



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board

November 1, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Don Gardner, Sam Gardner, Ronnie Gross, Beth Bays

Staff Present: Traci Blido

Staff Absent: Scott Baker, Reid Wodicka

Transcriber: Julia Peters

Guests: Josh Powers

(1) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the November 1, 2017 agenda. There were no objections.

A motion and a second were made to approve the November 1, 2017 agenda, as presented.

Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 4, 2017

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the October 4, 2017 meeting minutes. A correction was made to the Cooperative Extension Report and a correction was made to the County Fair Update. A motion and second were made to approve the October 4, 2017 meeting minutes as amended.

Adopted unanimously.

(3) County Administration Report

Nothing to report.

(4) Economic Development Director's Report

Mrs. Blido reported that the Virginia Colonial Pipeline in Montvale will be closing in about a year. It will have a big impact on the region as companies will have to go to Greensboro or Richmond for their fuel. The only hope may be to build a consortium to put pressure on federal funding to make improvements to the pipeline. She has also been working on Go Virginia to see what is available to us. There is \$1 million dollars of funding for the entire Blacksburg, Roanoke, and Lynchburg regions. Six organizations or areas have applied for money and another seven have made inquiries. There must be a private sector match with it and the project must serve more than one locality. The deadline for applying is November 28.

She stated that Mr. Boggess is working on broadband with Comcast to help build out what they already had at the Lake area serving Moneta. The deadline for this grant is Nov. 15 just to serve the existing area but we will be working on serving the other areas as well in the future.

The Bedford Main Street Boot Camp has 10 participants and the Economic Development office sponsored with \$5,000. They will have a Shark Tank type competition and we will see what company will be awarded the prize money.

Mrs. Blido also spoke with Dr. Tony Francis about getting the word out to guidance counselors about what careers are available in agriculture. He was very open to the concepts they discussed and possibly having a tour and looks forward to hearing more. Mrs. Blido said she can help coordinate the tours and will keep pursuing this area and let her know what thoughts any board members may have on this topic.

She also reported she has been working and giving assistance to current companies that are all growing. She also attended the Career and Tech Expo the Bedford Chamber of Commerce sponsored last week. There were over 700 7th graders attending from both private and public schools, but they did not have any agriculture careers shown this year. We need to encourage some agricultural information for this event next year.

(5) Cooperative Extension Report

Mr. Baker could not attend the meeting, but provided a written report of the feeder cattle sale. Mr. Powers stated the sales have been very successful and the sales will hopefully continue. Mr. Baumgardner reported the Sheriff's Office is requesting livestock owners to update their information with them. It can be done online at their website and will help the sheriff's office locate owners when cattle get out in the road or other incidents happen where they need help from local livestock owners.

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

Mr. Baumgardner stated there is nothing new to report due to the meeting being scheduled for next week.

(7) Committee Reports

a. Education & Events

(1) Upcoming Events

Nothing to report.

(2) County Fair update

Ms. Powers said the fair was successful and ran very smoothly even though they were short-handed on volunteers. The FFA pulled through to help. The Old McDonald Farm tent was a huge success and the midway people want to come back for future fairs. Ms. Powers said that moving the fair back to September instead of August made it a more pleasurable event for everyone. The EMS & sheriff's office did a great job again this year. The safest guess of attendance was set at 22,000 and the 15 minute fireworks show on Saturday was also a big hit. They are looking to add a demolition derby for next year. They will start planning for next year's fair within the next two months. The Smith Mountain Lake Wine Festival has been scheduled for the same days as the fair. Mrs. Blido will notify the Chamber of Commerce about this.

(3) Middle School Ag Program Update

Lindsay Tomlinson reported 13 kids attended the national convention. Vice President Mike Pence was there and also the Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. Mr. Perdue was very impressive and very relatable to the kids. The leadership conference at Virginia Tech was good. Staunton River had outreach activities with 4th graders and Josh Powers spoke with 8th graders about new classes and talked about the FFA as well. He said there was a lot of interest.

Ms. Tomlinson stated that more ag classes have been proposed for next year. They include agritourism, horticulture, animal science, and veterinary science. The students at Liberty are excited about the new courses.

Mrs. Blido showed board members what she saw at the State Fair Ag Booth. The project included pictures of FFA kids and pictures of professionals showing what they do. These would be displayed at the booth and people can then walk through and see all the postings and talk with those working the booth. She suggested we do something similar for our next year's fair.

Ms. Powers reported that the Vet Science class did a rabies clinic at the school last weekend, working with Bedford Animal Hospital. They are also working on one of their service projects which is collecting leftover Halloween candy to send to the troops in care packages. Josh Powers stated the Chapter tractor driving contest was held today and tomorrow he will be going to the federation contest.

The 4-H is still doing season 2017 livestock judging. Josh Powers, Andrew Tuck, Ethan Jackson and Chad Hicks went to the Keystone International Judging Contest in Pennsylvania where they

did very well. Ethan Jackson has continued and is in the final five for the state team to represent Virginia in Louisville. It is the first time she knows of anyone competing in Louisville with the state team so it is a huge honor. Ethan has scholarship potential and all five of the seniors who competed in June have a spot on the Virginia Tech judging team if they choose to accept. The 4-H year starts new in the fall and at the meeting, close to 50 people attended with three new families participating. The Fair had a positive effect on participation in 4-H. They have a new partnership with Staunton River for livestock practices with a free lease on one classroom this spring. FFA fruit sales are also running now if anyone is interested.

b. Marketing & Production

(1) Coyote Lottery Update

Nothing to report.

(2) Farmer's Market Report

Bedford is closed and Forest had their last market day. Forest will now have an indoor market once a month.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Mr. Powers reported that he had approached the chairman of the planning commission regarding the residential livestock ordinance that the agricultural board had approved in their July meeting. No further action has been taken by the planning commission.

A motion and a second were made to table the action taken on the residential livestock ordinance until a later date.

Adopted Unanimously.

(8) Informational Items

Ms. Powers spoke about a concern a vet had regarding the student loan relief or federal debt forgiveness program for veterinarians that will be shut down soon. She will do some research and speak with Scott and report back to the board with more information next month.

Mrs. Blido is updating the Ag Events web page and there is a Small Farm Family Conference in Charlottesville scheduled for Nov. 10 and 11. Boone Tractor is having their equipment auction on Nov. 10 at 10 am and their Heritage Day on Nov. 11 with basket weaving and candy making.

The next meeting will be December 6 at 6:45 pm and will have refreshments if anyone would like to bring something to share.

(9) Adjournment

- 8:03 p.m.