

MEETING NOTES

Catawba County Farm & Food Sustainability Plan Working Committee October 18, 2012

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Burris, Jeff Carpenter, Jeff Elmore, Martha Green, Clarence Hood, Nathan Huret, Tom Kenney, Al King, Julie Lehmann and Dave McCart

STAFF PRESENT:

Mary George and Sue Ballbach with Planning, Parks, and Development; Tom Lundy, Mary Furtado and Haley Kadish with County Managers Office

OTHERS PRESENT:

Alex Fulbright, City of Newton Planning Department

ACCEPTANCE OF POLICY & PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

Mary George welcomed everyone in attendance. She reviewed the revised Policy/Regulation Recommendations which were highlighted in their agenda packet. The revisions were based upon the discussions from the last meeting which primarily removed the recommendations relative to the establishment of a mitigation fund. She asked the Committee if the revised recommendations were accepted as submitted. The Committee agreed.

Mary then reviewed the revised Project recommendations which incorporated organic food production at the Eco-Complex. The Committee also accepted the revised recommendations as submitted. Mary reminded the Committee that they would need to revisit the responsibilities for these two areas to determine other agencies/entities who could be partners in implementing those tasks.

PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS –SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Mary broke up the Committee members into small groups to begin developing the education program recommendations. The three groups then individually discussed Public Education Programs, Children/Schools Education Programs and Farmers Education Programs based upon

the top-rated public input received at the community meetings. After completing the development of the recommendations, Mary informed them that the Partnership and Marketing Program Recommendations will be the subject of the next meeting.

REVIEW COMMENTS/ACTION ITEMS FROM COMMODITY GROWERS

Mary asked Clarence, Jeff Carpenter and Jeff Elmore to share the results of the questionnaire interviews they conducted with the commodity growers. Clarence indicated that most of the concerns he heard was regarding the availability of land. Also, labor was an issue which could be addressed through working with the Employment Security Commission or FFA teachers with specific technology courses. Mary said these comments will need to be translated into action items developed by the Committee member for full Committee review.

NEXT MEETING

Mary indicated that the Committee needs another meeting to work through the Program recommendations. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 8.

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary George, Project Manager