



Meeting Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
October 5, 2016 – 7:30 p.m.

Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board:

:Present:

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

:Absent: W.P. Johnson, Chuck Grove

Staff Present: Jessica Hupp

Staff Absent: Carl Boggess, Traci Blido, Scott Baker

:Guests: John Graham, Andy Dooley

(1) Approval of Agenda

Jeff Powers called the meeting to order and asked for a review of the October 5, 2016 agenda.

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

Adopted Unanimously.

(2) Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2016

Mr. Powers asked for a review of the September 7, 2016 meeting minutes.

Ms. Hupp stated there needed to be a change in figures reported for the fair. The results should read \$400,000 of an overall economic impact, an estimated \$70,000 of onsite sales, and Porter BBQ had \$30,000 worth of sales.

A motion and a second were made to approve the September 7, 2016 meeting minutes, as amended.

Adopted unanimously.

(3) County Administration Report

No report.

(4) Economic Development Director's Report

Ms. Hupp stated that Mrs. Blido is attending the Virginia-Maryland Agricultural Development and Marketing Professionals tour in Western Maryland this week. The tour is a coordinated effort with the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS).

Ms. Hupp reported next Thursday staff will host a groundbreaking event at 11 a.m. for Beale's Brewery and BBQ. Prep work began for the construction site last week, and next week will be the last opportunity to tour the facility before heavy construction begins.

Ms. Hupp stated that staff will be holding a broadband meeting with Sandy Terry to discuss the results of a broadband assessment on the county that was completed. The assessment lists our broadband goals and will help the Center for Innovative Technology put together a request for proposals to get feedback from the private sector internet service providers.

Mr. Dooley stated that getting broadband access has been a very drawn out process in the county, which he is hearing from people within his district. Mr. Dooley stated he is not sure how far along Mid-Atlantic is in the process; however the tower is now up. The meeting next Tuesday will discuss the need for a project manager and he hopes we can learn from the mistakes of previous projects on the next tower locations. Dr. Gardner mentioned staff should look into the FCC's universal provider fund for underserved areas as a potential source for the county in its continued broadband efforts. A discussion followed about broadband access in the county.

Mr. Graham mentioned that Bedford Main Street's Centerfest is taking place this weekend on Friday and Saturday. Also, Virginia State University's open house at the farm will be October 20, from 9 a.m. to noon, with lunch included.

(5) Cooperative Extension Report

Mr. Baumgardner reported the vegetable grower's conference will be taking place in Farmville on October 27 from 9 a.m. to 3, and those that are interested should give Scott a call. Mr. Baumgardner stated there will be a meeting next Tuesday or Thursday at the Appomattox high school's farm to go over conservation programs.

(6) FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS REPORT

Mr. Johnson was not in attendance. Mr. Baumgardner stated at the meeting last night they highlighted the young farmer trips and that Joy was congratulated for the trip they made with young farmers. There will be no other meetings this month, and the next meeting will be the first Thursday of November.

(7) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education & Events

(1) Upcoming Events

Mr. Palmer reported that Ronnie is having his Apple Harvest Festival this Saturday and that the Sedalia Chili Cook off is coming up this month, October 22. Mr. Powers stated they had a fair committee meeting at the station to feed all the volunteers for their help. There were around 26 there. Curry and his wife both attended and finalized Glenwood as the location for next year's fair. Mr. Powers stated they are trying to get away from Labor Day weekend and will hopefully secure the weekend before or after. Mr. Powers stated they would also like to work with Sedalia and other groups in the County to make sure nothing overlaps. Mr. Dooley stated he's heard plenty of positive comments about the fair, and that if the fair needs additional funding to function he'd be supportive of them asking the Board of Supervisors.

(2) Coyote Lottery

Dr. Gardner said sponsorship letters got sent out later than anticipated, and he's been very busy. Suzy's treatment changed to home healthcare but she has been slowly getting better. They should know more in a couple weeks. Dr. Gardner reported he's already received three sponsorship checks, which means we will have at least a \$2,000 grand prize. Dr. Gardner stated he sent Jessica a form for sponsors to fill out that she will disperse to the board so that others can ask for sponsorships. The dates of the Coyote Lottery will be from now until March 1, 2017.

Ms. Tomlinson reported she took some students to the state fair this year, where they have a couple banners in multi-species already. On Thursday she took a group of students to a contest called Forestry Field Day, where students displayed skills in forestry such as using the bow saw, log roll, and log toss. They have not yet posted the scores yet, but the students did very well.

Ms. Tomlinson stated they will have booth at Centerfest and there will also be a Miss Bedford County Fair booth there to increase interest in next year's pageant. They also hope to raise some more money to help get students to the FFA National Convention by raffling off a steel chainsaw.

Ms. Tomlinson gave an update on the middle school ag program status. She met with her building principal, and they plan on having students respectfully reminding at school board meetings the need for a middle school ag program. Ms. Tomlinson and another ag teacher are going to go to local counties with middle and high school ag programs to create a video of those programs and how they work together.

Ms. Tomlinson reported they hosted 150 FFA officers from the Southridge area of Virginia, which ended up being 14-15 schools. FFA has a very strong state officer team that is doing a lot of workshops for its members. For first time in a while we now, FFA has area officers. The Young Farmers provided an awesome meal for the group while they were here.

b. Marketing & Production

(1) Farmers Markets

Mr. Graham stated the markets are still going well, but it's typically a hard time for them due to festivals and lack of produce. Mr. Graham stated the markets will be open through the month, and some through the middle of next month. Forest will move to its indoor program in November, and will be held twice a month this year versus once a month last year. Mr. Dooley suggested looking into a market in the Montvale area. A discussion followed concerning the feasibility of a market in Montvale. Mr. Graham suggested doing a survey of when the most people would make use of a market there and how many would be able to sell at it, because the markets may be saturated right now. Mr. Graham stated what drives the success of a market is availability of out of season produce.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

1. Farm Transition Workshop update

Mr. Fellers stated there is a transition meeting coming up on November 14. Mr. Powers asked Ms. Hupp to send the transition workshop flyer to the board in order to spread the word. Mr. Powers reiterated that the meeting is open to people other than farmers. Mr. Fellers reported he has heard some rumblings from the General Assembly that they are going to be cutting back on the tax credit program.

(8) Other Business

A. County livestock ordinances in residential zones

1. Planning meeting postponed

Mr. Powers stated they had some conflicts on setting up another meeting to discuss the ins and outs of the residential livestock ordinances, but hope to get the information out to everyone else soon once it has been rescheduled. Mr. Powers stated we will be discussing it at the November meeting once Scott is back. Mr. Powers stated one aspect they need further consulting on is Bedford County's animal control officers perspective.

(9) Informational Items

Mr. Graham stated the high schools have an internship program, and he has been fortunate enough to have an intern from Liberty High School this year who wants to be a marine biologist. She will be at farm for the year and the internship will help her understand if that's what she wants to pursue. Mr. Graham said there may be some aspects in the ag community that we might be able to support internship program. Mr. Graham stated he is very pleased with the first few weeks and his work with the student, and wanted to let people know so maybe more can participate in ag internships.

Mr. Dooley stated at the Board of Supervisor's next meeting they will be discussing CIP requests. The county has several building issues. The west side needs to be worked on in this building, so they plan to move Scott to the old nursing home building where there is more room. They have already moved the registrar office to the central library, which is getting a new roof. After that, they may bring human resources to the second floor, and then move fiscal management due to the amount of filing cabinets they have. The hired contractors are going to help the board decide what to do with the building. With that said, Mr. Dooley explained that CIP is long term plan, and the ag board might want to start talking about long term goals such as an ag facility.

(10) Adjournment

-8:59 p.m.