



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board

May 2, 2018 – 7:30 p.m.

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

Absent: Beth Bays, Sam Gardner, Ronnie Gross

Staff Present: Traci Blido

Staff Absent: Scott Baker, Reid Wodicka

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: John Graham – Graham Bass Farm, Dorothy McIntyre - Forest Farmer's Market

(1) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the May 2, 2018 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the May 2, 2018 agenda, as presented.

Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes - April 4, 2018

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes. Two errors were corrected in the Farm Bureau Young Farmer's Report.

A motion and a second were made to approve the April 4, 2018 meeting minutes as amended.

Adopted unanimously.

(3) County Administration Report

Mrs. Blido stated that the County is hoping to adopt a budget on May 14.

(4) Economic Development Director's Report

The New London Tech Trails are ready to be used and the ribbon cutting was last week. Innovairre is having their ribbon cutting on May 10 and the Governor's Office will be participating. Custom Truck One Source, formerly Forestry Equipment of Virginia, has grown to 162 employees from starting at 17 employees. They will be leasing a new facility next to Owens Market and continue to grow and recently put in a welding facility. The EDA has invested a lot of money into grading lots so businesses can buy land and relocate to Bedford County with only having to put up their own building. This allows them to be up and running in no time. Activity in New London Park has been busy with Nanotouch building a 5,000 square foot facility and Liberty University continuing to work on CERE and School of Engineering. Mrs. Blido, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Powers and Ms. Tomlinson met earlier to brainstorm ideas for promoting ag careers on a County Fair display. She will be talking to Sam Gardner and others as well as some 4-H and FFA students. They would like to spotlight the youth by picturing them with their animal, greenhouse, or project along with facts of the fair and some sort of display. She will continue reporting back on any progress they make.

(5) Cooperative Extension Report

Mr. Baker was unable to attend. Chairman Powers reported that the FFA and 4-H Livestock show is this Saturday, May 5. Several market animals are still available including lambs and hogs. Any financial support that can be given to the youth will be greatly appreciated.

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

The Farm Bureau awarded scholarships last night at their meeting. The Bureau sponsors the 4-H and FFA livestock show and the Young Farmers sponsor as well. The Young Farmers had Trooper Brooks come speak about Farm Use tags and DMV F tags and the rules of use. They are currently working on a Chesapeake Bay trip for this summer and a speaker for tomorrow night's meeting.

(7) Committee Reports

a. Education & Events

(1) Upcoming Events

Ms. Tomlinson reported there was a Central Virginia Welding Competition in which Bedford County youth competed. They also went to Old Dominion Ag Complex in Chatham for their rally. The vet science team took second in the area, which is a tough competition. Two kids participated in public speaking and they did well. Josh Powers came in second in the tractor driving competition. They are getting ready for the state convention in June and continue to work on things for the County Fair.

Chairman Powell stated that the 4-H youth are getting ready for the livestock show. They are also preparing for the state livestock judging contest. The Smith Mountain FFA had their

banquet recently. Two juniors attended the State Officer Mock Interview held in Blacksburg. Costs for the children to attend the State Convention continue to skyrocket so any financial support will be greatly appreciated. There will be a quilt raffle to raise funds for the State Convention.

(2) County Fair update

The meeting is next week and the webpage is up to date.

(3) School Ag Programs Update

Dr. Gardner has collected three magazine articles for dissemination to the guidance counselors to inform them of agricultural related jobs that need trained individuals. Mrs. Blido will make copies of the articles to send out.

b. Marketing & Production

(1) Farmer's Market Update

Ms. McIntyre from the Forest Farmer's Market brought potato peelers that were given out at the first market days in Forest and Bedford. She has 60 active vendors compared to 44 last year. There are 24 full-time vendors while she had 23 last year, but she has 20 Bedford County vendors versus only 11 last year. The meat vendors are doing combination/package deals which gives them more sales. She has about the same number of customers attending as last year which is approximately 40-70 per hour. The vendors' sales were \$300,000 last year and that calculates to impacting the county as \$410,000. The first day was well received and finished strong. The indoor market will continue once a month. She joined the Lynchburg Retail Merchants Association (RMA) and they hold many classes relating to small businesses. She is part of the LEAP grant, but it may not be cost effective for the Forest market because of few clientele. She will be getting tables from Thaxton Elementary School to be used for the market. This is the 8th year for the Forest Market.

(2) Coyote Lottery Update

Dr. Gardner read an article about city coyotes becoming brazen in a community in California where they will begin trapping and euthanizing them. The lottery drawing had seven winners and he submitted a picture and information to the Bedford Bulletin for an article. The next lottery begins September 1 through March 31. Mrs Blido said the information is also listed under Ag News on her webpage.

(3) Bedford County Code for Dogs Killing Livestock Review

Chairman Powell and Mr. Baker reviewed the code and gave it to Mr. Wodicka who gave it to County Attorney Patrick Skelley. It will be going through the state channels for approval.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

There was nothing to report.

(8) Informational Items

Mr. Feller's reported that he received adequate Internet at home and he was able to cancel his Verizon service.

The meeting with the Board of Supervisors for recognition of Brandy Ferguson from Springlake Stockyard went well. The stockyard did \$28 million in sales. A picture was taken at the BOS meeting and Mrs. Blido wrote up the story and can send it to the Bedford Bulletin for printing.

(9) ADJOURNMENT

8:15 pm