

**Agricultural Advisory Board
For Farmland Preservation
Friday, April 3, 2009 - 8:00 a.m.
Conference Room (Environmental Health)**

The Agricultural Advisory Board for farmland preservation held a public meeting Friday, April 3, 2009 at 8:00 am, Environmental Health Conference Room. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Harvey Roberts. Members present were Harvey Roberts, Sidney Garrett, Martin Jarvis, and Wade Morgan. Jerry Wright was absent. Soil and Water Technician Mike Doxey and District Administrator Kim Ferrell were also present.

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 8:00 am and thanked everyone for their continued support of farmland preservation. Chairman Roberts gave brief history of Jeffrey Tice application that was submitted last year. The farm did not have the required 45 right of way so that application was denied. Mr. Jarvis stated the appraiser (Greg Bourne) should have investigated the right of way situation before the appraisal was started.

Today's meeting is to discuss the Duncan farm application for farmland preservation. The farm is owned by two sisters (Doris Winslow and Kathleen Hurdle). These are two separate farm tracts, therefore there would have to be two applications and two appraisals as per Greg Walker, NRCS, (Federal Farmland Protection Program). Mr. Roberts stated the two sisters wanted to sell the farm as one tract that is their intention. Mr. Jarvis stated if the sisters did not want to proceed with the two tracts, then that is their decision. They have to comply with the regulations. The applicants need to be more aware of the requirements. Mike Doxey stated he had ranked the farms separately and as one tract. The Kathleen Hurdle tract has the highest ranking because it has the most cropland. Mr. Doxey stated the application process has been a learning experience for the board and has helped with what to look for when accepting applications. Mr. Morgan stated he greatly supports farmland preservation but to make it really work applicants need to donate part of the land. Mr. Roberts has been in contact with Lee Leidy and Janice Allen of the Coastland Land Trust for possible additional funding for farmland preservation. Mr. Doxey added that at the State level maybe we could get the state to recognize donation as part of the ranking process and that could be added to the federal ranking form. Mr. Jarvis stated it may be possible to have planning department modify the county UDO to specifically address regulations for farmland preservation.

After much discussion, the Board decided they could not approve the Duncan farm application due to the fact it is two tracts and would require two applications and two appraisals per Greg Walker (NRCS).

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Harvey Roberts

W. Harvey Roberts, Chairman

Jerry Wright

Jerry Wright, Vice-Chairman

*This was a paid meeting.

