

Henderson County
Farmland Preservation Taskforce: August 11, 2025

The Farmland Preservation Taskforce held a meeting on August 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room located at 100 N. King Street. Virtual Attendees are denoted with a “O.”

| Taskforce Member | Present | Absent |
|---|----------------|---------------|
| Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair | ✓ | |
| Commissioner Sheila Franklin, Chair | ✓ | |
| Jason Davis – Henderson County Planning Board | | ✓ |
| Brent Coston – Soil & Water Conservation District | ✓ | |
| Gary Steiner – NC Cooperative Extension | ✓ | |
| Jimmy Cowan – NC Farm Bureau | ✓ | |
| Joffrey Merrill – AgHC | ✓ | |
| Randy Newman – Hendersonville Board of Realtors | ✓ | |
| Jason Edney – At large | | ✓ |
| Justin Patwin – At large | ✓ | |
| Linda Pryor – At large | O | |
| Alan Ward – At large | ✓ | |
| Danielle McCall – At large | ✓ | |

Also present:

Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager; Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director; Janna Bianculli, Asst. Planning Director; and Dr. Terry Kelley, NC Cooperative Extension. Joining remotely were April Hoyt, Soil and Water; Jonathan Wallin, Soil and Water Director; Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina.

Call to Order

Commissioner and Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Commissioner McCall led the invocation and pledge after the meeting was called to order.

Adjustment and Approval of Agenda:

There were no adjustments to the agenda. Randy Newman motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and Jimmy Cowan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Amy Dahan gave public comment.

Adjustment and Approval of June 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes:

Danielle McCall motioned to approve the June 9, 2025, meeting minutes. Gary Steiner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Presentation on NC & SC Agritourism Associations:

Taskforce member Danielle McCall provided an update on the NC & SC Agritourism Associations. She explained the differences between the two states and how NC’s Association is not government-affiliated and funded by members. NC has its summer farm tour, primarily highlighting Henderson County this time. It was noted that the state may redefine “agritourism,” and changes are expected. Danielle also stated that she attended a landowner succession workshop. She learned at the workshop that easements worked best if focused on parcels that were 50-60 acres in size, instead of very large tracts of 300 acres or more.

Henderson County Agricultural Services Building:

Assistant County Manager Chris Todd provided an update on the new Agricultural Services Building. This building will be a hub for several different agricultural agencies, services, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Department. Commissioner McCall stated that two community meetings were planned to discuss the new building's needs. The first meeting was in Mills River two weeks prior, and a meeting was planned in Edneyville at the Edneyville Community Center.

Staff Updates:

Staff stated that it was waiting on the state budget to pass, but that Henderson County's AGZ Grant was recommended for approval. Jonathan Wallin with the Soil and Water Conservation District stated that the district has received seven applications for the Farmland Preservation Coordinator position and will begin interviewing. He also stated that he and April worked with the County on a social media post on the VAD program that will be posted shortly. Commissioner Rebecca McCall noted that she had received positive feedback on the informational flyer that was included in the County Tax Bills, which were mailed out on August 1st. Dr. Terry Kelley with Cooperative Extension reminded the Taskforce of Farm City Day scheduled for October 4th.

Next Meeting:

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair
Commissioner Sheila Franklin, Chair
Henderson County Farmland Preservation Taskforce