



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
October 1, 2014 – 7:30 p.m.

Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board:

:Present:

Jeffrey Powers, Ken Palmer, Sam Gardner, Chuck Grove, Pam Willoughby, Pete Fellers,
Spencer Tinsley, Daniel Layman, Ken Newman, Matt Baumgardner, W.P. Johnson

:Absent:

Ronnie Gross

Staff Present: Scott Baker, Traci Blido, Jessica Hupp

Staff Absent: Mark Reeter

Guests: John Graham

(1) Approval of Agenda

Mr. Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the October 1, 2014 agenda. Mr. Powers stated he would like to add the Coyote Lottery to the agenda.

A motion and a second were made to approve the October 1, 2014 agenda, as presented.

Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 3, 2014

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the September 3, 2014 meeting minutes.

A motion and a second were made to approve the meeting minutes of September 3, 2014, as presented.

Adopted unanimously.

(3) County Administrator's Report

There was no report for this month.

(4) Economic Development Director's Report

Mrs. Blido reported the office of economic development hosted two events last month including the Bedford Business Roundtable meeting and the Bedford One Business Appreciation event.

The Bedford Loft apartments have officially opened this week, and over 100 people went through the lofts on tours during Centerfest. The Artisan Trail launched last night and the brochures that were printed have an impressive number of agricultural businesses on the trail. Brochures were distributed to ag board members.

Mrs. Blido reported more than 50 people applied for the Tourism Director position, and she plans to go over the applications next Friday with Mark Reeter and Annie Pollard to select candidates to interview.

Mrs. Blido reported that she attended a Maryland-Virginia agriculture tour last month, where she was able to tour several different farms and agriculture operations, and also visited a high school to see what they were teaching as agriculture curriculum in that rural county.

Mrs. Blido stated that Poplar Forest was approved for \$100,000 worth of excavation and entrance work at the Tobacco Commission meeting last week. Trident Seafood has extended their warn notice until the end of the year, and will be hosting a job fair where outside company's can interview Trident's current employees for manufacturing jobs after Trident Seafood closes down.

Mrs. Blido reported that the EDA and Board of Supervisors will be having their yearly joint meeting on October 14.

(5) Cooperative Extension Report

Mr. Baker reported that state agencies have had to submit a revised budget, and he was concerned that they would have to make significant shifts to cut back on budget. However, the extension office was spared the cut, at least for the next bi-annual period.

Mr. Baker reported that the recent tobacco commission grant has fulfilled all of its 9 spots allotted to the county. Mr. Baker said if there are still openings after the end date of the grant, Bedford may be able to apply for more.

Mr. Baker reported that the Expo being planned for next spring needs to nail down a standardized date. He suggested the second Saturday in March if the board approves. The board voted unanimously to host the expo on the standardized date of the second Saturday in March.

Mr. Baker reported that Daniel has done a lot of work with the expo topic and believes that a lot can be done with it in a comprehensive way.

(6) Bedford County Farm Bureau Young Farmers Report

Mr. Johnson reported that the Young Farmers have not had a recent meeting. The annual dinner will still be held on Oct. 7.

(7) Committee Reports
a. Education & Events
(1) Ag Complex

Mr. Palmer reported that there is no new news except that he is continuing to search for Ag complex locations.

(2) Bedford One Ag tour update

Ms. Hupp reported that the Bedford One Program held an agriculture tour in September at Gardner Heifers and Royal Oak Composting. The tour included 25 students from Staunton River High School's agriculture class, along with their teacher and three other One Program committee members.

(3) Upcoming Events

a. Beef Cattle Grading Workshop – Oct. 23

Mr. Baker reminded the board that the Cattle Grading workshop is taking place on Thursday, October 23 at 6:00 p.m. at the Springlake Livestock Market. The event intends to keep the community updated and informed on what beef cattle grading is and how it's done. Mr. Baker stated the guest speaker will be John Beam who works with those who do a lot of cattle grading in our county and knows Bedford well. There will be a simple meal beforehand and the meeting will follow.

b. Marketing & Production

(1) Farmers' Market

Mrs. Blido reported that Dorothy informed her of the November holiday market, and that it has to remain outside because of the large amount of vendors who signed up to be there this year.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Mr. Fellers reported that the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy had its annual fundraiser with a silent auction. It was not as successful as last year, however it did well overall.

(8) Other Business

a. Region 2000 Agriculture and Forestry Strategic plan discussion

Mr. Baker stated he reported the Region 2000 Agriculture and Forestry Strategic plan to the Board of Supervisors with the revisions the Ag board had voted on. The plan did not require that the Board take any actions with the plan, however the presentation prompted additional questions and a suggestion that the both the Ag Board and Board of Supervisors meet in a work session to discuss it further. The next opportunity would be on Wednesday, November 12, prior to their

regular meeting. Mr. Baker stated to be on the lookout for more information concerning the topic from Mr. Powers.

Mr. Baker stated that the plan had been approved by the other surrounding counties and that they will soon be in talks to discuss a regional Agriculture website.

(9) Informational Items

Sam Gardner reported that he would get Don to send out an email with details of the Coyote lottery. Sam reported Don has found plenty of funding from sponsorships but is not aware of how much.

Mr. Johnson stated that we needed to get out some marketing materials in order to inform those who want to participate. Mr. Baker stated he would look at last year's flyers to see what information needs to be edited.

Mr. Johnson made a motion that the beginning of the Coyote Lottery should begin on November 1. The board voted unanimously.

Mrs. Blido announced to the board that the next meeting time will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Graham reported that Virginia Tech is offering a Good Aquaculture Practice class next Thursday from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Ag research facility in Fort Pickett. There will be free lunch provided along with good presentations.

Mr. Graham also reported that the state finalized its Aquaculture Advisory Board for the Governor. Mr. Graham stated that only one aqua farmer on the board lives west of I-95, with a majority representation from the Tidewater region, and that there are many seafood industry people on the board but not aquaculture.

(10) Adjournment

9:08 p.m.