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Agriculture Advisory Board

DRAFT Minutes

Agriculture Advisory Board

March 14, 2023 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Tenita Solanto called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- a. Present: Tenita Solanto, Sharon Day, Jeff Vaughan, Chris Hart, Cathy Jones, Amy Fulford, Dave Eskelund, Dr. John Dykers Jr.
- b. Absent: Diana May
- c. Others Present: Ginger Cunningham (Cooperative Extension), Brandy Oldham (SWCD)
- d. A quorum was present for this meeting.

3. Approval of December Minutes

- a. December meeting minutes are still being revised. Amy is almost finished with them. They will be emailed out. Tenita inquired if the board could vote on minutes via email. Ginger stated she believed that was ok.

4. Farmland Preservation Updates

- a. Ginger reported on the farmland preservation plan status. The subcommittee has met, and they are continuing work on the survey with UMO (University of Mt. Olive). Drafts are back and the committee has given their blessing on them. There will be three surveys. Ag producers, agribusiness, and the general public. Ginger shared with the group via chat and will send via email. A news release will be sent out through the county public information officer Kara Lusk Dudley. Encourages the board to share these surveys with the public. Plan to ask to have them at the library and the extension office. Plan to debut them at the Chatham County Ag Fest. Board discussed making sure information reaches the Board of Commissioners. It was noted that anyone can make public comments, not just our chair.
- b. Ginger shared the save the date page for Ag Fest. Invited all members to attend.
- c. Extension and soil and water put in a request for an additional position dedicated to farmland preservation efforts in the county. Will keep the board posted.

5. VAD Updates

- a. Brandy presented 8 applications for the Voluntary Agriculture District. All applications are eligible for approval. After discussion, Cathy Jones made a motion to accept the parcels. Johny Dykers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. New Business

- a. Johny Dykers would like to make sure we have a way to get information directly to the Board of Commissioners. This was also discussed earlier during the farmland preservation updates portion of the agenda.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 9, 2023, at 7 pm via Zoom. Ginger will update the board via email between now and the next meeting.

8. Adjournment

- a. Tenita Solanto made a motion to adjourn. Cathy seconded; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.