



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board

December 5, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Bedford County Administration Building – Ground Floor Training Room

Present: Matt Baumgardner, Pete Fellers, Don Gardner, Sam Gardner, Ronnie Gross, Chuck Grove, Ken Newman, Jeff Powers, Joy Powers, Lindsay Tomlinson, Pam Willoughby

Absent: Beth Bays

Staff Present: Gregg Zody, Scott Baker

Staff Absent: Traci Blido, Pam Bailey

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: John Graham - Graham Bass Farm; Ethan Jackson - President, Virginia FFA

(1) Approval of Agenda

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the December 5, 2018 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the December 5, 2018 agenda, as presented.
Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes - November 7, 2018

Chairman Powers asked for a review of the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes. A name misspelling was corrected.

A motion and a second were made to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.
Adopted unanimously.

(3) County Administration Report/Community Development Report

Mr. Zody reported that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is bringing in the finalists for the County Administrator job next week. There will also be a Meet and Greet with department heads next Thursday morning at the library. There were a total of 40 applicants for the position and they hope to have someone in place sometime in January. Carl Boggess retires on December 31. The Assistant County Administrator position will remain vacant until the Administrator is hired. The new County Administrator will then select the right candidate for the assistant position. Mrs. Blido is working on getting the plans for the shell building that will be constructed in the New London Business Park.

(4) Cooperative Extension Report

Mr. Baker said the next feeder calf sale will be Friday, January 25, 2019. The Bedford Beef Producers January meeting will be January 29, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Springlake Stockyard. Because there were many issues with weed growth this past year, Dr. Michael Flessner, Extension Weed Science Specialist from Virginia Tech, will be covering the topic at the meeting. The Extension Office will be moving, hopefully during the week of December 17. The old nursing home has been renovated for their new space. Mr. Baker attend the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Association annual meeting in Roanoke. One of the keynote speakers was Claire Seibel, Vice President of the FFA. Her ability to speak was very impressive and she received a standing ovation afterwards. The Education Award went to a teacher in the Botetourt County school system. The new 4-H agent, Maribeth Martin, was interviewed on the Ag Life/Living Local spot on Fox and did a good job. Dan Gorlick, our current district director, was hired as an Associate Director of Extension. This position supports Extension in the field and acts as liaison with industry and the College of Agriculture.

(5) Bedford County Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Report

Mr. Sam Gardner noted the annual State Convention was last week, but there is nothing else new to report.

(6) Committee Reports

a. Education & Events

1. Upcoming Events

Ms. Tomlinson reported that Staunton River is starting their fruit sale and Liberty is to follow. Charlie, a Bedford 4-H student, participated in the Teen Leadership Institute (TELI). They are getting ready for spring competitions. Their float placed second place in the Bedford Parade. On the social media site, Ag Daily, they were asked to do a parody for Hark the Herald Angels Sing and are working on filming it. She noted they need processing help with turkeys they want to

donate to the needy. Mr. Baumgardner will get names of people that process turkeys and give the information to Ms. Tomlinson.

Ms. Powers reported that last month the 4-H had their meeting and made pies for the Roanoke Rescue Mission as a service project. The pies were eaten at the Mission's Thanksgiving meal. FFA President Ethan Jackson participated in the national competition in Louisville as a member of the Virginia State Judging Team which tied for first place, but lost the tiebreaker by one point. Ethan finished 8th overall in the country and finished his 4-H judging career as an All American. The Virginia team now has the opportunity to judge and compete in Scotland and Ireland this summer. He has been contacted by multiple schools with scholarship offers to judge in college. The new livestock judging year begins in January.

2. County Fair update

Ms. Powers reported the annual wrap-up meeting is next Tuesday at Glenwood. The 2019 fair will be held on the same weekend again which is the last weekend in September.

3. School Ag Programs Update

Ms. Powers reported that Brittany Lawyer, the Ag Teacher at Staunton River Middle School, will move into a larger classroom which has lab space. She will have more room now and is interested in setting up a greenhouse with a hydroponic system.

b. Marketing & Production

Mr. Baumgardner said there will be a hands-on dairy workshop in Franklin County on December 13 and 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. Anyone interested can contact Mr. Baker at the Extension Office.

1. Farmer's Market Update

Mr. Gross reported that December 15 will be the next farmer's market in Forest. It is held once a month indoors at the Forest Rec. Center from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon throughout the winter months. You can see the dates at the website at <http://www.forestfarmersmarket.com/>.

2. Coyote Lottery Update

Dr. Gardner stated that 33 coyotes have been checked in so far. Posters are needed for the sponsors so they can put them up in their businesses and local stores. Mr. Baker will notify Mrs. Blido about the posters. Dr. Gardner is going to put an article in the newspaper to remind everyone about the lottery. Mr. Baker will check with Mrs. Blido about putting information on Facebook and the EDA web page.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Ms. Powers noted that the new Chief of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is Matt Lohr, the former Commissioner of Agriculture. Bette Brand, a graduate from Staunton River High School, was appointed Director of the USDA's Rural Development Office.

(7) Informational Items

Gregg Zody reported that the County is applying for a rural broadband grant. They are working on 12 sites and he will come back to the Board with updates.

Mr. Baker said the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council will have its statewide meetings at four different locations the week of January 16.

Mr. Baumgardner said the pesticide applicators' license recertification meeting was well attended. Mr. Baker has information pertaining to other locations if someone could not make the Bedford meeting and needs recertification.

Ms. Powers stated Mrs. Blido, Dr. Francis and Ms. Powers are working on initiatives to develop and improve the county CTE.

Ms. Tomlinson is working on getting a display of FFA jackets at the Welcome Center during FFA Week in February. The FFA has made cross wreaths for a former teacher who is a veteran and he takes them to big veteran memorials. Next year they will need sponsors for the materials if anyone is interested or knows of someone who would like to sponsor.

Beginning January 1, 2019, the training room will be unavailable for use due to construction. The Ag Board will be meeting in the 3rd floor conference room.

January 2, 2019 is next meeting for officer elections.

Ms. Powers will get a card for Carl Boggess' retirement and sign it on behalf of the Ag Board.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

7:59pm