

**Henderson County
Farmland Preservation Taskforce: December 9, 2024**

The Farmland Preservation Taskforce held a meeting on December 9, 2024, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room located at 100 N. King Street.

Taskforce Member	Present	Absent
Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair	✓	
Hunter Marks – Planning Board		✓
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:

Chris Todd, Assistant County Manager
 Autumn Radcliff, Planning Director
 Janna Bianculli, Senior Planner
 Liz Hanson, Planner I
 April Hoyt, Henderson County Soil & Water
 Dr. Terry Kelley, NC Cooperative Extension
 Kieran Roe, Conserving Carolina

R = attended remotely

Commissioner and Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance:

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

Adjustment and Approval of Agenda:

Taskforce Chair Rebecca McCall requested that Dr. Terry Kelley present the impacts of Hurricane Helene on the agriculture community as an additional agenda item under Staff Updates. Taskforce member Gary Steiner motioned to approve the meeting agenda with this addition. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

The League of Women Voters provided a letter to the Taskforce Chair.

Adjustment and Approval of November 18, 2024, Meeting Minutes:

Taskforce member Danielle McCall motioned to approve the November 18, 2024; meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Staff Updates:

Dr. Kelley presented the Taskforce with information regarding the aftermath and impacts of Hurricane Helene in late September 2024. Dr. Kelley shared the estimated crop losses in the County due to the storm, totaling \$38,511,297. Dr. Kelley also shared the total loss of other products, livestock, infrastructure, and agritourism. The total losses reported are \$135,294,017.40. Dr. Kelley shared that this information was gathered from a survey distributed to over 1,000 people approximately two weeks after the hurricane. Dr. Kelley also shared that they are continuing to gather data and other information.

Discussion:

Agricultural Growth Zone (AGZ) Grant Application Continued– Scoring Criteria & Priority Areas

At their previous meeting, the Taskforce discussed the Local Scoring Criteria for the Agricultural Growth Zone (AGZ) grant. The Taskforce requested several changes, and Staff presented the updated Local Scoring Criteria to the Taskforce. Staff also presented an updated AGZ map of priority zones to the Taskforce based on their requests. The Taskforce continued their discussion of the Local Priority Scoring Criteria and AGZ map. Staff also covered the next steps of the grant application and reminded the Taskforce of the January 17, 2025, due date for the application. Staff also mentioned that they plan to submit the grant application several days before the January 17th deadline.

Staff also shared that they had sent out Letter of Support requests to many different agricultural groups, organizations, and individuals for the AGZ grant application. Staff have received several Letters of Support in return.

Next Meeting:

The next Taskforce meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:00 PM in the King Street Meeting Room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Commissioner Rebecca McCall, Chair
Henderson County Farmland Preservation Taskforce