



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
December 4, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Peaks Conference Room at Falling Creek
1257 County Farm Road, Bedford, VA 24523

Present: Matt Baumgardner, Pete Fellers, Ronnie Gross, Chuck Grove, Ken Newman, Jeff Powers, Joy Powers, Pam Willoughby

Absent: Beth Bays, Don Gardner, Sam Gardner, Lindsay Tomlinson

Staff Present: Pam Bailey, Scott Baker, Amanda Kaufman

Staff Absent: Traci Blido

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: Ken Palmer, Karen Powers, Brandon Strosnider

(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the December 4, 2019 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the December 4, 2019 agenda, as presented.
Adopted unanimously.

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

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

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

(3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Ms. Bailey reported that staff continue to work on the Burnbridge Road sewer project, getting easements and escrow agreements in place. The deadline for this escrow agreements and easements is this week. The broadband project is also progressing. The 40,000 square foot shell building being constructed in the New London Business and Technology Center is producing much interest and many inquiries. She took a tour of Brookhill Farm today and found its operation very impressive. Next week, the Bedford One Program will take a construction tour of Coleman-Adams at one of their job sites, and also tour Southern Air's fabrication shop.

Chairman Powers noted that in the past, the Ag Board meetings included a County Administrator's Report as an Agenda Item but it was removed because the Administrator did not attend the meetings. He requested that the County Administrator's Report be placed back on the agenda for future meetings and welcomed back the Deputy County Administrator Amanda Kaufman.

(4) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

Mr. Baker reported that the weaned and vaccinated calf sales for 2020 have been scheduled for January 24, July 31, and September 18, 2020 at Springlake Stockyard. The State Vet office is finishing up the paperwork for the application we prepared to get our area designated as a food animal veterinary shortage. The request has also included Amherst and Campbell counties. Notice of designation is not expected until the spring 2020. The Tobacco Commission has approved a new cost share grant program which will provide funds for fruit/vegetable growers to get certified in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Bedford County is an eligible locality and anyone interested in this grant opportunity can contact Mr. Baker for details. He has also been working on data and figures for an invasive plant management cost share program for stream fence lines in Bedford. An overall amount of \$5,000 would get a pilot program started. The Peaks of Otter Soil & Water Conservation District has agreed to contribute \$2,500. If the Ag Board would like to ask the County for the \$2,500 balance, Mr. Baker can include the request through his office's budget request that is due this month and if approved, the program could begin July 1, 2020.

A motion and a second were made to request Bedford County adopt a stream fencing vegetation management cost share program for \$2,500 with matching funds contributed by the Peaks of Otter Soil & Water Conservation District. If approved, the program would be administered by the Cooperative Extension Office and the Bedford County Fiscal Management Office commencing FY 20-21.

Adopted unanimously.

Audrey Lee, a longtime 4H Agent in Bedford County, passed away in 2017 and is memorialized by a quilt made from T-shirts from various 4H camps over the years. The quilt is hanging in the Extension Office Suite for everyone to see.

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

Mr. Baumgardner noted there has not been a local meeting this month because everyone is attending the State Meeting in Norfolk.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education & Events

1. Upcoming Events

Ms. Powers said both schools are doing fruit sales if anyone is interested in buying fruit, and Liberty is working on its float for the Christmas parade.

2. 2019 County Fair Update

Ms. Powers reported that the performer who was injured at the fair has recovered remarkably well and has performed in the last shows of this year.

3. School Ag Programs Update

The 4H Club made 15 pies for the Roanoke Rescue Mission for Thanksgiving. The Virginia Allstar Team finished fourth in the National Livestock Judging Contest in Louisville, KY. Charlie Moser was an alternate so he will be back again next year to compete.

b. Marketing & Production

1. Farmers' Market Update

Mr. Gross and Ms. Bailey noted there will be an Indoor Farmers' Market in Forest on the 14th. The Bedford Market managers will have a winter meeting to discuss next season's market but it has not been scheduled yet.

2. Coyote Lottery Update

Nothing new to report.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Nothing new to report.

(7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

There will be another New London Airport meeting at Jefferson Forest on December 16 at 7 p.m.

Mr. Palmer said he has sold his farm and is moving to South Carolina. He would like to remain on the email list of what is happening with the Ag Board and the County Fair. Mackenzie Mutter will be handling the equine part of his County Fair responsibilities. Chairman Powers thanked him for his leadership and friendship.

Chairman Powers said that several positions on the Ag Board are in limbo for next year and appointments won't be made until after the next Ag Board meeting set for January 8, 2020. He and several others will not have an official vote at the January meeting but can still be present and comment and Vice-Chairman Don Gardner will handle the running of the meeting. He asked the Ag Board members to reach out to their Board of Supervisors representatives to invite and welcome them to any of the future Ag Board meetings. He also thanked the Ag Board members for their service.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

7:41 p.m.