CLARKE COUNTY

Conservation Easement Authority

Friday – 13 September – 10:00 am A/B & Main Conference Room, 2nd Floor Government Center

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Approval of Agenda
- 3. Approval of Minutes of the August 9, 2024 meeting
- 4. Bank Account balances
- 5. Campaign for the Authority
- 6. PEC updates from Tia Earman
- 7. Discussion
 - a. Landowner grant contribution
- 8. Easement Donation/Purchase
 - a. Summary of easement applications/inquiries
 - b. Mike & Geetha Berry TM 32-A-66 DUR Purchase new application
- 9. Adjournment The next meeting is scheduled for Friday October 11 at 10:00

Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority

Draft - Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 9, 2024 – 10:00 AM

Berryville/Clarke County Government Center – A/B Meeting Room

ATTENDANCE				
Randy Buckley (Chair)	✓	John Hedlund	✓	
George L. Ohrstrom, II (Vice-Chair)	X	Michelle Jones	✓	
Walker Thomas (Secretary/Treasurer)	X	Bev McKay	X	
Rives Bacon	✓			

STAFF PRESENT: Lorien Lemmon, Brandon Stidham (Planning Dept.)

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Couch-Cardillo

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Buckley, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Approval of the Agenda – August 9, 2024:

The Authority voted 4-0-0 to approve the Agenda with addition of Item 7b. Williams single-family dwelling size request.

Motion to approve the Agenda as amended:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE (seconded)	
Bacon	AYE	Jones	AYE (moved)	

Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 19, 2024:

The Authority voted 4-0-0 to approve the July 19, 2024 meeting minutes as amended with minor changes requested by the Authority.

Motion to approve Meeting minutes for July 19, 2024 as corrected:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE	
Bacon	AYE (moved)	Jones	AYE (seconded)	

Bank Account:

Ms. Lemmon reviewed the financial spreadsheets. Current fund balances show a total fund balance of \$577,970.77 consisting of \$165,703.15 in the donations account, \$242,826.91 in stewardship/restricted, and \$169,440.71 in local funds. Ms. Lemmon explained that the expenditures for July included the \$500 sponsorship of the Livestock sale dinner at the County Fair.

Ms. Lemmon reviewed the remaining VDACS funds and relayed her conversation with Amanda Scheps, the program manager of the Working Lands Preservation office at the Department of Forestry (DOF). Ms. Lemmon explained that due to the transition from VDACS to DOF to expect a delay in DUR purchase easement closings until DOF streamlines a process for deed review with their attorneys. She noted that this delay will likely effect the Williams and Fansler easements but is hopeful that closing will still occur before the end of the year. If closing is pushed into the next year due to deed review delays with DOF, Ms. Lemmon stated that she will request another extension for the FY22 funds.

Campaign for the Authority:

Ms. Couch-Cardillo stated that donations were \$10,670 from 78 donors and that she had interviewed the Bryant's for the summer newsletter. She reviewed her plans to set up a booth at the Clarke County Fair with new banners and decorations and reminded the Authority of the donor reception in October. Ms. Lemmon volunteered to reach out to Vice-chair Ohrstrom about rentals and catering for the donor reception.

Ms. Lemmon mentioned that she did reach out to Sharon Keeler, the County Treasurer, regarding mailing the fall newsletter. Ms. Keeler stated that the Treasurer's office is now outsourcing their mailers for the tax bill but was open to the Authority including their fall newsletter in with the tax bills so long as the donation remittance envelopes are omitted.

Ms. Couch-Cardillo reported that the CEA had one new donor, Joseph Ponte, for the month of July.

Discussion:

a. Teetor minor subdivision request

Alison Teetor placed property identified by Clarke County Tax Map# 11-A-5A located at 939 Salem Church Rd into easement with the County in 2010. In accordance with estate planning, Ms. Teetor would like to exercise her right to subdivide her property. The deed of easement allows for division as follows:

"The Property shall not be divided into, or separately conveyed as, more than two parcels; provided, however, (i) the permitted additional lot shall not exceed 4.95 acres, (ii) the subdivision creating such lot shall be approved by the Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority, as well as the County, and (iii) in no event shall the subdivision creating the lot result in a residual parcel of less than fifty (50) acres."

Ms. Teetor has also added a building envelope to the 4.95-acre lot that will be recorded on the plat.

The Authority voted 4-0-0 to approve the Teetor minor subdivision.

Motion to grant approval of Teetor minor subdivision request:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE (moved)	
Bacon	AYE (seconded)	Jones	AYE	

b. Williams single family dwelling size request

George Williams has applied to the easement authority for approval of a DUR purchase. The property is currently vacant and located on the west side of Kennel Rd, approximately 1700 feet from the intersection of Kennel Rd and John Mosby Highway. The property is identified by Tax Map #30-A-47B, is 22.22 acres, and has 2 DURs. The applicant would like to retire 1 of the 2 remaining DURs and the parcel is in enrolled in use value taxation.

A site visit was conducted April 19 and the Authority voted to approve the DUR purchase for \$40,000 on May 10. On July 19 the Authority approved a 6,000 square foot allowance for a single family dwelling if the applicant agreed to move the building envelopes back to where staff had originally placed them or allow 6,000 sq. ft. in Building Envelope 1 and 4,500 sq. ft. in Building Envelope 2 for the building envelope locations selected by the applicant.

The applicant has revised the building envelope locations and is requesting a 5,500 sq. ft. allowance for either building envelope. The Authority reviewed the new building envelopes and voted 4-0-0 to approve a 4,500 sq. ft. single-family dwelling for building envelope 1 and a 5,500 sq. ft. single-family dwelling for building envelope 2.

Motion to grant conditional approval of the Williams single family dwelling expansion request:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE (seconded)	
Bacon	AYE (moved)	Jones	AYE	

Report on Easement Donations/Purchases:

a. Summary of easement applications/inquiries

Ms. Lemmon gave a broad overview of the current status of active applications and inquiries for easements. She stated that Mr. Weir had been out of town and wants to hay before the Authority conducts the site visit. She also mentioned that she will apply for the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) grant for this easement. Ms. Lemmon stated that there has been some progress on the Fansler easement application since Ms. Teetor found a new contact with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) but a closing date is still unknown.

Ms. Lemmon explained that there were two strong applications for grants due this fall, which pushed the other inquiries towards a DUR purchase, donation, or to be considered next year's grant cycle.

b. RSP Enterprises – Grant Purchase - TM# 16-A-1 – new application

Betsy Pritchard, co-owner RSP Enterprises (Smithfield Farm) has applied to the easement authority for approval of an easement purchase using grant funds. The property is located 660 Smithfield Lane off of Wickliffe Road adjacent to the West Virginia line. The property is identified by Tax Map# 16-A-1. Once merged with two 3-acre adjacent parcels, it will consist of 164 acres with 4 DUR's, 2 existing dwellings, and a farm store. The primary use is for grazing and hay production. The applicant proposes to retire 4 of the remaining DURs.

The property meets all of the 4 criteria. The property resource score is 162. The applicant would retire 4 of the remaining DURs. It is next to an existing easement, property that the Pritchard's own and placed in easement in 2021, and it is more than 40 acres. Points were given for retiring 4 DURs, having a perennial stream, frontage on a scenic byway, and being owned by the same family for more than 200 years.

Ms. Lemmon explained that this is an excellent candidate for grant funds. The adjoining parcel was approved for both federal (ALE) and state (VLCF) grant funding in 2021.

The Authority voted 4-0-0 to approve the preliminary application of the RSP Enterprises grant purchase and request staff to schedule a site visit.

Motion to grant preliminary approval of the RSP Enterprises easement grant purchase:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE	
Bacon	AYE (seconded)	Jones	AYE (moved)	

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Authority agreed to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 AM. The next Clarke County Easement Authority meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2024 at 10 AM in the A/B conference room, Government Center, Berryville.

The Authority voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the August 9, 2024 meeting at 10:35 AM.

Motion to adjourn to the August 9, 2024 meeting at 10:35 AM:				
Buckley (Chair)	AYE	Hedlund	AYE (moved)	
Bacon	AYE	Jones	AYE (seconded)	

Randy Buckley, Chair	Lorien Lemmon, Clerk to the Authority

Fund 235 - Conservation Easement Balances

			Stewardship/Restricted	
	Total Fund Balance	Donations (128)	Funds Account (210)	Local Funds (000)
SOY FY25	576,815.77	164,548	242,827	169,441
Fiscal Year 2025				
July Rev/AR		1,655	0	0
July Exps/AP		-500	0	0
Aug Rev/AR		500	0	0
Aug Exps/AP		-921	-1,144	0
Sept Rev/AR		0	0	0
Sept Exps/AP		0	0	0
Oct Rev/AR		0	0	0
Oct Exps/AP		0	0	0
Nov Rev/AR		0	0	0
Nov Exps/AP		0	0	0
Dec Rev/AR		0	0	0
Dec Exps/AP		0	0	0
Jan Rev/AR		0	0	0
Jan Exps/AP		0	0	0
Feb Rev/AR		0	0	0
Feb Exps/AP		0	0	0
Mar Rev/AR		0	0	0
Mar Exps/AP		0	0	0
Apr Rev/AR		0	0	0
Apr Exps/AP		0	0	0
May Rev/AR		0	0	0
May Exps/AP		0	0	0
June Rev/AR		0	0	0
June Exps/AP		0	0	0
YTD Rev/AR	2,155.00		0.00	0.00
YTD Exps/AP	2,565.00	1,421.00	1,144.00	0.00
Adjustments				
YTD FUND BALANCE (AR & AP)	576,405.77	165,282.15	241,682.91	169,440.71

ESTIMATED YTD FUND BALANCE	576,405,77	165.282.15	241.682.91	169,440,71

			Appropriated Balance	
FY25 Expenditure Appropriations	<u>Appropriated</u>	Actual Expenses	<u>Remaining</u>	
General Expenses	45,000	2,565	42,435 0	Clarke County: includes expenses not spe designated to an easemen
	45,000	2,565	42,435	(including donation, stewa monthly Hall, Monahan ex

ecifically wardship and expenses).

Through 08/31/24 Conservation Easement Expense Detail - FY25

	Donations (128)	Stewardship (210)	Local Funds (000)
July	500.00 Livestock sale dinner donation		
	500.00	0.00	0.00
<u>August</u>	640.00 Robin Couch Cardillo July 2024	1,144.00 Easement Inspections Intern	
	32.00 Winchester Printers Conservation Maps		
	249.00 Winchester Printers CCEA Banners		
	921.00	1,144.00	0.00
	<u>Donations</u>	Stewardship	<u>Local Funds</u>
YTD Totals	1,421.00	1,144.00	0.00

VDACS

As of 8/31/24 EXTENDED 12/31/24

Close Date	Project	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY2023	FY2024	TOTALS
		use by June 30, 2019	use by June 30, 2020	use by June 30, 2021	use by June 30, 2022	use by June 30, 2023	use by June 30, 2024	use by June 30, 2025	use by June 30, 2026]
		\$86,950.00	\$61,615.23	\$75,738.77	\$58,333.00	\$54,000.00	\$156,476.00	\$175,000.00	\$165,400.00	\$833,513.00
										1
November 2018	Sprouse	-\$31,104.00								1
February 2019	Opequon Cattle	-\$55,846.00	-\$696.00							1
May 2019	Rowland		-\$38,148.50							
October 2019	Coleman		-\$21,448.00							
June 2020	Expired		-\$1,322.73							
July 2021	Moon			-\$40,717.75						
December 2021	RSP			-\$35,021.02	-\$48,435.98					
May 2022	Murphy				-\$9,897.02	-\$54,000.00	-\$17,519.05			
August 2022	Dupuy						-\$20,981.50			
June 2023	Pippy						-\$26,140.50			
May 2024	Lilly						-\$40,528.16			
TOTAL REMAINING	<u> </u>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$51,306.79	\$175,000.00	\$165,400.00	\$391,706.79



September 6, 2024

Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority Fundraising Report September 2024 meeting

Donor Statistics

See attached Master Report

- 2024 year-to-date total: \$11,170.00 from 79 donations

Ongoing

- -Donor reception
 - -Friday, October 11, at George Ohrstrom's venue
 - -Confirm supplies, assignments (tent/tables/chairs, catering, scotch tasting, map, nametags, etc.)
 - -Invitations out this week
- -Fall newsletter
 - -Topics, profiles
 - -Mailing with tax bills or on its own?
- -Banners
- -Three large, outdoor banners ready to rotate among several county locations, with permission (Clermont?); developing mini-posters for community bulletin boards, shops, etc.
- -New donors
 - -No first-time donors in August

Fundraising Results: Clarke County Conservation Easement Authority

as of September 6, 2024	ii ke ooai	ity Consci	vation La		acriority							
as of deptember 0, 2024	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Amount	\$42,266	\$36,260	\$57,356.00	\$24,778.00	\$26,101.00	\$34,815.28	\$38,230.00	\$36,822.80	\$37,739.00	\$35,967.00	\$32,966.00	\$11,170.00
# Donations	200	169	158	164	169	169	167	209	206	201	180	79
# Bondions	200	100	100	104	100	100	107	200	200	201	100	70
YE Donor Appeal	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
YE Donor Appeal Amount	\$15,706	\$17,635	\$47,003	\$15,665	\$7,577	\$16,755	\$16,710	\$16,232	\$16,915	\$17,887	\$16,610	
Donor Respondents	69	51	61	47	48	58	52	73	73	83	78	
YE Prospect Amount		\$1,650	\$104	\$25	\$325	\$2,200	\$200	\$120	\$350	\$175	\$150	
Prospect Respondents		3	2	1	3	4	3	2	1	3	1	
Winter Newsletter	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dollar Amount	\$4,805	\$3,335	\$2,700	\$2,228	\$2,815	\$4,920	\$2,668	\$3,105	\$1,710	\$4,371	\$1,875	\$2,845
Respondents	39	26	25	29	39	29	32	43	22	28	16	27
Spring Newsletter	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Donor: Dollar Amount	\$1,975	\$3,705	\$3,420	\$2,725	\$2,810	\$1,600	\$2,500	\$2,762	\$8,650	\$3,131	\$3,975	\$4,770
Donor: Respondents	28	26	27	19	23	15	23	18	44	27	16	24
payer Spring Newsletter: Dollar Am	\$165	\$1,380	\$100	\$75	\$1,150	\$550	\$2,045	\$615	\$130	\$250	\$525	\$1,205
yer Spring Newsletter: Respondent	4	9	1	3	8	3	6	6	2	4	6	12
Summer Newsletter	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dollar Amount	\$5,040	\$3,215	\$1,927	\$2,115	\$3,110	\$4,480	\$2,135	\$5,260	\$6,445	\$4,088	\$4,625	
Respondents	22	27	22	28	20	38	23	30	31	22	31	
(new)									3	1	1	
Fall Newsletter	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Donor: Dollar Amount	\$2,660	\$2,325	\$1,250	\$600	\$3,870	\$220	\$2,925	\$6,244	\$1,380	\$3,095	\$1,721	
Donor: Respondents	27	14	3	6	11	4	11	16	11	8	9	
Taxpayer Fall Newsletter Dollar Am	\$240	\$760		\$325	\$1,200	\$100	\$100	\$410	\$450		\$1,000	
cpayer Fall Newsletter: Respondent	5	5		5	4	1	1	5	5		1	
Over the Transom	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dollar Amount	10,500	\$1,550	\$257	\$362	\$2,230.00	\$3,970	\$8,665	\$1,980	\$1,709	\$2,970.00	\$2,485.00	\$2,350.00
Donor Respondents	2	2	3	12	7	17	10	14	14	25	21	16
Donor Thank-You Party	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Dollar Amount	\$1,175	\$705	\$595	\$638	\$710							
Donor Respondents	4	6	14	14	6							
Photo Revenue				\$ 20								
Notecards					\$304		282 (6)	94.80 (2)				
Gift-in-Kind (admin work donated												
by Kate Petranech)	\$469											

MEMORANDUM

TO: Easement Authority

FROM: Alison Teetor, Lorien Lemmon

DATE: September 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Landowner grant contribution

Traditionally landowners have been asked to contribute 25% of the appraised value for grant purchase easements as a donation and as a way to offset capital gains tax. Of the 18 grant purchase easements only 1 has contributed less than 25% of the appraised value as a donation. Staff are suggesting that if the landowner would like to reduce their 25% contribution, then staff would ask the owner to provide their average annual adjusted gross income in each of the three most recent tax years. The amount of the reduction of the 25% is based on the 3-year average adjusted income of the owner and would be essentially the inverse of the chart used to determine DUR purchases, where lower income landowners would receive the largest reduction (see example below).

Average Annual Adjusted Gross Income	Percentage of Landowners contribution (% x 25%)
\$ 0 - \$55,000	4%
\$55,001 - \$65,000	10%
\$65,001 - \$75,000	16%
\$75,001 - \$85,000	22%
\$85,001 - \$95,000	28%
\$95,001 - \$105,000	34%
\$105,001 - \$115,000	40%
\$115,001 - \$125,000	46%
\$125,001 - \$135,000	52%
\$135,001 - \$145,000	58%
\$145,001 - \$155,000	64%
\$155,001 - \$165,000	70%
\$165,001 - \$175,000	76%
\$175,001 - \$185,000	82%
\$185,001 - \$195,000	88%
\$195,001 - \$205,000	94%
\$205,001 or more	100%

Typically grants provide 50% of the funds for an appraised value purchase and the County and landowner split the remaining 50%. In order to reduce the landowner contribution, the County share would increase. By basing the landowner contribution off of income, staff would be able to focus the available local funds toward lower- and middle-income property owners that benefit less (sometimes not at all) from federal tax deductions and state tax credits.

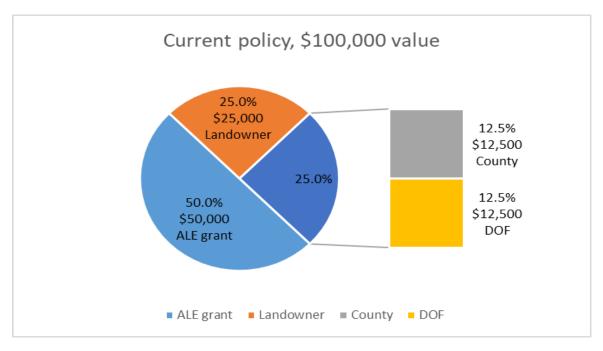
Example - Determination of Owner contribution – Owner Income

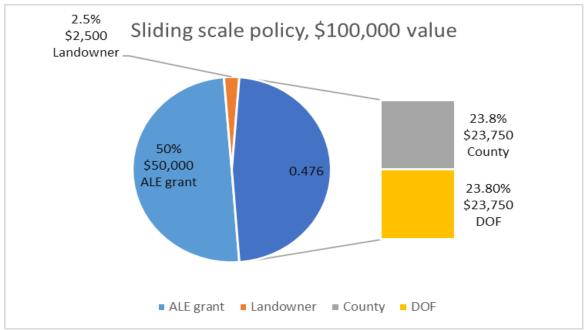
Part of determining the contribution required by the landowner for an easement purchase is calculating owner income. There are 3 basic formulas to apply depending on ownership type.

- 1) Single owner or family (one tax return)
 - a) obtain copies of 3 most recent tax returns (1040) usually page 1&2 are all that is needed
 - b) average the adjusted gross income (AGI) for the 3 years return
 - c) example: Joe Smith owns parcel X

<u>Name</u>	2005	<u>2006</u>	2007	3 yr average AGI
Joe Smith	\$55,000	\$65,000	\$48,000	\$56,000

If the appraised value of the easement is \$100,000, the owner donation is 25% or \$25,000. The owner AGI is \$56,000 therefore the owner donation would be reduced to 10% of \$25,000 or \$2,500, increasing the County, and DOF, contribution to \$47,500.





Recommendation

Approve the proposed sliding scale landowner contribution for grant purchase easements.

Memorandum

To: Conservation Easement Authority

From: A. Teetor, L. Lemmon

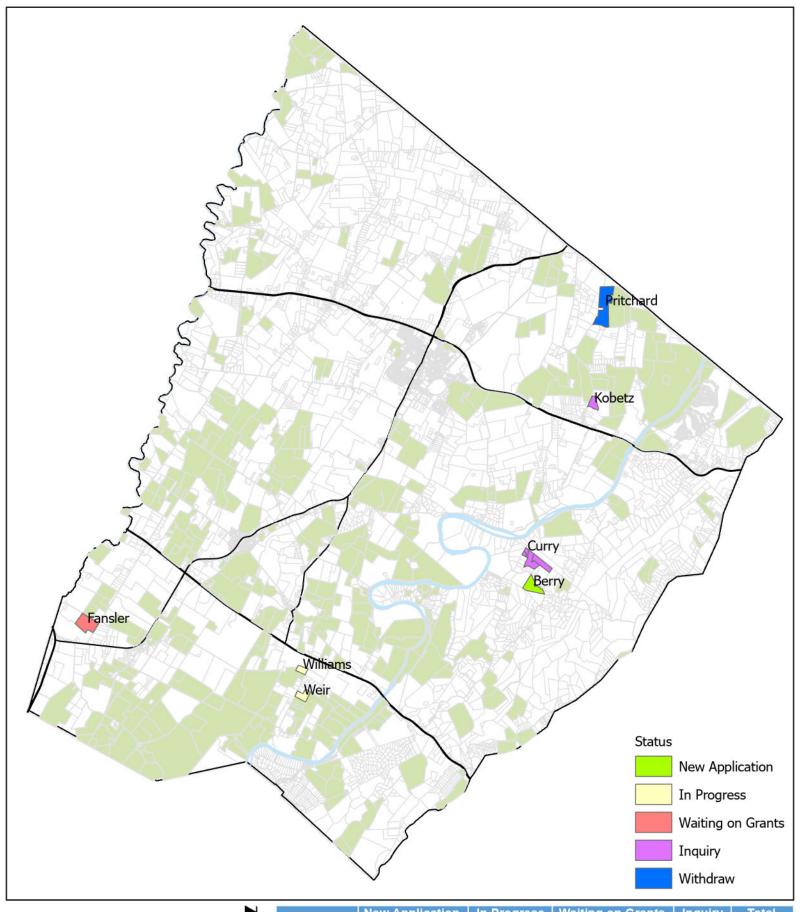
Subject: Status update - active easement applications/inquiries

Date: September 6, 2024

Active Applicatio	ns					
Name	Tax Map#	Address	Acres	DURs retired	Туре	status
Mike & Geetha Berry	32-A-66	790 Frogtown Rd	60	1	DUR purchase	Prelim app received – wants to do BLA w/neighboring church
Jaime Weir	30-A-58	903 Kennel Rd	35.5	1	Grant purchase	Preliminary Application Received
George Williams, IV	30-A-47B	Vacant, adjacent to 502 Kennel Rd.	22.22	1	DUR purchase	Site visit complete. Applicant agreed to bld evn and SFD size restrictions – still waiting on purchase agreement
James Fansler	27-A-3	225 Nations Spring Road	88.95	3	Grant purchase	ALE application approved – still no closing date

Inquiry						
Name	Tax Map#	Address	Acres	DURs Retired	Туре	Status
Tad Curry	24-A-18, 24-A-18A, 24-A-18B	Vacant, adjacent to 439 Frogtown Rd	~70 (in process of BLA)	1 out of 3	DUR purchase	Information sent -waiting on prelim app - working w/Jeremy on BLA w/neighbor
Eleanor Kobetz	16-A-20	562 Shepards Mill Rd	30.3 (stream frontage)	? of 2	DUR Purchase or grant	Is looking at appraisal costs

Withdraw						
RSP Enterprises	16-A-1	660 Smithfield Ln (farm store half of Smithfield Farm)	163	3 out of 3	Grant Purchase	Prelim app received – applicant withdrew application 8/12/24





1 0.5 0 1 Miles

Clarke County GIS September 6, 2024

	New Application	In Progress	Waiting on Grants	Inquiry	Total
Acres	60	58	89	129	336
Retired DURs	1	2	4	5	12
Donation	0	0	0	0	0
Purchase	1	2	1	2	6

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Conservation Easement Authority FROM: Lorien Lemmon, Alison Teetor

DATE: September 3, 2024

SUBJECT: Application for DUR purchase – Mike and Geetha Berry

Michael and Geetha Berry have applied to the easement authority for approval of a DUR purchase easement. The property is located at 790 Frogtown Rd, is approximately 80 feet north of the intersection of Frogtown and Morgan Mill Rd, and is identified by Tax Map# 32-A-66. The property consists of 60 acres, has 2 DURs, and the principle property use is grazing and timber harvest.

The parcel is zoned FOC and is currently in use value taxation, in accord with the Commissioner of Revenue's requirements, therefore a purchase may be considered if at least two of the following four guidelines are met:

- 1) the parcel's Property Resource Score is at least 35;
- 2) at least one dwelling unit right is extinguished by the conservation easement;
- 3) the parcel is adjacent to a parcel already under permanent conservation easement;
- 4) the property has a minimum area of 40 acres.

The property meets 3 of the 4 criteria. The property resource score is 70.9, the applicant would retire 1 of the remaining 2 DURs, and it is more than 40 acres. The parcel is not adjacent to an existing permanent conservation easement. Points were given for extinguishing a DUR, having steep slopes, a spring, and being owned by the same family for more than 50 years.

Recommendation

Give preliminary approval and schedule a site visit.

