



## Environmental and Energy Stewardship Subcommittee

Zoom

February 18, 2022

### Meeting Minutes

#### Subcommittee Members Present

Chairman Newman, Commissioner Wells, Commissioner Sloan, Maggie Ullman, Meg Williams, Lena Hansen, Jamie Ager

#### Staff Members Present

Sybil Tate, Jeremiah LeRoy, Jennifer Harrison, Jessica Hughes, Michael Frue, Gillian Phillips, Nate Pennington, Ashley Featherstone

Commissioner Sloan called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

#### Approval of Agenda & Minutes

- Terri Wells made a motion to approve the February 18, 2022, agenda and January 21, 2022 minutes, seconded by Maggie Ullman, and the motion passed with the vote.

#### Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

#### Priority Regions for Farmland Preservation

- Buncombe County is 420,480 acres total, and 76,637 acres are currently conserved.
- Projects are ranked and only the highest quality projects are funded.
- There are 34 properties on the Ag Advisory Board (AAB) waitlist which totals 3,207 acres.
- There are currently 16 projects totaling 1,055.6 acres and the Land Conservation Advisory Board (LCAB) has 6 projects totaling 367.6 acres.
- AAB has 29 projects on the prioritized waitlist which total 2,928 acres and would cost \$14,765,000. The full list is 34 projects totaling 3,207 acres and would cost \$15,480,750. The easement purchase price is an estimate, but actual cost is based on market value.
- LCAB has a total of 35 projects on the waitlist totaling 3,301 acres and would cost a total of \$13,953,750. The easement purchase price is an estimate, but actual cost is based on market value.
- The total estimate for both AAB and LCAB easements is \$29,434,500 and would total 6,508. Zijp mentioned there is a financial and time constraint as easements take time. Donation easements take around 1 to 2 years while easement purchase or grants take around 2 to 3 years to close. At the current wait time it would take 10 years to close all easements.
- The Subcommittee agreed to create a goal of 7,459 acres conserved by 2030 which would be at the 20% mark to total acres conserved.
- Please see presentation attached for full presentation.

#### Phase 2 Solar Discussion

- Jeremiah Leroy facilitated a discussion regarding the second phase of solar on schools now that it has been approved.
- At the staff level the \$12,000,000 has been broken up between three years because it will not be feasible to spend the full amount in one year.



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#### Future Meeting Topics

- Dane Peterson will present about the convience centers and Jennifer Harrison will continue the discussion on conservation goals at the March meeting.
- Ashley Featherstone will be speaking at the April meeting regarding air quality initiatives.
- Greenhouse gas emissions will be shared at the May meeting.

#### Announcements

- The next meeting will be in-person at 200 College Street

#### Adjourn

- Terri Wells made a motion to adjourn at 12:01pm, and the motion passed with all in favor.

#### Documents

- Conservation Easement Goal Presentation
- January 21, 2022 minutes