

**Agricultural Advisory Board
For Farmland Preservation
Thursday, May 12, 2011 – 8:00 a.m.
(Currituck SWCD Office)**

The agricultural advisory board for farmland preservation held a public meeting on Thursday, May 12, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. The following members were present: Harvey Roberts, Sidney Garrett, Wade Morgan, and Martin Jarvis. Jerry Wright was absent. Kim Ferrell and Mike Doxey were also present. A quorum was announced and meeting was called to order by Chairman Harvey Roberts.

Today's meeting was called to discuss interest in the farmland preservation program. William DuFault, on behalf of the Navy (Northwest location) and three surrounding landowners, has presented tracts on Northwest Backwoods Road very near the Northwest Station. These parcels may qualify for farmland preservation. Mike presented maps showing the parcels in question. Parcels include Steve McPherson (38 Ac); Lloyd Parker (23 Ac); Robert Lee (17 Ac) – these parcels only total approximately 78 acres. The 639 acre State tract does not contain cropland and would not be eligible. The board decided they would not pursue any land owned by the State. The committee discussed the other tracts and the board agreed this is not enough acreage to be a viable farmland preservation tract. These three tracts would not rank high because of the low acreage and each tract is looked at separately. A higher score could be obtained if the land adjoined the 639 acre State tract that is currently swamp land.

Martin Jarvis made a motion to notify the Navy to contact the landowners and have the landowners contact Mike Doxey to discuss their intentions for farmland preservation if they are interested. Motion was seconded by Sidney Garrett. Motion passed unanimously.

The county farmland preservation account currently has approximately \$700,000.00. This money can be used for appraisals or purchasing of conservation easements.

Chairman Roberts stated in 2005 farmland would sell for about \$11,000 per acre, now it would sell for about \$4,000 per acre. Prices have dropped dramatically in the past few years.

Mike Doxey added that Manly West had someone interested (Brian Sutryk), but he is not willing to sign any agreements at this time, he may be interested in farmland preservation at a later time.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

W. Harvey Roberts

W. Harvey Roberts, Chairman

Kim D. Ferrell

Kim D. Ferrell, Recording Secretary

This was a paid meeting