

Jackson County Agriculture Advisory Board
c/o Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
Skyland Services Center
876 Skyland Drive, Suite 5
Sylva, NC 28779
(828) 586-5465

May 14, 2021

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
401 Grindstaff Cove Road
Sylva, NC 28779

Dear Jackson County Commissioners,

At a regular meeting on May 13, 2021, the Jackson County Agriculture Advisory Board approved changing Section 5.5-Tenure of the Appendix C - REGULATED DISTRICTS - AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT¹¹ Ordinance to remove the following “; provided, however, no member (other than an ex officio member) shall serve more than three consecutive full terms.” The Jackson County Agricultural Advisory Board feels like this stipulation in the ordinance hinders the Board’s ability to find and keep motivated members on the board who are passionate about keeping farmland in Jackson County.

The Agriculture Advisory Board also approved submitting the proposed Board appointments of Neil Dawson to the open District Three board seat as well as appointing Charles Fowler to Kent Cochran’s At-Large seat being vacated on June 1, 2021 and reappointing John Brown and Chet Stephens to their At-Large seats up for reappointment on June 1, 2021 pending the Commissioner’s approval of the Ordinance Change.

If you have any questions regarding these matters, please feel free to contact Barry Stevens at (828)586-5465.

Thank you for your willingness to help preserve and protect farmland in Jackson County and for your support of this program.

Sincerely,



Barry Stevens
Director, Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
On Behalf of the Jackson County Agriculture Advisory Board

JACKSON COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Date: May 13, 2021								
Time Begin: 6:35 pm								
Time End: 7:30 pm								
Location: Cooperative Extension Kitchen								
Members	Present	Absent		Present	Absent		Present	Absent
William Shelton	X		EMPTY		X	Chet Stephens	X	
Frank Burrell		X	Joe Grasty	X				
John Brown	X		Kent Cochran		X			

Others Present: Jane Fitzgerald, Barry Stevens, Amanda Buchanan, Rob Hawk

In the absence of officers, Chet graciously ran the meeting.

Barry stated that the Agriculture Advisory Board has lost Charles Fowler, Chairman, and Bryan Bumgarner, Vice Chairman, due to their terms expiring because of the way the ordinance is written. The ordinance states that members may only serve three consecutive terms of three years. Charles and Bryan have both served their three terms. County Administration stated that the proposed ordinance change could be brought before the Board of Commissioners. Joe made a motion to change the ordinance to remove the three term limit for the Agriculture Advisory Board. William seconded the motion, and it carried, Barry will write something up to be reviewed at the next Commissioner's meeting.

The Agriculture Advisory Board currently has one open seat for District 3 and the three At-Large positions will all expire on June 1, 2021. Discussion was held about who could fill those seats. Joe made a motion to have Neil Dawson fill the empty District 3 seat, to reappoint John Brown and Chet Stephens to their At-Large seats and appoint Charles Fowler to Kent Cochran's At-Large seat expiring in June. William seconded the motion and Barry will present the suggestions to the Commissioners for their approval.

There is one application for the Enhanced Voluntary Agriculture District (EVAD) program, but with the absence of Board Officials, applications will be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting. Barry also stated there could be at least one more application by the next meeting. Board positions will also be elected at the next meeting.

Other Business: There is an upcoming free virtual Voluntary Agricultural District workshop on June 9th and 10th from 9am until 12pm. It would be good for the Advisory Board members as a refresher. Jane will have the meeting set up in the office for those who can attend or it can be viewed on your own.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, July 8th, 6pm in the Cooperative Extension Kitchen

With no other business, Joe made a motion to adjourn, John seconded the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.



AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Amended February 04, 2016

Amended _____, 2021

Amend Appendix C Regulated Districts - Agricultural Districts as follows:

Article 5 – Agricultural Advisory Board:
Section 5.5 Tenure:

Initially, the terms of members shall be as follows: the three at-large members shall be appointed for a term of one year; the members from Regions 1 and 2 shall be appointed for terms of two years; and the members from Regions 3 and 4 shall be appointed for terms of three years. Thereafter, all appointments are to be for terms of three years, with reappointment permitted; ~~provided, however, no member (other than an ex officio member) shall serve more than three consecutive terms.~~

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force on _____, 2021.

Adopted this ____ day _____, 2021, by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
BRIAN THOMAS MCMAHAN, Chairman

Attest:

ANGELA M. WINCHESTER, Clerk to the Board