



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

**November 3, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.**

**Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board:**

**:Present:**

Jeffrey Powers, Pete Fellers, Don Gardner, Keith Tuck, Ronnie Gross, Ken Newman, Lindsay Tomlinson, Chuck Grove, Ken Palmer, Matt Baumgardner

**:Absent:** W.P. Johnson, Pam Willoughby

**Staff Present:** Jessica Hupp, Traci Blido, Scott Baker, Reid Wodicka

**Staff Absent:**

**:Guests:** John Graham, Joy Powers

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**(1) Approval of Agenda**

Jeff Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the November 2, 2016 agenda.

A motion and a second were made to approve the November 2, 2016 agenda, as presented.

**Adopted Unanimously.**

**(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 5, 2016**

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the October 5, 2016 meeting minutes.

A motion and a second were made to approve the October 5, 2016 meeting minutes, as presented.

**Adopted unanimously.**

**(3) County Administration Report**

Mr. Wodicka introduced himself to the group and thanked them for allowing him to be at the board meeting. Mr. Wodicka grew up in Lynchburg City and is glad to be back in the area after 10 years. Mr. Wodicka stated met with Scott, Jeff, and Carl to talk about getting a group together to make a strategic plan for the board. The group will likely revisit the topic in February.

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

Mrs. Blido reported staff finally closed on the brewery loan and at the end of construction it will result in a 30-barrel production brewery and restaurant known as Beale's Brewery & BBQ. Staff hosted a great groundbreaking event with the developer and local officials and we had a lot of media present.

Mrs. Blido stated there are several companies expanding in Bedford County. Most are adding machinery and tools, some jobs, and real estate improvement, which all contribute to the tax base.

Mrs. Blido stated she placed an ad in Virginia Ag magazine, and asked the board to let her know if they receive any feedback from it.

Mrs. Blido recently attended the Virginia-Maryland Ag Marketing professionals tour, where she spent a couple of days visiting a range of traditional ag farms and local sustainable operations, including a ginseng production farm.

Mr. Powers asked if we could update the agriculture brochure that we have around the first of the year. Mrs. Blido stated we would begin working on it, as well as updating the Bedford Grown directories. Mrs. Blido reminded the board to send any ag events they want us to post on the website.

#### **(5) Cooperative Extension Report**

Mr. Baker reported that there will be a recertification meeting at the Rustburg Ruritan building coming up this month. Saturday they will be having a pasture walk at Keith's to show how he stock piles fescue and how it can make a big difference on your farm. That will be held at 10 a.m. and is free to anyone who attends. Mr. Baker stated that back in July Hanson Brook Farms stated they would be relocating to Virginia from New York. They hosted a few producer interest meetings and would like to do more in this area. They will be holding one on December 7 in Rocky Mount.

#### **(6) FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS REPORT**

Ms. Powers said the young farmers are in the middle of the gun raffle right now for anyone wanting to buy tickets.

#### **(7) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **a. Education & Events**

##### **(1) Upcoming Events**

Ms. Powers stated they have not signed a contract for rides for the 2017 fair but have selected a date of September 7-10. It will be back at the Glenwood Center and they are looking for new entertainment ideas and hoping to diversify as much as possible. Ms. Powers stated they want to

incorporate some easy ag education components for the average fair-goers. Mr. Graham is working on getting some hydroponics there. Mrs. Tomlinson stated that Liberty University offered two \$18,000 scholarships for the pageant winner, which was given to this year's winner and will go towards next year's winner.

Mrs. Tomlinson stated she took 11 students to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis and it was great experience with a lot of workshops and a college fair. Ms. Powers thanked the people that contributed towards the trip to national convention, as all the students ways were completely covered. Mrs. Tomlinson said FFA is doing a tractor driving competition tomorrow, and they have started their fruit sale. As far as middle school plans, it is still up in the air, but she is having students gently encouraging and reminding the board of interest in having a middle school ag program. Ms. Tomlinson also reported that Stewart Byrd was recognized as Honorary American Farmer.

A discussion followed to explain to Mr. Wodicka what happened to the middle school ag program.

## **b. Marketing & Production**

### **(1) Farmers Markets**

Mr. Newman reported he hosted a tour to Russell County representatives (the County Administrator, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the board) who came to see his operation. They are planning on putting in an ag industrial park. They're not sure how big yet, but they already own two canneries and are looking at tying in a composting operation. The group is currently looking at 1,500 acre piece of land for the park.

Mr. Powers stated he was shocked to hear that most slaughterhouses are 2-3 months behind, if not more, partly because of deer season but also because they're just backlogged. Mr. Powers stated he called Willis in Floyd County, and they said they could get some pigs processed in 10 days to 2 weeks. One of the FFA kids wanted to be a butcher, which now seems to be an in demand job.

Mr. Gross stated it was a busy farmer's market year and that there will be a market meeting tomorrow at 11 a.m.

### **(2) Coyote Lottery**

Dr. Gardner reported as of today he's received \$1,750 for the Coyote Lottery, which is over and above Farm Bureau's \$1,000 match. Most of the money was received from people who sponsored last year. The only difference was that Springlake cut back to \$250. With that, there is a total of \$3,000 to give away as prize money. There will be a \$2,000 grand prize and the other \$1,000 will be split up into smaller prizes.

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

## **1. Farm Transition Workshop update**

Mr. Baker stated there has been a pretty good response for the Farm Transition workshop in both Bedford and Campbell counties. He received a call from Norm Hyde who stated the workshop would be featured in the state-wide newsletter.

### **(8) Other Business**

#### **A. County livestock ordinances in residential zones**

Mr. Powers stated that they've been working on a county livestock ordinance for residential areas and that they held some special meetings with a lot of discussion, feedback, and questions. Scott passed out the last draft ordinance.

Mr. Powers stated they had made a couple of changes and that they realize residential zones are residential for a reason, but there are FFA kids who live in these areas and its helpful to them to complete projects. The changes include describing younger cattle as juvenile cattle, which are to be scientifically understood and designated by their teeth. Ms. Powers stated she spoke to Jonathan Jackson to get his opinion and he thought that was a good idea. Jonathan had a problem with the term weaned, because a calf is not always weaned when it should be. Dr. Gardner stated the eruption of adult teeth is a known legal term to determine exports of cattle.

A discussion followed concerning the size and location of a shelter and potential setbacks.

Mr. Powers stated that the board will address the shelter set back issues. A motion by Mr. Palmer, seconded by Dr. Gardner, was made to approve the ordinance in its entirety after setback questions are addressed. The ag board approved unanimously.

### **(9) Informational Items**

Mr. Powers reported that Pam had fallen off her porch, which is why she was not able to attend.

Mr. Baker reported the American Forage and Grassland Council is hosting its annual conference in Roanoke in January. They are looking to hold a preconference tour of farms that are close enough by bus to the Hotel Roanoke. Mr. Baker stated he made some suggestions, and weather permitting they will be visiting Keith's farm.

### **(10) Adjournment**

**-8:02 p.m.**