



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board**

**January 2, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bedford County Administration Building – Second Floor Training Room**

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

**Absent:** Matt Baumgardner

**Staff Present:** Scott Baker, Traci Blido

**Staff Absent:** None

**Transcriber:** Julia Peters

**Guests:** None

---

**(1) Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the January 2, 2019 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the January 2, 2019 agenda, as presented.  
**Adopted Unanimously.**

**(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 5, 2018**

Chairman Powers asked for a review of the December 5, 2018 meeting minutes.

A motion and a second were made to approve the December 5, 2018 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 re-elect the current slate of officers.

A motion and a second were made to approve Jeff Powers as Chairman, Don Gardner as Vice Chairman, and Pam Willoughby as Secretary for 2019.

**Adopted Unanimously**

#### **b. Appointments to Committees**

Chairman Powers said the committees will remain the same as last year and he will review the appointments as needed, but for at least the next 30 days, the committees stand as they are.

#### **c. 2019 Meeting Calendar**

A motion and a second were made to accept the 2019 meeting calendar as presented.

**Adopted Unanimously**

### **(4) Economic Development Director's Report**

Mrs. Blido announced the new county administrator is Robert Hiss who will start at the end of February so it's possible the Ag Board members will meet him at their March meeting. Chairman Powers noted that although Mr. Hiss has an experienced background, he may not have much experience regarding agriculture and the Ag Board can give him a good overview at the March meeting.

Mrs. Blido reported that Bedford County had a very good year in economic development. Staff assisted seven companies in 2018, which represented well over 100 jobs and more than \$10 million in investment. The Teva site is still a challenge, but they are working on finding good jobs for the employees. A national real estate firm has been hired and they are trying for a pharmaceutical replacement, but the space would also be ideal for a manufacturing company because of the availability of natural gas. Mrs. Blido also said that the BOS has committed \$1.5 million to broadband development and they have applied for a DHCD Virginia Telecommunications Initiative grant. At least a dozen counties have applied for this grant so Bedford county may not be awarded the full amount needed to completely build out the county. Therefore, she has also pre-applied for a Tobacco Commission grant to cover any remaining funds needed. She said that the county will not be running the network, they are only putting up the 10 towers needed and then the private sector will provide the service.

**(5) Cooperative Extension Report**

Mr. Baker said that his office has officially moved to the Parks & Recreation building off Falling Creek Road across from the Sheriff's Office and next to the nursing home. He invited the Ag Board members to stop by to see the new space and suggested a future meeting be held there. A pasture and hayfield weed management meeting will be held at Springlake Stockyard on Tuesday, January 29, and anyone interested is welcome. The next feeder calf sale at Springlake Stockyard is scheduled for January 25. He has applied to the Tobacco Commission for another regional cost share grant similar to others in the past and if funded, the timeline will be March or April. He passed out an information sheet regarding agriculture in Bedford County, but noted that the information is dated. When he gets newer information he will update the numbers and he can help the Ag Board present the information to Mr. Hiss if needed.

**(6) Bedford County Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Report**

Nothing to report.

**(7) Committee Reports**

**a. Education & Events**

**1. Upcoming Events**

Ms. Tomlinson reported they are getting ready for the season's contests and the CVLS livestock show is coming up. The middle school program is looking good, but they need to see if the 6th grade program will be in place for next year. Ms. Powers said the 4-H met in December and they also went to the Agape Center in Moneta where they sorted 1,500 pounds of food and other items for those in their mentorship program. The Agape Center accepts food, clothing, household goods, and toys if anyone has items to donate.

**2. County Fair update**

Ms. Powers noted the wrap up meeting and holiday dinner was in December and was well attended. The 2019 County Fair will be held the last weekend in September and more details will follow in the coming months.

**3. School Ag Programs Update**

Ms. Powers said there is some uncertainty regarding the 6th grade program but she will reach out to Dr. Francis for clarification. They want to use 2019 for prep and ground work in CTE and make 2020 as the year of CTE.

**b. Marketing & Production**

Nothing to report.

## **1. Farmer's Market Update**

Nothing to report.

## **2. Coyote Lottery Update**

Dr. Gardner reported that 40 coyote have been checked in so far. Discussion followed regarding coyote sightings on Blackwater Trail in Lynchburg and other areas with larger human populations. Advertising and awareness of the coyote lottery needs to remain high to encourage participation.

### **c. Land Protection & Conservation**

Mr. Fellers noted the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy in Roanoke announced a 50 acre Bedford farm was protected on December 28, but they did not give the name of the farm.

### **(8) Informational Items**

Chairman Powers mentioned the overpopulation of deer due to the hunting of only bucks. He brought up discussion of a possible doe season to help eliminate the overpopulation. Dr. Gardner said there is currently a damage permit to hunt an unlimited amount of deer, but it is somewhat a laborious process. It would be more helpful to have a season to hunt and harvest only doe. Discussion followed and Ag Board members will continue to discuss the subject at next month's meeting.

### **(9) ADJOURNMENT**

8:00 p.m.