



Minutes
Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board
Peaks Conference Room at Falling Creek
1257 County Farm Rd. Bedford, VA 24523

Wednesday, May 3, 2023
7:30 p.m.

Agricultural Board

Present: Jeff Powers (District 1), Joy Powers (District 2), Chuck Grove (District 4), Melody Divers (District 6), Pete Fellers (District 7), Matt Baumgardner (At-Large), Dorothy McIntyre (At-Large) Ken Newman (At-Large)

Staff Present: Pam Bailey, Scott Baker, Trish Luger

Absent: Don Gardner (District 3), Ethan Tanner (District 5), Sam Gardner (At-Large), Lindsay Tomlinson (At-Large), Justin Stauder, Deputy County Administrator

Guests: Mickey Johnson, Josh Powers, Carolyn Fellers, Andy Dooley

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Powers called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

(2) APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Powers called for a motion to approve the meeting agenda.

Mr. Newman moved, seconded by Mr. Baumgardner, to approve the May 3, 2023, agenda.

Adopted Unanimously

(3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. April 5, 2023

Chairman Powers called for a motion to approve the corrected April 5, 2023, meeting minutes.

Mr. Newman moved, seconded by Mr. Baumgardner to approve the April 5, 2023, minutes.

Adopted Unanimously

(4) ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Mr. Stauder was not in attendance and had no update to provide.

(5) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Ms. Bailey mentioned a document regarding grant opportunities. Ms. Bailey will provide links and information upon request.

Ms. Bailey is currently working on a brochure and rack card for employers to share with new or potential employees. This will showcase living and working in Bedford, as well as the environment and the community.

A GO Virginia meeting will be attended next week to discuss creative partnerships for rural communities. Priority projects will be identified for community collaboration.

The 2023 Consultants Forum will be attended May 15-17. Leading site selection consultants from all over the country will lead sessions in best practices as well as meet with attendees.

CTE Signing Day is tomorrow, May 5 at 1:30 p.m., at Susie G. Gibson Science & Technology Center with approximately 30 students being recognized.

The Business Appreciation Event is Wednesday, May 10 at Apocalypse Cidery & Winery from 5 - 7 p.m.

(6) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT

Thirty-two participants participated in the fencing school class.

The spotted lanternfly hatched in the Lynchburg area 2-3 weeks ago and is being monitored.

The Asian longhorn tick sent to Virginia Tech for identification was confirmed.

The Central Livestock show is this coming weekend, May 6 - 7.

(7) BEDFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS REPORT

Farm Bureau presented five scholarships in the county.

Farm Bureau will have a presence at the livestock show to purchase and show support of young farmers. Everybody is encouraged to support the youth without having to bring meat home.

(8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Education & Events

1. Upcoming events

Ms. Powers said the recent fair meeting was highly promising. It was suggested that community input be sought. Any known locations that could be used for the fair can be emailed to Ms. Powers.

2. School Ag Programs update

In Ms. Tomlinson's absence, Ms. Powers stated that this is a busy time of year due to the livestock show, banquets, and the state convention.

b. Marketing & Production

1. Farmer's Market updates

A successful Forest market was held April 29 with forty-two vendors in place and an exceptional turnout. Parking was a bit of an issue with one business in a nearby office building. She has denied parking to market attendees and towing will be enforced. The Presbyterian Church graciously offered their lot for use.

Montvale had over 300 people at its new market to shop at the 14 local vendors.

Moneta currently has 8 full-time registered vendors, 4 full-time applications in route, and several guest vendors, bringing a total of 19 vendors.

Ms. McIntyre mentioned VDACS and their requirement to have a meat handlers permit to sell at the markets.

c. Land Protection & Conservation

Mr. Fellers attended the Lynchburg groups fundraiser. He learned of a third group from Danville, which is part of the 22 counties covering Lynchburg, Roanoke, and Danville.

Mr. Fellers' attorney remains busy working on easements.

(9) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Mr. Baumgartner mentioned keeping an eye out for farmers and tractors throughout the season.

(10) ADJOURNMENT

8:11 pm