

Henderson County
Farmland Preservation Taskforce: February 10, 2025

The Farmland Preservation Taskforce held a meeting on February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room located at 100 N. King Street.

Taskforce Member	Present	Absent
Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair	✓	
Commissioner Sheila Franklin, Chair	✓	
Danny McConnell – 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	✓	
Alan Ward – At large		✓
Danielle McCall – At large	✓	

Also present:

R = attended remotely

- Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager
- Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner
- Liz Hanson, Planner I
- April Hoyt, Henderson County Soil & Water
- Jonathan Wallin, Henderson County Soil & Water
- Dr. Terry Kelley, NC Cooperative Extension
- Kieran Roe, Conserving Carolina
- Tom Fanslow, Conserving Carolina

Commissioner and Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall led the invocation and pledge after the meeting was called to order.

Introduction of New Member:

Taskforce Chair and Commissioner McCall welcomed Commissioner Sheila Franklin as the new Taskforce Co-Chair.

Adjustment and Approval of Agenda:

There was no quorum for this meeting; therefore, the meeting agenda could not be approved.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment for this meeting.

Adjustment and Approval of December 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

There was no quorum for this meeting; therefore, the December 9, 2024, meeting minutes could not be approved.

AGZ Grant Update & Landowner Outreach Discussion

Staff provided an update on the NC ADFPTF Agricultural Growth Zone Grant application, which was submitted on January 14, 2025. Staff also informed the Taskforce that the potential funding freeze will not impact the AGZ grant funding. Staff anticipates funding awards to be announced in the Summer of 2025.

Staff presented the Taskforce with several questions regarding the most effective ways to reach farmers and landowners to garner interest in Agricultural Conservation Easements, Voluntary Agricultural Districts, and other farmland preservation methods. Staff were requested to host several meetings throughout the County to promote the Voluntary Agricultural District program and farmland preservation as a whole.

Taskforce Recommendations Discussion

Staff presented the previously discussed list of recommendations made by the Taskforce. Staff also informed the Taskforce that they would be presenting the Chapter 45 Ordinance Amendments to the Agricultural Advisory Board at their February 26, 2025 meeting.

Next Meeting:

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 10, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

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