

MINUTES
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
1100 Bank Street, Washington Building
Richmond, Virginia
June 10, 2004

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2004 in the Second Floor Board Room, Washington Building, 1100 Bank Street, Richmond, Virginia. President Holland requested a moment of silence and then called the meeting to order. The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Steve Wolfe
L. Bruce Holland
Gatewood Stoneman
Jennifer P. Nolen
Mary Campbell
Warren H. McConnell
Dr. Winfrey S. Clarke

Dr. Judith Jones

DISTRICT

1st
2nd
3rd
7th
10th
11th
Representing Virginia State
University
Representing Virginia Tech

ABSENT

T. M. Hardison
Clarence Bryant, III
Andrea Lohr
Gregory Gilligan
Gary B. Brown

4th
5th
6th
8th
9th

STAFF PRESENT

J. Carlton Courter, III, Commissioner
Donald G. Blankenship, Deputy Commissioner
Roy E. Seward, Board Secretary

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the March 18th meeting were approved as distributed. Mr. Wolfe abstained from voting on the approval of the minutes noting that he did not attend the March meeting.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

President Holland called on Commissioner Courter to preside over the election of the Board President. In response to the Commissioner's call for nominations, Ms. Stoneman nominated Mr. Holland for president and Ms. Nolen seconded the motion. Ms. Stoneman moved that the nominations be closed and that Mr. Holland be elected by acclamation and Ms. Nolen seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote and Mr. Holland was elected president.

The Commissioner turned the meeting over to Mr. Holland who called for nominations for vice president. Ms. Campbell nominated Mr. Brown for vice president and Mr. McConnell seconded the motion. Ms. Campbell moved that nominations be closed and

that Mr. Brown be elected by acclamation. Ms. Nolen seconded the motion and the Board elected Mr. Brown vice president by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Holland called for nominations for Board secretary. Ms. Stoneman nominated Mr. Seward and Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. Ms. Nolen moved that nominations be closed and that Mr. Seward be elected by acclamation, and Ms. Stoneman seconded the motion. Mr. Seward was elected secretary by a unanimous vote.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

During his report Mr. Wolfe told the Board that the First District had had an extremely dry winter but that more recently his area has been catching up on precipitation. He noted that most of the crops are progressing at a normal pace and that there are no problems with livestock or the barley, wheat and other spring crops.

Mr. Wolfe also reported on the status of the Embry Dam in Fredericksburg. He explained that, after much public debate over the years, this old dam was breached to allow the movement of fish species up the northern section of the Rappahannock River where they have not been for over 100 years. He noted that gasoline prices have been rising throughout the First District and particularly in the Fredericksburg region. He added that prices in the Williamsburg area average five cents higher than in other parts of the district.

Ms. Stoneman also mentioned concerns regarding higher gas prices and noted the impact of the anticipated gas tax hike in the future. She reported that crops in her district are looking better thanks to recent rains that provided much needed moisture.

During his report Mr. McConnell told the Board members about the work of a company that is developing a process to make chicken manure more suitable for use as a fertilizer. He added that this company expects to have this process ready within the next four months. He promised to share more information about this process with Commissioner Courter.

Ms. Campbell reported that her district is experiencing the emergence of millions of 17-year cicadas. She explained that there are also cicadas that emerge each year and others that emerge from the ground every 13 years. (Note: The 13-year cicadas live in the warmer climates and the 17-year cicadas live in the cooler climates. Virginia has both 13 and 17-year cicadas as well as the annual cicadas that emerge each summer.) She shared with the Board samples of the cicadas that are creating odor problems and loud noise and that are producing some damage to trees when female cicadas lay their eggs. She also mentioned Virginia's first case of West Nile Virus in Culpeper and that news of this case has raised public concerns.

Dr. Jones reported on the appointment of persons to fill key positions at Virginia Tech as well as efforts to fill other important staff vacancies at the University. She advised that Virginia Tech would be receiving in the coming biennium a major increase in funding for Cooperative Extension to hire persons for 23 much-needed Extension positions. She noted that the University's objective is to place these resources out in

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the state to meet the needs locally. She also reported on Virginia Tech's upcoming camping season, noting Tech has the second largest program of its kind in the nation.

In his report on activities at Virginia State University, Dr. Clarke told the Board about some of the University's work in area of agriculture, research and extension. He noted that on June 24, 2004, Virginia State will host the first annual Commercial Vegetable Production Field Day at Randolph Farm. He mentioned that the University would be sponsoring a "Direct Marketing" farm tour to North Carolina during June 13 – 14, 2004, for farmers and Extension agents. He also told the Board that VSU will be having its Annual Ag Field Day on August 24, 2004, and its Annual Goat Expo in early September, 2004. Both of these events will be held at Randolph Farm.

Dr. Clarke advised the Board of VSU's success in obtaining another grant from USDA to continue the University's Small Farm Financial and Technical Assistance Education Program to assist small and limited resource farmers in Virginia to improve their record-keeping and financial management skills.

Mr. Holland reported that he is the co-chair of the annual Agriculture Expo that will be held on the Eastern Shore and hosted by former Board member Bennie Etheridge on August 12, 2004. He noted that this event is sponsored by Cooperative Extension, Virginia Corn Board, and the Virginia Soybean Board. He advised the Board on the status of efforts to produce soy diesel fuel in the Virginia. Concerning crop conditions, he reported that rainfall in the Second District has varied from too wet in some areas to too dry in others and that he lives in one of the dry areas. He noted that the small grain and corn crops look as if they will be better than normal overall.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Commissioner reported on the following matters:

- *New Board Member, Gregory Galligan
- *Pilgrim's Pride Turkey Plant Closing
- *Virginia Wine Industry Strategic Plan
- *American Forage & Grassland Council
- *PDR Program Announcement
- *National Council of State Agricultural Finance Programs
- *Consumer Affairs Advisory Council
- *Report on Virginia Weights & Measures Seminar
- *Update on Sudden Oak Death
- *Gypsy Moth Slow-the-Spread
- *VDACS Agriculture and Food Security Activities
- *Virginia Grown Campaign
- *National Animal Identification System
- *Virginia Johne's Disease Control and Prevention Program
- *BSE Surveillance Plan for the Commonwealth
- *Equine Study (SJR 57)
- *May is Agriculture Month in Virginia

COMMODITY BOARD REPORTS

The Board received reports from the following boards: Marine Products Board represented by Shirley Estes; Cattle Industry Board represented by Reggie Reynolds; and Apple Board represented by Dave Robishaw.

2004-2006 BIENNIUM BUDGET UPDATE

Deputy Commissioner Don Blankenship provided an update on the state budget for the 2004-2006 biennium and its impact on VDACS programs and services.

INSPECTION OF GASOLINE PUMPS

In response to Board comments about the inspection of gasoline pumps during the budget update, Department staff agreed to provide a report on this subject at a future Board meeting.

CAPITOL SQUARE RENOVATION PLAN

Sandra Adams, Director, Office of Administrative and Financial Services, reviewed with the Board the plans for renovating buildings in the Capitol Square area including the State Capitol, the Old Finance Building, the Old State Library and Archives and the Washington Building.

RELOCATION OF VDACS OFFICES

Ms. Sandy Adams briefed the Board on plans for relocating Department offices from the Washington Building to the Old Finance Building when renovation of the Old Finance Building is completed in the summer of 2005.

PROPOSAL OF NOTICE OF INTENDED REGULATORY ACTION

In response to a presentation by Dr. Donald W. Butts, Director, Division of Animal and Food Industry Services, Mr. Wolfe moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to amend the regulation 2 VAC 5-70, *Health Requirements Governing the Control of Equine Infectious Anemia in Virginia*, and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to give effect to the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action. Ms. Nolen seconded the motion and it was carried by a unanimous vote.

PLANS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Seward asked the Board to reserve the following dates for future Board meetings:

September 24, 2004

December 9, 2004

March 17, 2005

He also suggested that in 2005 the Board hold its summer meeting in July outside the Richmond area. He noted that once a location has been selected Department staff would assist in planning for this meeting and a Board dinner and an agricultural tour that would held in conjunction with the Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comments were received.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Bruce Holland, President

Roy E. Seward, Board Secretary