

PRESS RELEASE

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCES PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS INFORMATIONAL MEETING

For Immediate Release

March 7, 2007

For Additional Information,

Contact: Richard E. Huff, II, County Administrator

The Franklin County Board of Supervisors has announced that it will hold an informational meeting on Monday, March 19, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room to inform the public about options as it considers the pros and cons of a Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program. The meeting will be conducted by Mr. Kevin Schmidt, Coordinator, Office of Farmland Preservation with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

PDR programs allow counties to pay landowners to enter into voluntary agreements to protect such important resources as farmland, forests, water quality, historic sites and scenic views. "If we implement a PDR program, it will provide the County a non-regulatory tool to preserve the qualities that draw so many people to Franklin County and that truly gives us a natural setting for opportunity", said County Administrator Richard E. Huff, II.

Mr. Schmidt will provide some background on PDR Programs statewide, outline recent state funding efforts, and conduct a question and answer session on the topic.

The Board of Supervisors is holding an informational meeting on PDR's before considering the adoption of an ordinance that would implement such a program. The public is encouraged to attend the Information Session and find out more about this potential program.