

FINAL MINUTES

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Horse Center, Anderson Coliseum Mezzanine
487 Maury River Road, Lexington, Virginia
Monday, July 29, 2013

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, July 29, 2013, at the Virginia Horse Center in Lexington, Virginia. President Sturgis called the meeting to order. At the President's request, Mr. Mills gave the invocation.

The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Steve Sturgis
Shelley Barlow
William B. Bain
Robert J. Mills, Jr.
Rosalea R. Potter
L. Wayne Kirby
Dr. Mark A. McCann
John R. Marker
L. Kirk Wiles, III
Elizabeth L. White
Kevin J. Kordek
Dr. Jewel E. Hairston

Dr. Alan L. Grant

DISTRICT

2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
9th
10th
11th
Pesticides – Commercial Agricultural
Pesticides – Commercial Structural
Representing Dr. Keith T. Miller, President,
Virginia State University
Representing Dr. Charles W. Steger, President,
Virginia Tech

ABSENT

Stephen Ellis
Patrick A. Toulme

1st
8th

STAFF PRESENT

Matthew J. Lohr, Commissioner
Sandra J. Adams, Deputy Commissioner
Roy E. Seward, Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bain asked that the word "insurance" be added after the word "crop" on line 5 of page 5 of the draft minutes for the meeting of May 23, 2013. Mr. Mills moved that the draft minutes of the May meeting be approved as distributed with the correction Mr. Bain requested. Mr. Bain seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bain reported that the grass is green, crops look good overall and that most folks are happy. He noted that there are areas of concern. He added that the tobacco crop might be a little light and that the harvest is in full swing. He also reported that tobacco growers are excited about the

Board of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Final Minutes

July 29, 2013

Page 2

good contracts for this year. He commented that grain prices have been dropping for the past few weeks and that has folks concerned. He reported that the peanut crop looks good so far.

Dr. McCann, who was recently appointed to represent the 9th district, reported on the impact of the rainfall in getting the corn crop planted this year. He noted that those raising poultry and cattle have an eye on grain prices and are probably the only ones cheering the low prices.

Mrs. Barlow, who was recently appointed to represent the 3rd district, reported that it has been a challenging season for the growers in her area, but that crops look good overall.

Mr. Wiles reported that his district has been pretty wet, but that, in general, crops are okay. He noted that grape production could be down by 15%. He added that the vines are coming back and that the grape harvest will start in mid-August.

Ms. White reported on the Pesticide Disposal Program and the areas to be covered this fall and on the Pesticide Container Recycling Program.

Mr. Kordek reported that it has been a good season in the pest control industry. He noted, however, that federal budget reductions required by the sequester have had a significantly negative impact on the communities and businesses of the Hampton Roads area, which depend on the economic activity provided by Department of Defense dollars. He added that many who are losing income because of the sequester are cancelling pest control services and this is affecting the structural pest control industry.

Mr. Mills reported that his district has received adequate moisture in July. He commented that the corn and the early soybeans are the best he has ever seen, but that the late soybeans look pretty bad and that a lot of the wheat is getting bush-hogged right now. He noted that the tobacco crops looked good until his area received 14 inches of rain during the first six weeks of the growing season. He commented that the demand for tobacco has been good but that the crop this year will be really short all up the East Coast.

Mr. Marker, who was recently appointed to represent the 10th district, reported that farmers in his area have had adequate moisture. He noted the corn, soybean and fruit crops are growing well. He commented on lower commodities prices and indicated that his area has gotten a lot of hay but that the quality has been questionable.

Mrs. Potter welcomed everyone to Lexington. She reported that the rain has been great for the pastures and livestock farmers in the area. She commented that corn looks awesome, but that the hay crop has been touch and go. She pointed out that there are not a lot of acres of soybeans grown in her district.

Mr. Sturgis reported that the Eastern Shore, unlike other areas of the state, has been dry. He noted that the corn crop looks okay but that growers are worried about the soybean crop. He added that the potato growers are doing well.

Dr. Grant, who represented Virginia Tech, reported that President Charles Steger is retiring and that a search committee is being formed. He also mentioned that various external and internal constituent groups associated with Tech will be asked to provide input. He added that Virginia Tech plans to announce a new president by January 2014. He reported that when Virginia Tech

Board of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Final Minutes

July 29, 2013

Page 3

soon starts the new academic year, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences will have 500 new freshmen and 140 transfer students, 60 to 70 new Ag Tech students for the two-year program and a number of new graduate students. He noted that enrollment continues to be strong. Dr. Grant reported that Doris Baskerville-Heath, who was a unit coordinator in Virginia Cooperative Extension's James City County Office, is the new Southeast Extension District Director. He also reported on plans for field days at Agricultural Research and Extension Centers around the state.

Dr. Hairston, who represented Virginia State University, reported on enrollment reductions at Virginia State and noted that the University experienced a significant reduction in revenue due to the drop in enrollment. She added that the University's College of Agriculture has seen a significant increase in student enrollment. Dr. Hairston reported on the cooperative effort involving Virginia State's Extension staff and Sabra Dipping Company in field trials for growing chick peas in Virginia. She expressed appreciation for the help that VDACS provided in this effort. She reported that Virginia State received an increase from the Commonwealth of Virginia to hire an extension specialist to address predatory wildlife issues. She commented that the University is working with the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation to establish a memorandum of understanding and to develop a position description for a Predatory Wildlife Extension Specialist that VSU will hire and house at the University. Dr. Hairston told the Board that the University is working in partnership with Virginia Tech to host the Council for Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching (CARET) on August 4, 2013, in Williamsburg, Virginia. She added that Commissioner Lohr will be presenting the welcome to the group.

Mr. Kirby, who was recently appointed to represent the 7th district, reported on crop and weather conditions in his district. He noted that the corn crop is good, but that the double-crop soybeans are far behind schedule because of excess rainfall.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lohr briefed the Board on personnel changes, recent and future events, and other matters relating to the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. A copy of a written report, on which his presentation was based, was included in the Board meeting folders.

During his report, he congratulated Messrs. Sturgis and Mills on their reappointment to the Board and Ms. Barlow, Dr. McCann and Messrs. Marker and Kirby on their appointment as new Board members. He noted that Mr. Seward would be retiring effective September 1, 2013, and that Kevin Schmidt, who has been promoted to Director of the Office of Policy, Planning and Research (OPPR), will assume the leadership of OPPR upon Mr. Seward's retirement. He also commented on plans for the 2013 State Fair of Virginia, which Mr. Mills noted would be one of the largest displays of Virginia agriculture in decades. The Commissioner reported on the formation of an On-Farm Activities Working Group and the two meetings of this group in May and July that Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Travis Hill and he held to seek industry input relating to on-farm activities.

ELECTION OF BOARD SECRETARY

President Sturgis called on Commissioner Lohr who recommended that the Board elect Mr. Schmidt as Board Secretary effective September 1, 2013.

Board of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Final Minutes

July 29, 2013

Page 4

Mr. Bain nominated Mr. Schmidt to serve as Board Secretary and Mr. Mills seconded the nomination. President Sturgis called for any additional nominations for Board Secretary. The Board members made no additional nominations.

Mr. Mills moved that the nominations be closed and that Mr. Schmidt be elected Board Secretary effective September 1, 2013. Ms. Potter seconded this motion and Mr. Schmidt was elected Board Secretary by a unanimous vote of the Board.

MEETING RECESS FOR PUBLIC HEARING

At approximately 1:50 p.m., President Sturgis called for a recess to allow the Board and staff to get ready for a public hearing on the proposed Regulations for Enforcement of the Noxious Weed Law, 2 VAC 5-317.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED REGULATIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THE NOXIOUS WEED LAW (2 VAC 5-317)

At 2:00 p.m., President Sturgis opened the public hearing on the proposed Regulations for Enforcement of the Noxious Weed Law (2 VAC 5-317). A court reporter was present to make a record of the hearing, which will be included with the official record (minutes) of the meeting.

President Sturgis called on Mr. Alvarez, who briefed the Board concerning the proposed Regulations for Enforcement of the Noxious Weed Law (2 VAC 5-317).

Following Mr. Alvarez's presentation, President Sturgis called on the Board Secretary who advised him that two persons had signed up to speak at the public hearing. After these two individuals presented comments and after it was determined that no other persons present wished to comment, Mr. Sturgis asked the Board members if they had any questions regarding the proposed quarantine.

At the conclusion of the questions and responses, the President advised the Board that following the public comment period will continue through September 13, 2013, staff will review oral and written comments received with the Board and present recommendations concerning the proposed regulations at a future Board meeting.

The President adjourned the public hearing and called the Board into session to complete the meeting agenda.

REGULATORY ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMS AND ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

President Sturgis called on Dr. Richard Wilkes, State Veterinarian and Director of the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services, who briefed the Board concerning the objectives of VDACS' disease programs, changes in the regulatory disease programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Disease Traceability (ADT), and the ADT philosophy guiding VDACS.

APIARY INSPECTION PROGRAM

President Sturgis called on Mr. Alvarez who introduced Keith Tignor of his staff who presented a report on the Apiary Inspection Program administered by the Division of Consumer Protection.

PLANS FOR BOARD'S VISIT TO LEXINGTON AREA

President Sturgis called on Ms. Potter, who gave a report on the events planned for the rest of the Board's visit to her district.

Board of Agriculture & Consumer Services – Final Minutes

July 29, 2013

Page 5

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

PLANS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

President Sturgis advised that the Board is scheduled to have its last meeting for 2013 in Richmond on December 5. He reported that the first two meetings for 2014 are planned tentatively for March 27 and May 15 in Richmond. He asked the Board members to look at these dates for 2014 and let the Board Secretary know if they have any conflicts that would prevent them from attending.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Bain noted that Ms. Barlow is the daughter-in-law of former Board member Joe Barlow.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Sturgis
Board President

Kevin Schmidt
Board Secretary