



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
April 3, 2019 – 7:30 p.m.
Ag Extension Office
1257 County Farm Road, Bedford, VA 24523

Present: Matt Baumgardner, Beth Bays, Pete Fellers, Don Gardner, Sam Gardner, Ken Newman, Jeff Powers, Pam Willoughby

Absent: Ronnie Gross, Chuck Grove, Joy Powers, Lindsay Tomlinson

Staff Present: Scott Baker, Traci Blido

Staff Absent: None

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: Charla Bansley - Board of Supervisors District 3; John Graham - Graham Bass Farm; Dorothy McIntyre - Forest Farmer's Market; Tamara Witt - Bedford Farmer's Market; Kent Robey - Candidate, Bedford Sheriff

(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the April 3, 2019 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the April 3, 2019 agenda, as presented.

Adopted Unanimously.

(2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - March 6, 2019

Chairman Powers asked for a review of the March 6, 2019 meeting minutes.

A motion and a second were made to approve the March 6, 2019 meeting minutes as presented.

Adopted unanimously.

(3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. Blido stated that the past month has been a very busy one. She met with a business prospect yesterday and tomorrow she will be meeting with six companies' representatives from the United Kingdom who will be touring the New London Business and Technology Center. The Governor announced that we received a broadband grant for over \$1 million thanks to the work of the IT Director and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) who approved to set aside \$1.5 million to match the grant. We will also need to match money for a Tobacco Commission grant if it is received. This is becoming a \$4 million project to build out broadband throughout the whole county. The Business Roundtable meeting had a great turnout and Ag Board members will be receiving an invitation to come to Beale's for a Business Appreciation Event in May. Informational pamphlets about local farms and produce for the Bedford Grown Program were passed out to the Ag Board members and Pam Bailey was recognized for her work on the pamphlet.

(4) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

Mr. Baker welcomed everyone to this new office space and told the Ag Board members that the meeting rooms are available for future use if needed. He attended the Virginia Agri-Tourism Conference in Roanoke today and hosted farm tours this afternoon at Layman's Farm and Johnson's Orchard/Peaks of Otter Winery. Good information was received on these tours and the conference has some workshops scheduled for tomorrow. July 19 and Sept 13 are the dates for the next weaned and vaccinated feeder calf sales. Calves need to be weaned by May 19 in order to be sold at the July 19 sale. The Central Virginia Livestock Show (CVLS) is on May 3 and 4 at Lynchburg Livestock Market. The swine show will be on the evening of May 3 and all other species on May 4 with the market animal auction at 7:00 p.m. There is no further news about the Tobacco Commission ag grant. Mr. Baker noted that agents will meet with the grant person on April 15 and he expects the public meetings to probably occur around mid to late May with applications being accepted some time in June. Mr. Baker will give a quick tour of this new office space to anyone interested after tonight's meeting.

(5) BEDFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMER'S REPORT

Sam Gardner reported that Kent Robey, candidate for Bedford Sheriff, spoke at the Young Farmer's meeting. Mr. Baumgardner said the legislative meeting had good attendance and it went very well. At the last meeting they voted to sponsor at least three children to 4-H camp who did not have the funds. It costs about \$250 per child for one week and every family is required to pay something toward the total cost. 4-H camp scholarship applications are available. Mrs. Bays reported that they are putting together a tour to Pennsylvania to go to the feedlot where weaned and vaccinated cattle are sold and possibly visit a tannery. At next month's meeting, Chris Wood will speak about hemp production and everyone will tour the solar farm. Young Farmer's are

putting together a cookbook and are accepting recipes through April 15. The cookbook will be available for sale in June.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education & Events

1. Upcoming Events

Gross' Orchard Apple Festival will be April 13.

2. County Fair update

Chairman Powers said all plans are going well. The circus will be back and the car show is in place.

3. School Ag Programs Update

Chairman Powers reported Bedford County did very well at the area rally. Liberty won the vet science competition and ag mechanics competition and Smith Mountain won for public speaking and tractor driving. Smith Mountain is going to a cattle working contest tomorrow.

Chairman Powers also reported that last month's Ag Board meeting was very productive and he was glad to see a good presence by the school administration. He was happy to learn Ag classes will now be offered by Virginia Western Community College (VWCC) and many of the credits will transfer to Ferrum College as well as Virginia Tech.

b. Marketing & Production

1. Farmer's Market Update

Ms. Tamara Witt, Market Manager of Operations and owner of Bedford Farmer Managed Market LLC, reviewed the Progress Summary Report that was previously e-mailed to all Ag Board members. She is working on various advertising formats so that both Bedford residents and others in surrounding areas will be encouraged to come and shop at the market. To improve participation, Social Services will also actively promote the market to their clients. There are 17 vendors so far with full capacity at about 20 vendors. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 3 which is opening day. Days and hours of operation are Fridays 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with the second Friday of the month evening market from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and first Saturdays of the month from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The regular season will run from May 3 through October 29 with a condensed fall season from November 1 through December 20. Ms. Witt passed out business cards and asked the members to contact her with any questions, comments, or suggestions.

Dorothy McIntyre from the Forest Market reported that her market is doing very well. She currently has 28 vendors with 32 vendors as full capacity. She did a site tour of a farm in Nelson County and has another tour in Phenix next week. She wanted to thank W.P. Johnson for inviting her to speak at the USDA event recently. Tables from Parks & Rec have now been installed. She has spoken to Wyatt Woody and has requested the property be made into a pocket park. The market will open on Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon with various events throughout the season.

2. Coyote Lottery Update

Dr. Gardner wrote a news article reporting the winners and thanking the sponsors. Mrs. Blido will post the article on the website once she receives it.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Nothing to report.

(7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. Red Barn Preservation

Discussion followed regarding what would be the best use of the barn due to its potential, but also due to its limitations. Chairman Powers suggested the first floor could be a Bedford County ag museum. The second floor's issue would be complying with handicapped accessibility. A suggestion was made for an elevator built in the shape of a silo. Sheldon Cash, Director of Public Works, is working on this project and will be discussing the property issues with the BOS at their next meeting. Mrs. Blido will ask Mr. Cash to come to next month's Ag Board meeting to update the members on this project.

Chairman Powers gave the annual report to the BOS. He thanked Mrs. Willoughby for putting together the DMV flyer and thanked Mr. Baker and Ms. Powers for their help as well.

Mr. Fellers said the old Green's Drugstore is being renovated. The drugstore held the teletype where the D-Day messages came in during World War II. A Grand Opening event has been scheduled for Saturday, April 27. More information is posted on the website.

Mrs. Bays reminded everyone about the CVLS auction and the kids can use their support and/or scholarships. She also said there is a Midwest Flooding Benefit Auction being planned to help the farmers in Nebraska, Iowa, and Missouri. More information will be forthcoming.

Chairman Powers introduced Kent Robey, candidate for Bedford County Sheriff, to the Ag Board members and said Mr. Robey would be happy to answer any questions.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

8:35 p.m.