Meeting Minutes
Buncombe County Agricultural Advisory Board –
Buncombe Soil & Water Conservation District
49 Mount Carmel Rd, Asheville, NC 28787
Special Meeting on Zoom
April 9, 2025, at 1:30pm

Ag Advisory Board Members Present: Vice-Chair Wayne Welch, Terri Wells, Kyle Guie, Mark Diaz, and Suzy Rankin.

Others Present: Ariel Zijp (BC Staff).

The meeting was called to order at 1:35pm

Public Comment: No public comment at this time.

Approval of the April 9, 2025, Meeting Agenda

- **Mark Diaz made a motion to approve the April 9, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Suzy Rankin, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Approval of the September 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- **Suzy Rankin made a motion to approve the September 17, 2024, meeting agenda, seconded by Wayne Welch, and the motion passed on the vote.**

VAD and EVAD Applications: Ariel Zijp shared that Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy is applying for conservation easement funding with NCDA ADFP for 4 easements at Warren Wilson College farm and forest. LCAB has recommended and the BOC has partially funded the transaction costs on the conservation easement. This is a very competitive year for conservation easement funding, and in order for WWC to get additional ranking points for the NCDA grant application, they need to be in the VAD program. This was the reason for the special meeting to be called in order for the board to review the VAD application in time for the grant deadline. Warren Wilson College is a significant tract of farmland in the county which the Ag Advisory Board believes is important to protect.

- **Mark Diaz made a motion to approve Warren Wilson College's VAD application, seconded by Terri Wells, and the motion passed on the vote.**

Applicant	Township	Acres	Program	Determination	Appl. Date	Appl. No.	Phone Number	Tax Lot PIN	Mailing Address	Address of Property
Warren Willson College Farm	Swannanoa	600	VAD	Eligible	1/7/2025		828-771-3072	9679-54-4937	701 warren wilson rd asheville, nc 28815	701 warren wilson rd asheville, nc 28815

	VAD Totals		EVAD Totals		VAD/EVAD Combined Totals
Totals as of September 2024	Number of Farms	320	Number of Farms	21	341
	Total Acreage	22615.68	Total Acreage	2258.58	24874.26
New totals for April 2025 if proposed applications are approved	Number of Farms	321	Number of Farms	23	344
	Total Acreage	23340.11	Total Acreage	2414.59	25754.7

Announcements & Discussions

With no further announcements or discussion, the meeting ended at 1:49pm.