MEETING OF
THE DELAWARE AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

A meeting of the Delaware Agricultural Lands Preservation Foundation was held at the Delaware Department of Agriculture, 2320 S. DuPont Hwy Dover, Delaware, on June 19, 2019 **with the following members in attendance:**

- Chairman Robert Garey
- William Vanderwende
- Raymond E. Bivens
- Robert Emerson
- William H. Chip Narvel, Jr.
- L. Allen Messick, Jr.
- Theodore Bobola, Jr.
- Janice Truitt
- Susan Steward of behalf of Colleen Davis
- Peter Martin
- Secretary Michael Scuse

The following Foundation staff members were in attendance:

- Austin Short, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Scott Blaier
- Milton Melendez
- Howard Mesick
- Kathi Spangler
- Carrie Wanstall
- Jimmy Kroon

Others in attendance:

- Michael Parkowski, Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze
- Shane C. Heberling, Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze
- Kim Wilkinson, Losten's Dairy, LP

Chairman Garey opened the meeting at 8:29 AM.

I. Preservation Districts:

A. Current Situation Report:

Scott Blaier informed the Board there are currently 1,257 approved and pending districts and expansions in the program encompassing 174,273 acres. There are 16 easements pending settlement for Round 22 and 3 easements pending settlement for Round 21; once these are settled there will be 895 agricultural easements encompassing approximately 124,683 acres at an approximate cost of $219,347,630. A total of 7 new applications for calendar year 2019 have been received, totaling 1,053 acres. The preserved lands for Farmland and Forestland Preservation (once Round 21 & 22 easements settle) will total 906 easements encompassing 125,611 acres with an acquisition cost of approximately $221 million.

B. Young Farmers Report

Austin Short advised the Board that the one Young Farmers Loan (Andrew Jones) from Round 8 settled and all approved loans are now settled. Austin advised the Board that he has not received any new loan applications although he anticipates receiving an application very soon and he reminded the Board that it is now a continuous application period.

Mr. Messick recommended submitting an article to *The Delmarva Farmer* announcing the continuous application period for the Young Farmers Loan program. Austin agreed and will work with DDA staff to submit the article

C. Expansion Eligibility & Final Approval: There were no applications.

II. Secretary of Agriculture's Veto:

There were no district or expansion applications thus the Secretary of Agriculture's veto was not necessary.

III. Opportunity for Public Comments:

Mr. Parkowski introduced Mr. Shane C. Heberling, an attorney with the Parkowski, Guerke & Swayze law firm. Mr. Heberling has worked on Aglands Preservation matters including the Forestland Preservation Program bids. He works in the firm's Rehoboth office and will likely help with some of the future settlements for Sussex County farms.

IV. Minutes:

Chairman Garey asked if there were any comments or changes to the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes that were mailed to Board Members prior to today's meeting. Ms. Janice Truitt noted that her first name was mistakenly spelled as Janet and that Mr. Ralph Truitt's affiliation should be Delaware African American Farmers Association. **Mr. William Vanderwende moved to approve the May 15, 2019 meeting minutes with the requested corrections, seconded by Ms. Janice Truitt. Motion unanimously approved.**

V. Financial Highlights:

The **May 31, 2019** Financial Statements were presented by Howard Mesick, who reported that Funds Held by the State were $220,860.84 and funds in the State Interest Bearing Account were $361,672.08 for a total of $582,532.92. Monthly income of $1,153.65 was comprised of interest income of $789.94, $153.71 rollbacks and license plate income of $210.00. May Ordinary Total Expenses were $63,279.18, resulting in a May Net Income (Loss) of ($62,125.53). Net Income for

the year is $149,374.04. **Mr. William H. Chip Narvel, Jr. motioned to accept the May 31, 2019 Financial Statements as presented, seconded by Mr. Robert Emerson. Motion unanimously approved.**

VI. Executive Session

Mr. L. Allen Messick Jr. motioned for an Executive Session, seconded by Mr. William H. Chip Narvel, Jr. Motion unanimously approved.

VII. Round 23 Easement Selections

Mr. Raymond E. Bivens motioned to accept the Round 23 Easement Selections as presented and to be announced on Monday June 24, 2019, seconded by Ms. Susan Steward. Mr. Theodore Bobola, Jr., Mr. William Vanderwende and Mr. L. Allen Messick Jr. recused themselves from voting. Motion unanimously approved.

VIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business for the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m. The next meeting of the Foundation is **Wednesday July17, 2019**, at the Delaware Department of Agriculture beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Garey
Chairman