrolled under new owner. Sharon motioned to approve all applications with Amy seconding the motion. Motion carried.

6. Board Membership

- a. As Ben Shields and Jeanette Beranger have both resigned and Doug Burleson will not renew his term, there are now 3 vacancies. The Board discussed and would like to review older applicants to see if they are still interested in being on the Board. The Board would also like to advertise for more applicants. Tenita emailed out the last batch of applicants to the Board. The Board would like to have applications sent to them in a batch before the next meeting so they can review and prepare. Jeff Vaughan will remain on for another term.

7. New Business

- a. Sharon inquired about the Farmland Preservation Plan. Ginger stated that the process is on hold right now. Awaiting budget rollover and the county attorney. Hopeful to have things moving again by late Fall.
- b. Ginger also wanted to make the Board aware of the Master Plan related to the VinFast project. The Planning Board, including the NC DOT and other interested entities, met with the Cooperative Extension and Soil & Water to discuss agriculture related businesses that are in the project area (Moncure). There are not a lot of ag operators or businesses in the area. Hope to have more information by the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting

- a. Tentatively scheduled for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm via Zoom.

9. Adjournment

- a. Cathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.