



**Minutes**  
**Agricultural Economic Development Advisory Board**  
**Peaks Conference Room at Falling Creek**  
**1257 County Farm Rd. Bedford, VA 24523**  
**Wednesday, September 6, 2023**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**Agricultural Board**

**Present:** Jeff Powers (District 1), Don Gardner (District 3), Chuck Grove (District 4), Ethan Tanner (District 5), Melody Divers, (District 6), Pete Fellers (District 7), Dorothy McIntyre (At-Large) Ken Newman (At-Large)

**Staff Present:** Pam Bailey, Justin Stauder, Scott Baker, Trish Luger

**Absent:** Joy Powers (District 2), Matt Baumgardner, (At-Large), Sam Gardner, (At-Large), Lindsay Tomlinson, (At-Large)

**Guests:** Charla Bansley, Josh Powers, Johnny Divers, Jeff Williams

**(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 agenda. Mr. Grove moved, seconded by Mr. Gardner to approve the agenda.  
Adopted Unanimously

**(3) APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

**a. May 3, 2023**

Chairman Powers called for a motion to approve the August 2, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Newman moved, seconded by Mr. Tanner to approve the meeting minutes.  
Adopted Unanimously

**(4) ADMINISTRATION REPORT**

Regarding Ms. McIntyre's funding inquiry for Moneta and Montvale Farmers Markets, all four markets are now fully funded at \$2,500 each in reimbursable funds for marketing and advertising efforts.

**(5) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT**

The Tobacco Commission recently toured the Center for Engineering Research and Education, which they helped fund. The new Deputy Director and Director of Regional Energy Development & Innovation will be focused on new funding initiatives such as Agribusiness and Energy Development.

Leather manufacturer, Moore & Giles, is educating the consumer about the need for leather and it being eco-friendly. They have partnered with Seven Hills Food Co. to repurpose hides instead of them being thrown into the landfill.

## **(6) COOPERATIVE EXTENSION REPORT**

Virginia Dept of Agriculture does a pesticide disposal program targeted at commercial businesses including farmers, golf courses, and landscapers that generate a lot of pesticides. They will be located at the Lynchburg Livestock Market on September 26. Anything will be accepted, even from homeowners, with no questions asked.

A survey has been sent to understand the top issues/needs of the community. Approximately 150 completed surveys have been received.

The next weaned/vaccinated feeder calf sale will be held on Saturday, September 9, at Springlake Stockyard.

## **(7) BEDFORD COUNTY FARM BUREAU YOUNG FARMERS REPORT**

The annual Farm Bureau meeting is on Tuesday, October 10.

The Women's Committee is taking applications for any FFA girl who needs a jacket.

Young Farmers are feeding FFA kids at a church in Moneta.

## **(8) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

#### **1. Upcoming events**

In the absence of Ms. Powers, Mr. Powers stated schools are just getting started and activities are picking up. Ms. Powers has been contacted by a Bedford resident who has an interest in providing a carnival event this fall with proceeds possibly benefitting future fairs. The location for the carnival has been established. Ms. Powers will update the fair board members within the next few days.

Maribeth Martin with the Extension office is on maternity leave but continuing 4-H work.

SMLCA is moving forward with 4-H and FFA classes and a building is in progress for CTE classes.

#### **2. School Ag Programs update**

### **b. Marketing & Production**

Mr. Newman did not have any updates.

Dr. Gardner spoke about the Coyote Lottery and the news publicity he has received. Guest, Jeff Williams, shared his experiences with the lottery. Any farmers interested in allowing their property to be hunted can contact Mr. Williams.

#### **1. Farmer's Market updates.**

**Moneta** – Today was the last day for this market. Next season, plans are to begin in May and end in August with hours from 3 - 6 p.m. Recent survey feedback from 65 people stated bread and produce were most desirable. Additional produce vendors are needed next season.

**Forest** – This market is going strong, averaging 1,600-1,900 visitors. The weekly season will end on October 28 and will then begin monthly.

Ms. McIntyre thanked Economic Development for their work on funding all four markets.

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

Mr. Fellers stays updated on solar projects and finds some counties are swayed by the beneficial aspect.

## **(9) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Dr. Gardner spoke about soil conservation and fencing out creeks. He recently observed a privet hedge with berries and mock orange with thorns taking over an area that cannot be bushhogged nor can cattle graze. Birds are creating quite a mess on the fence, and he believes this issue needs to be acknowledged.

Dr. Gardner mentioned the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and food items to eliminate to promote good health. One item removed from schools is whole milk due to its saturated fat content. Schools instead provide other alternatives, although not well received as many are thrown away. Liberty High School recently added Homestead Creamery as its milk provider.

Veterinarian Taylor Young, previously at Riverside Veterinary, has joined the Lynchburg VDACS office. With four diagnostic labs in VA, Chairman Powers believes that three of the four VDACS offices each received a 1-million-dollar grant to update their facilities.

Michelle Miller, the “Farm Babe”, will tour Chapel Creek Farms October 4 – 6. Ms. Divers has invited her to attend the next Ag meeting on Wednesday, October 4. The area 4-H and FFA chapters will be invited to attend, and a reception will follow the meeting. Ms. Bailey will speak with Ms. Basinger regarding a follow-up press release on Ms. Millers appearance.

**(10) ADJOURNMENT**

8:33 pm