

Farmland Preservation Committee Meeting Minutes May 6, 2019, Government Annex Building

Committee members present were Sam Mitchell, Thomas Verner, Delmar Finco, Thad Padgett and Chair: Carole Ludwig

First order of business discussed were the rules changed by the USDA that the counties no longer were required to contribute 25% of total grant money to settle selected farms.

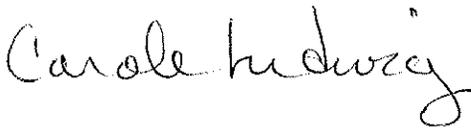
Sam Mitchell voiced his opinion that this practice would be a negative in the effort to get suitable farm owners to apply to the program. Carol Ludwig agreed with a previous idea that had been advanced by Krizstian Varga that some farm owners would be happy with the 50% grant money if the new rules were known to them in advance.

Discussion about whether our committee should go ahead with selection of a farm this year, and the consensus was that even though we were operating under new rules, that we should still give landowners the opportunity to apply for the program if they wished, but we should make the new rules clear to them. The motion by Thomas Verner carried.

Also discussed was the possibility of seeking out individuals that might make tax-free donations to the Athens Land Trust that would boost the settlement amount. Carole Ludwig said she had already been in contact with some potential donors that showed promise, and also that she had planned a meeting with Wes Geddings to discuss the possibility of the County volunteering some (but not 25%) SPLOST funds for additions to settlements.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carole Ludwig". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Carole Ludwig