

February 12, 2014

Lee County Board of Commissioners  
VIA email

Dear Commissioners,

Time certainly flies in our busy world today and it is hard to believe that last year at this time we were working with you on the purchase of Edison Farms. We will be forever grateful for your decision to purchase this landmark property and appreciate all of the negotiation that went into that acquisition and especially the work done by staff. We are confident that everyone in Lee County will see the benefits of this purchase from its protection of open space and wildlife habitat to the value of securing a stable drinking water source for our residents.

Now that we have completed this monumental acquisition it is time to go back to the list of eligible properties and concentrate on those that have been recommended by CLASAC for purchase. As we continue to monitor this list, we notice that some property owners have been waiting more than a year to hear from the County regarding the status of their nominations. I know you understand that the timely disposition of a nomination is critical to the viability of the Conservation 2020 program. At the CLASAC meeting last night some committee members also questioned this delay. Staff has indicated that they are looking into this but do not have a time frame for answers.

We watched your meeting last Tuesday and appreciate the urgency of acquiring properties that bring with them TMDL credits. Many properties that are nominated bring with them those credits if not the ability to restore the land and create those credits. We notice several on the current list that would qualify.

We are excited for the future of Conservation 2020 and look forward to working with you and staff in any way that we can help.

Our sincere thanks again for your vision and commitment to preserving our lands in Lee County

Conservation Forever,

*Barbara Manzo*

Barbara Manzo  
Chair  
eYes on Conservation 2020 Coalition

Cc: Roger DesJarlais County Manager  
Glen Salyer, Assistant County Manager  
Rene Armstrong for inclusion in CLASAC committee packets