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Grantor(s): Pamlico County

Grantee(s): Pamlico County

**PAMLICO COUNTY
VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT &
ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE**

**ARTICLE I
TITLE**

This program, adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Pamlico County, North Carolina, shall be known as the **Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District Ordinance**.

**ARTICLE II
AUTHORITY**

The articles and sections of this program ordinance are adopted pursuant to the authority conferred by N.C. General Statutes Sections §§106-735 through 106-744 and Chapter 153A.

**ARTICLE III
PURPOSE**

The purpose of this program ordinance is to promote the general welfare of the county and more specifically, increase identity and pride in the agricultural community and its way of life; encourage the economic and financial health of agriculture, horticulture and forestry; create awareness of agricultural area within the county; inform non-farming neighbors and potential land purchasers of the presence of agricultural activities; provide the agricultural community an opportunity to provide input to the Pamlico County Commissioners in their decisions that may affect agriculture; and, increase protection from non-farm development and other negative impacts on properly managed farms.

**ARTICLE IV
DEFINITIONS**

Advisory Board: The Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board.

Board of Commissioners: The Board of Commissioners of Pamlico County, North Carolina.

Chairperson: Chairman of the Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Advisory Board

District: A Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District established under the terms and conditions of this program by the Board of Commissioners.

Enhanced District: Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District as established by this ordinance.

**ARTICLE V
AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD**

A. Creation

The Board of Commissioners shall establish an Advisory Board to implement the provisions of this program.

B. Appointments and Memberships

The Advisory Board shall consist of five members appointed by the Board of Commissioners, plus one appointment by each the governing body of each municipality in which this Ordinance has been made effective by mutual consent, if any, with an effort to have the broadest geographic representation and commodity interest as possible and feasible.

C. Membership Requirements

1. Each board member shall be a Pamlico County resident or land owner.
2. Four of the five County members shall be actively engaged in farming.
3. The four members actively engaged in farming shall be selected for appointment by the Board of Commissioners from the names of individuals submitted to the Board of Commissioners by the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, The Farm Service Agency and the Pamlico County Farm Bureau with an effort to have the broadest geographical and commodity representation possible. The fifth member appointed by the County shall have special interest, experience, or education in agriculture and/or rural land preservation.
4. To the extent possible, members of the Advisory Board shall consist of one (1) member from each of the townships in Pamlico County. If an individual cannot be located from a specific township, one may be chosen at large.
5. In the event the Board of Commissioners increases the number of Districts, the Advisory Board may be augmented so there will be a representative for each District. If a particular District is eliminated, the term of its representative to the Advisory Board may be terminated by the Commissioners.

6. Additional members may be appointed to the Board in an *ex officio* capacity from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Pamlico Center and/or the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District. Members serving in an *ex officio* capacity shall neither vote nor count toward quorum requirements.

D. Tenure

The initial Advisory Board is to consist of one (1) appointee for a term of one (1) year, two (2) appointees for a term of two (2) years and two (2) appointees for a term of three (3) years. Initial terms will not begin until July 1 of the year appointed. Thereafter all appointees will serve for a term of three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment for subsequent terms not to exceed three consecutive terms. After three consecutive terms a member must remain off of the Advisory Board for at least one calendar year before being eligible for reappointment. The terms for the appointment of the initial Advisory Board will be determined by lottery.

E. Vacancies

Any vacancy on the Advisory Board is to be filled by the Board of Commissioners for the remainder of the unexpired term following the same procedure as for the initial appointment. Serving an unexpired term shall not count toward the three terms limit.

F. Removal for Cause

Any member of the Advisory Board may be removed by the Board of Commissioners with or without cause. The Advisory Board may request to the Board of Commissioners that a member be removed for inefficiency, neglect of duty or malfeasance in office. Members missing three (3) consecutive meetings may be considered for removal. Recommendation for removal and replacement shall be made to the Board of Commissioners only upon the majority vote of the Advisory Board. The member(s) being considered for removal cannot vote.

G. Funding

The Board of Commissioners may appropriate funds for the Agricultural Advisory Board to perform its duties. A budget request will be presented to the Board of Commissioners.

H. Advisory Board Procedure

1. Officers - The officers of the Agricultural Advisory Board shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary/Treasurer.

2. Election – The Advisory Board shall elect officers each year at its first meeting of the fiscal year following the appointment of new members or reappointment of existing members. Officers shall be eligible for re-election for subsequent terms.
3. Terms – Terms of officers shall be one (1) year or until election of his/her successor.
4. Officer Vacancies – If any office is vacant the members of the Advisory Board shall elect a member to fill the office for the remainder of the term. This election may take place at any regular or special meeting.
5. Removal from office – Any officer may be removed from office by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting provided that at least thirty (30) days’ notice has been given that removal of an officer will be considered at such meeting.
6. Chair – Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Preside at all meetings and public hearings of the Advisory Board.
 - b. Decide on all points of order and procedures unless otherwise directed by a majority vote of the board in session at the time.
 - c. Represent the Advisory Board in dealings with the Board of Commissioners or other organizations.
 - d. Sign any documents related to the business of the Advisory Board.
 - e. Create any committee necessary to investigate matters before the Advisory Board.
 - f. Delegate to other members such tasks necessary to perform the duties of the Advisory Board.
 - g. See that decisions/duties of the Advisory Board are implemented.
 - h. Chair has the same right as other members to vote on matters or to speak for or against such matters.
7. Vice-Chair – Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Serve as acting Chair in the absence or disability of the Chair. While doing so, shall have same powers and duties as Chair.
 - b. Assist Chair as requested.
8. Secretary/Treasurer – Roles and Responsibilities
 - a. Serve as acting Chair in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair. While doing so, shall have same powers and duties as Chair.
 - b. Be responsible for making a record of the proceedings of the Advisory Board.
 - c. Serve as custodian of the Board’s minutes and records.
 - d. Prepare the agenda for meetings in consultation with the Chair.
 - e. Provide notices of special meetings.

- f. Serve as representative for all financial matters of the Advisory Board.
- g. Receive and inform the members of correspondence or directives concerning the business of the Advisory Board.
- h. Attest to the signature of the Chair on documents as needed.
- i. Maintain close communication with the Chair concerning business or issues of the Advisory Board.

9. Determination of Procedure

The Advisory Board may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this Ordinance or with other provisions of State law.

10. Board Year

The Advisory Board shall use the County fiscal year, July 1st – June 30th, as its meeting year.

11. Meetings

- a. Regular Meetings – Meetings of the Advisory Board shall be held at the call of the chairperson and at such other times as the Advisory Board may specify in its rules of procedure or upon the request of at least a majority of the Advisory Board Membership. A meeting shall be held at least annually and notice of any meetings to the members shall be in writing, unless otherwise agreed to by all Advisory Board members. Meeting dates and times shall be posted as far in advance as possible on the door of the meeting site and by advertisement in local newspapers or by other means of public dissemination of the meeting dates as may be agreed upon by at least a majority of the Advisory Board Membership. All meetings shall be open and public.
- b. Special Meetings – may be called at any time by the Chair or the Advisory Board. Notice shall be provided in accordance with NC Open Meeting Laws.
- c. Cancellation of Meetings – The Chair may cancel any regular or special meeting by giving notice to the Advisory Board and the public in accordance with NC Open Meetings Laws.
- d. Quorum – At least a majority of the members, including at least one (1) officer, must be present in order to conduct business.
- e. Conflict of Interest – Advisory Board members may not deliberately vote on any issue in which he/she, or a member of

their immediate household, has a direct financial interest. These members shall, on motion and vote, be excused from discussing and voting on any such matter.

- f. Voting – All members shall vote on each issue made in the form of a motion, unless they have been excused from that vote. All abstaining from voting and not previously excused from that vote will be counted in favor of the motion. All silent votes will be counted in favor of the motion. The vote of the majority of the members present shall be sufficient to decide matters. The Chair shall be allowed to comment and vote on matters before the Advisory Board.
- g. Administrative – The Advisory Board may contract with the N.C. Cooperative Extension office to serve the Advisory Board for record keeping, correspondence, application procedures under this Ordinance, and whatever services the Board needs to complete its duties.

I. Duties

Powers and duties of the Advisory Board shall be those authorized and required by NC General Statute Chapter 106, Article 61, the Pamlico County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance and the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners. Duties shall include but are not limited to:

1. Review and approve or disapprove applications of landowners for enrollment of qualified farmland, horticultural land, or forestland in Voluntary Agricultural Districts or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts;
2. Make recommendations concerning the establishment and modification of agricultural districts;
3. Hold public hearings pursuant to Article XII of this Ordinance.
4. Advise the Board of Commissioners on projects, programs, or issues affecting the agricultural economy, horticultural or forestry activities within the county that will affect agricultural districts.
5. Review and make recommendations concerning proposed amendments to this ordinance.
6. Develop a draft countywide farmland protection plan as defined in N.C.G.S. §106-744 for presentation to the Board of Commissioners;

7. Study additional methods of protection for farming, horticulture, forestry and the attendant land base and make recommendations to the Board of Commissioners;
8. Perform other agriculture, horticultural, and forestry-related tasks or duties assigned by the Board of Commissioners.

**ARTICLE VI
CREATION OF VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS
AND ENHANCED VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS**

A. Regions

Pamlico County is hereby divided into five (5) regions as defined below:

1. Township 1
2. Township 2
3. Township 3
4. Township 4
5. Township 5

B. Implementation

In order to implement the purposes stated in Article III, this program provides for the creation of a Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary District, which shall meet the standards contained in G.S. §106-737, and which must contain the following minimum acreage requirements:

Agricultural	- 10 acres
Timber	- 20 acres
Horticulture	- 5 acres

All land enrolled in a region (township), defined in section A, above, shall be part of a single District. If a single farm has acreage in two or more regions, the farm shall participate in the District where the largest acreage is found. All land in a region as defined in section A, above, shall be treated as a single District.

C. Education

The Board of Commissioners may take such action as it deems appropriate through the Advisory Board or other entities or individuals to encourage the formation of the Districts and to further their purposes and objectives, including the implementation of a public information program to reasonably inform landowners of the farmland preservation program.

D. Addition and Withdrawal

1. Qualifying farmland in a region with an existing District shall be added to the District as herein provided.
2. In the event that one or more participants in the District or Enhanced District withdraw and results in the remaining land being noncontiguous, a Voluntary Agricultural District will continue to exist so long as there is one qualifying farm.

**ARTICLE VII
CERTIFICATION AND QUALIFICATION OF FARMLAND**

A. Requirements

To secure county certification as qualifying farmland in either a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, a farm must meet the standards contained in G.S. Section §106-737, and which must contain the following minimum acreage requirements:

- Agricultural - 10 acres
- Timber - 20 acres
- Horticulture - 5 acres

**ARTICLE VIII
APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND APPEAL PROCEDURE**

A. Application Procedure

1. A landowner may apply to participate in either the Voluntary Agricultural District or the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program by making application to the chairperson of the Advisory Board or a designated staff person and must designate the application as for either the Voluntary Agricultural District status or Enhanced District status. The application shall be on forms provided by the Advisory board. The process will begin with the certification of the farmland to insure eligibility. A nonrefundable application fee of \$500.00 is due when the application is submitted.
2. A conservation agreement (required by N.C.G.S. §106-737 and defined in N.C.G.S. §121-35) suited to district type (VAD or Enhanced VAD) designated by the landowner to sustain, encourage, and promote agriculture must be executed by the landowner and recorded with the Advisory Board, which Advisory Board shall record an original of such with the Pamlico County Registrar of Deeds. Permitted uses include agriculture, horticulture, and forestry. Conservation Agreements for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program may, at the election of the parties, include provision requiring that any disputes between the

county and the landowner be resolved through arbitration or mediation and in the event of litigation, that the prevailing party be awarded costs, including reasonable attorney fees. The Conservation Agreement for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District shall be binding upon all successors in interest to the landowner, except for successors in interest resulting from the exercise of rights under a security interest or lien that preceded the Conservation Agreement.

B. Approval Process

1. Upon submission of the application to the Advisory Board, the Advisory Board shall meet within sixty (60) days to approve or disapprove the application. The chairperson shall notify the applicant by first class mail of approval or disapproval of participation in the District.
2. Upon receipt of an application, the chairperson will forward copies immediately to the following offices which shall be asked to provide comments, if any, to the Advisory Board prior to the date set for the Advisory Board to vote on the application.
 - a. The Pamlico County Tax Assessors Office
 - b. The Pamlico County N.C. Cooperative Extension
 - c. The Pamlico Soil & Water Conservation District
 - d. The County Manager
 - e. The County Planning Board

C. Appeal

If an application is denied by the Advisory Board, the landowner may, within thirty, (30) days of notification of disapproval of the application, request in writing that the Advisory Board reconsider its decision. The request for reconsideration shall state the reason(s) therefore. Upon either an initial denial, if no request for reconsideration was made, or denial after reconsideration, the landowner shall have thirty (30) days from the date of notification to appeal the decision to the Board of Commissioners. That appeal shall be presented in writing. The decision of the Board of Commissioners is final.

**ARTICLE IX
REVOCATION, ENFORCEMENT, AND RENEWAL OF
CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS**

A. Revocation and Enforcement

1. District. By providing written notice to the Advisory Board, a landowner of qualifying farmland within a Voluntary Agricultural District may revoke the Conservation Agreement or the Advisory Board may revoke the same

Conservation Agreement based on noncompliance by the landowner, subject to the same provisions as contained in Article VIII(C) for appeal of denials. Such revocation shall result in loss of qualifying farm status and loss of eligibility to participate in a district. Absent noncompliance by the landowner, neither the Advisory Board nor the Board of Commissioners shall revoke any Conservation Agreement prior to its expiration. If the Advisory Board shall revoke this Conservation Agreement for cause, the landowner shall have the appeal rights set forth in Article VIII(C). Transfers of land in a Voluntary Agricultural District due to death of the landowner, sale or gift shall not revoke the Conservation Agreement unless the land no longer qualifies for the present-use-value taxation program or, in the event that there are water or sewer assessments held in abeyance, the new owner fails to agree in writing to accept liability for those assessments in the event that the land is withdrawn either voluntarily or involuntarily from the district. Enforcement of the terms of a Conservation Agreement for land enrolled in a Voluntary Agricultural District shall be limited to revocation of the Conservation Agreement and the benefits derived therefrom.

2. Enhanced District. Conservation Agreements for land within Enhanced Districts are irrevocable for a period of 10 years. Enforcement of the terms of the Conservation Agreement may be through an action for injunctive relief and/or damages in a court of competent jurisdiction. The County may also terminate any benefits to the owner under this program either permanently or during the period of violation, as appropriate. If the Advisory Board shall revoke this Conservation Agreement for cause, the landowner shall have the appeal rights set forth in Article VIII(C). The right to terminate program benefits is in addition to any legal rights that the County may have under either this Ordinance or the terms of the applicable Conservation Agreement. The county may seek costs of the action including reasonable attorney fees if such a provision is incorporated into the Conservation Agreement.

B. Renewal

1. District. A Conservation Agreement for land within a Voluntary Agricultural District shall not, nor need to be renewed, as it continues in perpetuity until termination in accordance with this Ordinance.
2. Enhanced District. A Conservation Agreement for the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District shall be deemed automatically renewed for an additional term of 3 years, unless either the Advisory Board or the landowner gives written notice to the contrary prior to the termination date of the Conservation Agreement. At the end of each three (3) year term, the Conservation Agreement shall automatically renew for an additional three (3) year term unless notice of termination is given.

**ARTICLE X
WAIVER OF WATER ASSESSMENTS**

A. No Connection Required

1. A landowner belonging to the District shall not be assessed for or required to connect to the Pamlico County Water System.
2. A landowner belonging to an Enhanced District shall not be assessed or required to connect to the Pamlico County Water System.

B. Abeyance

1. If applicable, water assessments will be held in abeyance, without interest, for farms, whether inside or outside of a District, until improvements on such property are connected to the water system for which the assessment was made.
2. If applicable, water and other utility assessments shall be held in abeyance, without interest, for farms in an Enhanced District, until improvements on such property are connected to the utility system for which the assessment was made.

C. Termination of Abeyance

When the period of abeyance ends, the assessment is payable in accordance with the terms set out in the assessment resolution.

D. Suspension of Statute of Limitations

Statutes of limitations are suspended during the time that any assessment is held in abeyance without interest. The landowner may be required to sign an acknowledgement (that may be incorporated into the Conservation Agreement) of the abeyance of the statute of limitations upon collecting water and other utility assessments.

E. Other Statutory Abeyance Procedures

Nothing in this section is intended to diminish the authority of the County to hold assessments in abeyance under N.C.G.S. 153A-201 or other applicable law.

F. Conflict with Water and/or Sewer System Construction and Improvement Grants

To the extent that this section conflicts with the terms of federal, state, or other grants under which county utility systems are constructed this section shall not apply. This section shall not apply to utilities that are not owned by the County

unless the County has entered into an agreement with the entity (ies) owning the utilities and that agreement provides that this Ordinance shall apply.

ARTICLE XI
ADDITIONAL ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT BENEFITS

Land enrolled in the Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District program is to be entitled to all of the benefits available under the Voluntary Agricultural District program and to the following additional benefits:

A. Sale of Non-farm Products

Landowners participating in Enhanced Districts may receive up to twenty-five percent of gross sales from the sale of non-farm products and still qualify as a bona fide farm that is exempt from county zoning regulations under N.C.G.S. 153A-340(b). A landowner seeking to benefit from this subsection shall have the burden of establishing that the property's sale of non-farm products did not exceed twenty-five percent of its gross sales. A county may adopt an ordinance pursuant to this section that sets forth the standards necessary for proof of compliance.

B. Agricultural Cost Share Program

Landowners participating in Enhanced District are eligible under N.C.G.S. 143-215.74(b) to receive higher percentage of cost-share funds for the benefit of that farmland under the Agriculture Cost Share Program established pursuant to Part 9 of Article 221 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes for funds to benefit that farmland.

C. Priority Consideration

State departments, institutions, or agencies that award grants to farmers are encouraged to give priority consideration to landowners participating in Enhanced Districts.

D. Utility Assessment Abeyance

As provided in Article X above, abeyance of all county utility assessments in, addition to the abeyance of water assessments, shall apply to all participants in Enhanced Districts.

**ARTICLE XII
PUBLIC NOTICE**

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A. Purpose

N.C.G.S. Section 106-740 provides that a county ordinance that establishes a farmland preservation program may provide that no State or local public agency or governmental unit may formally initiate any action to condemn any interest in qualifying farmland within a voluntary agricultural district or an enhanced voluntary agricultural district until such agency has requested the local agricultural advisory board established under G.S. 106-739 to hold a public hearing on the proposed condemnation. This Article provides for such a hearing.

B. Procedure

1. Upon receiving a request, the Advisory Board shall publish notice describing the proposed action in the appropriate newspapers of Pamlico County within five (5) business day of the request, and will in the same notice notify the public of a public hearing on the proposed condemnation, to be held within no less than fifteen (15) and no more than twenty-five (25) days of receipt of the request.
2. The Advisory Board shall meet to review:
 - a. if the need for the project has been satisfactorily established by the agency or unit of government involved, including a review of any fiscal impact analysis conducted by the agency involved; and
 - b. alternatives to the proposed action that have less impact and are less disruptive to the agricultural activities of the District within which the proposed action is to take place.
3. The Advisory Board shall consult with the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District Conservationist, County Agricultural Extension Agent and may consult with any other individuals, agencies, or organizations deemed by the Advisory Board to be necessary for its review of the proposed action. Land value will not be a factor in the selection between properties under consideration for the proposed action.
4. Within no less than fifteen (15) days after the public hearings, the Advisory Board shall make a report containing its findings and recommendations regarding the proposed action. The report shall be made available to the public for comment prior to its being conveyed to the decision-making body of the agency proposing the acquisition.

5. There will be a period of ten (10) days allowed for public comment on the report of the Advisory Board.
6. After the ten (10) day period for public comment has expired, the Advisory Board shall submit a final report containing all of its findings and recommendations regarding the proposed action to the decision making body of the agency proposing the acquisition.
7. The total time period, from the day that request for a hearing has been received to the day that a final report is issued to the decision making body of the agency proposing the acquisition, shall not exceed sixty (60) days. If the agency agrees to an extension, the agency and the Advisory Board shall mutually agree upon a schedule to be set forth in writing and made available to the public.
8. Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 106-740, the Board of Commissioners shall not permit any formal initiation of condemnation by local agencies while the proposed condemnation is properly before the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE XIII NOTIFICATION

- A. Record of Notice of Proximity to Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District.
 1. Procedure for Notification

Upon certification of qualifying farmland and designation of real property as a District, the title to that qualifying farmland and real property, which is contained in the Pamlico County Land Records System shall be indexed to include a notice reasonably calculated to alert a person researching the title of a particular tract that such tract is located within one-half aerial mile of a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary District. The purpose of such notification is to inform current and potential residents and property owners in and adjacent to a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District, that farming and agricultural activities may take place in this District any time during the day or night. The activities may include, but are not limited to the following: pesticide spraying, manure spreading, machinery and truck operations, burning, livestock operations, logging, and other common farming and forestry activities.
 2. The following notice shall be made available to everyone recording a deed or plat with the Register of Deeds:

NOTICE TO REAL ESTATE PURCHASERS IN PAMLICO COUNTY
PAMLICO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS

Pamlico County has established agricultural districts to protect and preserve agricultural lands and activities. These districts have been developed and mapped by the county to inform all purchasers of real property within one-half aerial mile of a Voluntary Agricultural District or Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District that certain agricultural activities, including but not limited to the following: pesticide spraying, manure spreading, machinery and truck operations, burning, livestock operations, logging and other common farming and forestry activities may take place in these districts any time during the day or night. Maps of the location of Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts can be obtained through the overlay system provided to all county offices and the general public through internet access by the Tax Assessor's Office.

3. Limit of Liability

In no event shall the County or any of its officers, employees, members of the Advisory Board, or agents be held liable in damages for any misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance occurring in good faith in connection with the duties or obligations imposed by this Ordinance.

4. No Cause of Action

In no event shall any cause of action arise out of the failure of a person researching the title of a particular tract to report to any person the proximity of the tract to qualifying farm or Voluntary Agricultural District & Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural District as defined in this Ordinance.

B. Signage

Signs identifying approved agricultural districts may be placed along the rights-of-way of major roads that pass through or next to those districts or as deemed appropriate by the Advisory Board, or its administrative agent for the county's agricultural district program. Members of the Agricultural District may place signs on their individual farms denoting their Agricultural District membership. Placement of signage shall be coordinated with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Pamlico County, when applicable.

C. Maps

Maps identifying approved Voluntary Agricultural Districts and Enhanced Voluntary Agricultural Districts can be obtained through the overlay system provided to all county offices and the general public through internet access by the Tax Assessor's Office.

**ARTICLE XIV
SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE AND OTHER
LAND USE ORDINANCES REVIEW**

Developers of subdivisions, planned unit developments, condominiums or group housing projects shall designate on preliminary and final plats and maps, the existence of all Districts and Enhanced Districts within one-half aerial mile of the proposed development.

**ARTICLE XV
CONSULTATION AUTHORITY**

The Advisory Board may consult with the Pamlico Soil and Water Conservation District, the N.C. Cooperative Extension Office, The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and any other such agency, individual, or organization the Advisory Board deems necessary to properly conduct its business.

**ARTICLE XVI
NORTH CAROLINA AGENCY NOTIFICATION**

Annually Report to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

A copy of this shall be sent to the Office of the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Board of Commissioners, the County Office of North Carolina Cooperative Extension, and the Soil and Water Conservation District office after adoption. At least annually the county shall submit a written report to the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services on the county's agricultural district program, including the following information:

1. Number of landowners enrolled;
2. Number of acres enrolled;
3. Number of acres certified during the reporting period;
4. Number of acres denied during the reporting period;
5. Number of acres for which applications are pending;
6. Copies of any amendments to this Ordinance; and
7. Any other information the Advisory Board deems useful.

**ARTICLE XVII
LEGAL PROVISIONS**

A. Severability

If any article, section, subsection, clause, phrase or portion of this ordinance is for any reason invalid or unconstitutional as determined by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

B. Conflict with other Ordinances and Statutes

Whenever the provisions of this Ordinance conflict with other ordinances of Pamlico County, this Ordinance shall govern. Whenever the provisions of any federal or state statute require more restrictive provisions that are required by this Ordinance, the provisions of such statute shall govern.

C. Amendments

After notification and in consultation with the Agricultural District Advisory Board this Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the Pamlico County Board of Commissioners, subject to a public hearing, notice given thirty (30) days prior.

**ARTICLE XVIII
ENACTMENT**

The Pamlico County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts and enacts the preceding articles and sections of the Ordinance.

Adopted this the 4th day of December, 2018.

Motion for adoptions by Commissioner Candy Bohmert and seconded by Commissioner Pat Prescott.



Pamlico County Board of Commissioners

Paul J. Delamater
Chairperson

Country L. Neff
Clerk to Board of Commissioners