

Special Meeting – January 9, 2025

The Graham County Board of Commissioners met Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. in the Graham County Community Building located at 196 Knight Street Robbinsville, NC for a special meeting. All board was present.

1. Chair Smith called the meeting to order.
2. Chair Smith asks for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to approve. Commissioner Williams seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
3. Chair Smith asks NC Department of Agriculture Evan Davis to speak. Mr. Davis gave a history of the agricultural districts which started in 1965. Mr. Davis stated that the purpose of such agricultural districts should be to increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life and to decrease the likelihood of legal disputes, such as nuisance actions between farm owners and their neighbors, and other negative impacts on properly managed farms. Mr. Davis stated that the benefits are recognition of farms, promotion of agriculture and reducing land conversion threat.
4. Mr. Davis stated that the conservation agreement's overall goal is to prohibit non-farm use or development in the districts. Mr. Davis stated that all counties should require that land records include some form of notice reasonably calculated to alert a person researching the title of a particular tract that such tract is located within one-half mile of the property line of any tract of land enrolled in a voluntary agricultural district.
5. Mr. Corey Hoilman stated that they would be glad to give assistance to the county. Mr. Darnell stated that this is a great opportunity for the agriculture community in Graham County and is very pleased that this board recognized the importance of the heritage for the county.
6. Mr. Davis stated that an advisory board would need to be appointed within the county.
7. Commissioner Nelms asks for the next steps. Commissioner Nelms stated that we needed to get with Attorney Coward and get the ordinance in place. Commissioner Nelms made the motion to make one district for the Graham County Voluntary Agricultural District. Chair Smith seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.
8. Commissioner Orr asks that Chair Smith sit on this committee for the district. The board all agreed to get the ordinance to the attorney and get the committee appointed.
9. Chair Smith asks for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Orr made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Nelms seconded this motion. Vote unanimous.

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Meggan Smith, Chair, Graham County Commissioner

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Lynn Cody, Vice-Chairman, Graham County Commissioner

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Jacob Nelms, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Connie Orr, Member, Graham County Commissioner

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Natasha Williams, Member, Graham County Commissioner

ATTEST:

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Kim Crisp, Clerk to the Board