



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
November 6, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
Peaks Conference Room at Falling Creek
1257 County Farm Road, Bedford, VA 24523

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

Absent: Beth Bays, Ronnie Gross

Staff Present: Scott Baker, Traci Blido, Amanda Kaufman

Staff Absent: None

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: John Graham - Graham Bass Farm; Makenna Garrett, Joshua Leamy, Parry Dooley - Students at Liberty High School

(1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the November 6, 2019 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the November 6, 2019 agenda, as presented.

Adopted unanimously.

(2) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - October 2, 2019

Chairman Powers asked for a review of the October 2, 2019 meeting minutes. Under the Item **b.1. Farmers' Market Update**, two typographical errors were corrected.

A motion and a second were made to approve the October 2, 2019 meeting minutes, as amended. **Adopted unanimously.**

(3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Mrs. Blido welcomed Amanda Kaufman, the new Deputy County Manager, to Bedford. She previously was Deputy City Manager in Marion, Iowa and received the 2016 Emerging Leader Award from the Iowa City and County Management Association. She has also been involved with the International City and County Managers Association (ICCMA). Ms. Kaufman thanked the Ag Board members for having her at the meeting and looked forward to working with the advisory board. Mrs. Blido reported that they had attended a meeting about the Burnbridge Road sewer project and how Ms. Kaufman was impressed with the cooperation between the county staff and local businesses. Ms. Blido also noted that Bedford County was awarded a Tobacco Commission grant and the D-Day Memorial was awarded a grant as well. Teva Pharmaceuticals officially announced their Bedford County facility closing in the form of a WARN notice. She has been working with regional and state workforce officials to match potential jobs for the 330 Teva employees. The broadband project is progressing and the broadband committee had an internal meeting with consultants. Work continues on obtaining the necessary permits and easements required to move forward with construction of the towers.

(4) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

Mr. Baker updated the Ag Board members about the possible invasive plant management cost share program. He gave County Administrator Robert Hiss more details regarding the Wythe County program and also spoke to the Soil and Water Conservation District Board members, who were receptive to a pilot project in Bedford. Mr. Baker will compile more information about the total miles of fencing in Bedford and the total amount of solution needed and any other specifics Mr. Hiss may need. He will have the data ready for the Ag Board's December meeting so they can request funds in the County budget for next fiscal year. He will also approach the Soil and Water Conservation District Board about some funds to make this project a cooperative effort. Mr. Baker also reported that the Bedford and Campbell County Cattlemen's Associations were supportive of the veterinary loan repayment program the USDA offers and the State Veterinarian wants to include Amherst County as well. Mr. Baker is working on the application now and will submit it to the State Vet so we can get the designation needed if any veterinarians decide to set up their practice in Bedford, Amherst, or Campbell counties.

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

Mr. Baumgardner said there will be a legislative meeting on November 12 at 6 p.m. in Lynchburg where Farm Bureau members can talk to their legislators about what issues are coming up and what they want promoted. One of the current hot topics for farmers is a bill being

introduced that would require every farm over 50 acres to have a nutrient management plan in place in order to spread fertilizer. Mr. Baumgardner also noted that a new Farm Bureau office is being opened in Forest. The Grand Opening is set for December 12 from 10 a.m. to 2-3 p.m. and this new office will give good service to farmers in that part of the county. The Farm Bureau Women's Committee gave out 12 FFA jackets this year. Ms. Tomlinson said their donations for these jackets is really appreciated because the jackets cost approximately \$55 to \$65 and club funds can only cover so much and some parents cannot afford to buy them.

(6) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education & Events

1. Upcoming Events

Ms. Tomlinson spoke about the FFA members present this night to accept recognition awards from the Ag Board. Joshua Leamy and Thomas Burnett were the two state winners of the Tractor Troubleshooting competition. The Vet Science Team which includes Makenna Garrett, Joshua Leamy, and Parry Dooley received a silver rating at National Convention which is a great accomplishment. The two FFA members who could not attend tonight's meeting are Olivia Croft, who is in college and Thomas Burnette, who just started his new job as a welder. The students and Ms. Tomlinson spoke about what skills and criteria are involved in these contests. Chairman Powers presented recognition certificates to the students and Mrs. Blido gave them samples of local honey and took photos.

Ms. Powers noted that Smith Mountain Middle School FFA is having a craft show at Staunton River Middle School on November 23 if anyone would like to attend. Ms. Tomlinson said the Moose Lodge is having a benefit breakfast for Liberty FFA on the morning of November 23 as well.

2. 2019 County Fair Update

Ms. Powers reported that the dates for the 2020 fair will be October 16-18, 2020. They have received good feedback and ideas from many people and welcome any suggestions to make the fair a great event.

3. School Ag Programs Update

Ms. Tomlinson said the Liberty students just got back from nationals and they enjoyed the time they spent interacting with the Smith Mountain students during the trip. Tess Seibel is a Botetourt County student who has been elected as a national FFA officer which is very big news since there are 700,000 current FFA members nationwide. Kelsey Oliver and Ethan Jackson received their American Degrees. All chapters are selling fruit for fundraising if anyone is interested. A busload of students went to the Virginia State Fair to compete in livestock contests. In 4-H, eight members went to Wytheville to the new event complex for livestock judging. The

kids did a great job and judged 12 classes and gave five sets of oral reasons and finished third in the contest. They have traveled to Indiana twice and on one trip they competed at Purdue in the National Stockmen's Contest and finished in the top ten. Charlie Moser continues to travel for livestock judging on the Virginia All-star team and will be going to Louisville in a few days. Ms. Tomlinson said the teachers have been so supportive of the agricultural endeavors of the students and she is very appreciative of the educational community getting behind these kids. She also noted the Bedford Women's Club is having their craft show this weekend at the middle school.

b. Marketing & Production

1. Farmers' Market Update

Mr. Graham said the Forest outdoor market is closed now, but the indoor market is held once a month. The first indoor market will be November 16 at the Forest Recreational Center just behind the library. The Bedford market is closed until next season.

2. Coyote Lottery Update

Dr. Gardner reported the lottery is proceeding and he will be sending out invoices to sponsors. Prize money will be based on sponsor donations, but we have received enough for the \$2,000 grand prize. Posters have been put up at Southern States. There has been a positive outcome from running these lotteries over the years because there is a lack of citizen complaints generated by coyotes now; where beforehand the Board of Supervisors and Ag Board members were getting numerous complaints. The behavior of coyotes has been changed because they are now more afraid of people since they are being hunted. Chairman Powers noted Dr. Gardner has been instrumental in the success of the lottery and thanked him for his efforts.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Mr. Fellers said we have done all we can do with the airport land rezoning issue. Mr. Baker reported that a draft airport district ordinance that Gregg Zody is working on will be sent to the Planning Commission by November 19.

Chairman Powers said it is not known at this time whether the election will affect some issues for agriculture, but we will work with what we have and make the best of it. Discussion followed regarding the election results and the Ag Board's advisory role.

(7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a. 2020 Meeting Calendar

A motion and second were made to approve the 2020 meeting calendar.

Adopted unanimously

There will be a presentation about hemp that Mrs. Blido will be attending on December 11 from 9-11 a.m. if anyone else is interested. It will be held at the Vinton War Memorial and costs \$45 per person.

The next Ag Board meeting will be December 4 with refreshments.

(8) ADJOURNMENT

8:07 p.m.