



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board

February 7, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Don Gardner, Chuck Grove

Staff Present: Traci Blido

Staff Absent: Scott Baker, Reid Wodicka

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guest: Dr. Tony Francis, BCPS Director of Secondary Programs and CTE

(1) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the February 7, 2018 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the February 7, 2018 agenda, as presented.
Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 6, 2017

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes.

A motion and a second were made to approve the December 6, 2017 meeting minutes as presented.
Adopted unanimously.

(3) Organization

a. Election of Officers

Mr. Powers opened the floor for nominations for officers. A motion was made to elect the current slate of officers.

A motion and a second were made to approve Jeff Powers again as Chairman, Don Gardner as Vice Chairman, and Pam Willoughby as Secretary.

Adopted Unanimously.

b. Appointments to Committees

Mr. Powers stated he was happy with the current appointments to committees but if anyone wanted to change committees they could let him know. He will address any changes to committees at the March meeting.

c. 2018 Meeting Calendar

A motion and a second were made to accept the 2018 meeting calendar as presented.

Adopted Unanimously

(4) County Administration Report

Mrs. Blido reported that the County has two new employees, a new IT director started this week and Pam Bailey who is replacing Jessica Hupp is starting in the Economic Development office next week. There is a meeting on Monday with the Board of Supervisors regarding Capital Improvement Plans if anyone is interested in attending.

(5) Economic Development Director's Report

Mrs. Blido is working on three announcements for business expansions and the Governor is involved in two of them. She is also working with several businesses that want to locate to Bedford which is great, but there's not many vacant buildings available which poses a challenge. She also distributed the 2018 Virginia Agriculture Magazine in which she ran an agriculture focused ad that features county assets.

(6) Cooperative Extension Report

Scott Baker provided a written report to the Ag Board members. The third weaned and vaccinated feeder calf sale was held on January 19, 2018 at Springlake Stockyard. Approximately 225 calves were consigned. The sale was successful with most lots receiving a premium. Future sales are planned for July 27 and September 14 at Springlake.

A meeting on vaccine management in beef cattle is planned for February 20 at Springlake Stockyard. In addition to the educational program, the meeting is being used in an effort to restart the Bedford Beef Producers Association. Producers can join/rejoin the Association at this meeting and dues are being waived for this year. Staff from the Virginia Cattleman's Association

will be present to discuss the benefits of the local association being an affiliate with the state association. Anyone interested in attending should RSVP with Scott at the Extension Office.

Discussions continue with CVCC regarding a Career Studies Certificate program in agriculture. The Career and Technical Education Directors and the vocational agriculture instructors of the school systems in Region 2000 have been involved in these discussions and are supportive of this effort. The next step is to survey potential employers in the region and seek their input on this program. A list of employers is being compiled and hopefully the survey will be out in the near future. The Ag Board members are happy to see CVCC is still working on a certificate program.

(7) Special Appearance-Dr. Tony Francis, BCPS Director of Secondary Programs & CTE

Mr. Powers introduced Dr. Francis. Dr. Francis wants to establish a solid Ag program in all three middle schools beginning with the 7th grade. This will strengthen the FFA programs and better prepare students if they want to pursue the field of agriculture further. He feels the earlier the students get started, the quicker they are able to compete at state level. He discussed the handout which showed a strong number of middle school and high school students are interested in agriculture courses. A lot of future classes are contingent on the budget, but Mr. Powers noted that many of the Board of Supervisors are very supportive of the program. Ms. Powers said it was exciting to see the program so well received by the school system. Dr. Francis also said he was happy to see the certificate program progressing and would like to partner with CVCC with possible dual enrollment. Dr. Francis shared his previous experience as a principal for Jefferson Forest High School and understands the need to offer courses and programs that address the needs of all students, not just those going to college. Ms. Powers said that FFA and 4H backgrounds help students going to college, as well as non-college bound students and adds value and opportunities for these students. Mr. Powers sees the importance of getting classes early in middle school rather than high school, and appreciates Dr. Francis' efforts. Dr. Francis stated that once the budget is approved, typically in April, an announcement for additional positions would be posted in May. Ms. Blido and Dr. Francis confirmed the ag tour for guidance counselors would be March 16 as long as the schools do not have another snow day which could change the schedule.

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

Mr. Sam Gardner reported that they wrapped up the gun raffle. Mr. Baumgardner reported the Farm Bureau has a new president, Amy Johnson. The Farm Bureau is putting together a roundtable meeting in the county training room on March 26, 2018 at 7 p.m. They will brainstorm ideas for the Farm Bureau to support. Farm Bureau members are invited to attend. The women's committee is giving out mini-greenhouse packets to elementary school students to educate and foster interest in agriculture. Ms. Powers will be giving a workshop on Hunger

International Agriculture at the Young Farmer's Winter Expo at Natural Bridge on February 24. Ms. Bays reported that they are working on the summer trip to Tangier Island and the next meeting is tomorrow night at Beale's where they will be given a tour.

(9) Committee Reports

a. Education & Events

(1) Upcoming Events

Ms. Tomlinson stated the school ag programs are having a successful year. They continue to do livestock and horse judging. Ms. Powers said three Smith Mountain FFA students attended the Summit Leadership Conference which the students enjoyed. Fifteen 4H students are going to the Block and Bridle Livestock judging contest February 23-24. Eleven students are participating in the advanced judging contest and four are just starting out and will participate in the regular judging contest. Kids are applying to colleges now. Ms. Tomlinson noted the kids are practicing cattleworking and if anyone needs some help, please let her know. Horse judging is continuing and the kids have a competition this weekend, then they will be going to Block and Bridle and another contest in March. Double D Arena in Franklin County put together a competition last week and the students had a great time and gained a valuable learning experience. Ms. Powers reported the Augusta County 4H and FFA Livestock Show Committee are building a complex which is a \$4.5 million project. It will consist of two barns specifically designed for housing and showing livestock. Information about their plans will be posted on their website. The Central Virginia Livestock Show (CVLS) is coming up so please support the kids.

(2) County Fair update

Ms. Powers said they have not had a meeting yet, but they are currently working on a rough outline of the fair which will be held the last weekend of September. Curry Martin has retired from the Board of Supervisors so he can now spend full-time on the fair. Campbell County Parks and Recreation staff have asked many questions regarding our fair and they are in talks about having their own fair.

(3) School Ag Programs Update

See Upcoming Events.

b. Marketing & Production

(1) Farmer's Market Update

An indoor event is being held this Saturday at Forest Recreation Center from 8:00 am to 12 Noon.

(2) Coyote Lottery Update

Coyotes are still being checked in.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Mr. Fellers reported that an easement was done in the Forest area for 155 acres, but he does not know who and will work on finding out. Senator Carrico has a bill in General Assembly allowing someone to change their mind about an easement if they can prove economic hardship. Another bill sponsored by Delegates Matt Farris of Rustburg and Ben Cline of Amherst will try to fix the law so that tax credits can go to the heirs if a farmer dies after signing for an easement, but had not sold his tax credits. This bill is in committee now.

(10) Informational Items

Ms. Powers stated she will be taking FFA and 4H students to the Governor's Ag Trade Conference in Richmond. Ms. Tomlinson said there will be a Pancake Breakfast at Bedford Baptist Church on Saturday morning from 7:00 am to 10:30 am. FFA week is coming up starting on February 17. On Wed., February 21 there will be a spaghetti dinner at Liberty HS to benefit FFA. Tickets are \$5.00. There will also be a picnic table raffle that night and anyone who buys two dinners will get a free ticket for the raffle.

Ronnie Gross mentioned that there was a fatality on a farm this week where a person was hit by a forklift. He suggested that the Ag Board members have an attorney speak at one of the future meetings about labor laws, labor law posters and farm safety.

Mr. Powers reminded the board members that the Farm Bureau can be very helpful if anyone needs help in continuing health care.

Ms. Powers suggested the Ag Board and EDA work together to formally recognize Brandy Ferguson at Springlake Stockyard for her work to promote ag products and contributions to Bedford County.

A motion and second were made authorizing Chairman Powers to contact the Board of Supervisors regarding an official recognition for Brandy Ferguson.

A Brunswick Stew fundraiser will be held at the Chamblissburg Ruritan on February 17 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. The stew will cost \$7 per quart and \$24 per gallon if anyone is interested.

(11) ADJOURNMENT

8:17 pm