

Board of Agriculture and Consumer Service

July 28, 2026

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DRAFT MINUTES

Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles
Grand Dominion 5 Room
14750 Conference Center Drive
Chantilly, VA 20151

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) convened at approximately 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026, at the Westfields Marriott Washington Dulles in Chantilly. President Smith called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

William Gwaltney
Raymond Keating
Brittany Jones
Margaret Ann Smith
Amanda Weakley-Scott
Brantley Ivey
Tyler Wegmeyer
Renee Munasifi
Charles Church
Mario Ferruzzi

Jewel Bronaugh

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd
3rd
4th
6th
7th
9th
10th
11th
Pesticides – Commercial Structural
Representing Timothy D. Sands, President,
Virginia Tech
Representing Makola Abdullah, President, Virginia
State University

ABSENT

Keith Harris
Cecil Shell
VACANT
Ginny Barnes

1st
5th
8th
Pesticides – Commercial Agricultural

STAFF PRESENT

Charles Green, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)
Kevin Schmidt, Secretary, Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Church moved that the draft minutes of the May 21, 2026, meeting be approved. Dr. Weakley-Scott seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

President Smith invited the members of the Board to highlight important updates from their districts, universities, or industries.

Charles Church

Mr. Church provided an update on spring training activities from the Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) and mentioned that VPMA commented on the Board's Notice of Intended Regulatory Action for 2 VAC 5-685, *Regulations Governing Pesticide Applicator Certification Under Authority of Virginia Pesticide Control Act*. VPMA is busy lining up training opportunities for the fall.

William Gwaltney

Mr. Gwaltney mentioned that his area was really dry the last time the Board met. Now, his area is really wet. But, he stated that the crops are good.

Raymond Keating

Mr. Keating mentioned that the export business at the terminal is moving along and that they will have ships at the dock for the entire year, which is a first for him. They have sold a couple of vessels of beans to China and have exported over 50 million bushels of corn so far this year.

Brittany Jones

Ms. Jones mentioned that there was a shift in milk use from milk powder to protein products, which caused a shortage of dry milk powder and propped up milk prices for a bit. However, July saw a small drop in milk prices, and a large milk price drop is expected in August. Hopefully with school starting soon and the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act of 2025, prices will not continue to fall. Feed prices are increasing, so dairy farmers participating in margin coverage programs may see some payouts for July and August. Dairy exports are doing well, and dairy has exported an increase of 160 million pounds of milkfat production.

Dr. Amanda Weakley-Scott

Dr. Weakley-Scott mentioned that it is still dry in her district and they are working on getting hay imported into her area. The Virginia FFA Convention was held in June, and the national officer candidate is from her district. Several members of 4-H and FFA also traveled to Washington, D.C., to exhibit at the Great American State Fair. Dr. Weakley-Scott mentioned that county fairs are in full swing and that she appreciates VDACS's support with these. Dr. Weakley-Scott mentioned that there has been a drop in feeder cattle prices due to the reopening of the Mexican border for cattle just when they are getting ready to do fall calf weaned and vaccinated sales. Dr. Weakley-Scott mentioned that the Virginia Poultry Federation is having its annual picnic September 23 and reminded Board members to ramp up poultry biosecurity as fall approaches.

Brantley Ivey

Mr. Ivey mentioned that the FFA Convention recently celebrated 100 years and that FFA started in Virginia. He also mentioned that the cattle markets are wild right now and that he would like to see VDACS send staff to participate in the VALOR program. The Virginia Cattlemen's Association just passed a resolution to start a junior cattlemen's association, which will provide a scholarship fund and individual grants to buy a new heifer up to \$2,500. Mr. Ivey also mentioned that the Beef Cattle University at Virginia Tech just broke an attendance record and that Virginia is leading an effort to reestablish a cow calf council at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA).

Tyler Wegmeyer

Mr. Wegmeyer welcomed the Board to his district and Northern Virginia. Mr. Wegmeyer mentioned the impact of the April 21 frost on vegetable growers and wineries and stated that his area also needs more water.

Renee Munasifi

Ms. Munasifi mentioned that farmers' markets in her area are in full swing and that, unfortunately, spotted lanternflies are back as well. At the federal level, they are still looking for farm bill policy, which is unlikely before fall. On the trade side, Section 122 tariffs of around 10 percent expired in July but were immediately replaced by Section 301 labor tariffs. So, it is status quo in terms of imports into the U.S. Ms. Munasifi concluded by stating that Virginia agriculture was well represented at the Great American State Fair.

Dr. Jewel Bronaugh

Dr. Bronaugh started by thanking Commissioner Green and Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Frazier for attending Virginia State University's (VSU) farmer field day in June. Dr. Bronaugh mentioned that VSU is looking for an associate dean for Virginia Cooperative Extension and would like to have someone in place by January 1, 2027. In September, VSU will be working with the Virginia Farm Bureau Federation to host the Virginia House and Senate agriculture and natural resources committees at Randolph Farm. Dr. Bronaugh mentioned that VSU has the largest incoming freshman class attending this year that she has seen and provided some additional staffing and research updates. Dr. Bronaugh mentioned the proposal submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Facility Act program, thanked President Smith for encouraging VSU students to get involved with the NCBA collegiate chapter, and announced that Virginia is hosting the 2028 Southern Mini Land Grant Meeting.

Dr. Mario Ferruzzi

Dr. Ferruzzi mentioned staffing updates and candidate searches for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). With respect to research, Dr. Ferruzzi mentioned that many CALS programs have been somewhat agnostic to the funding headwinds in Washington, D.C. and that CALS has a diverse array of projects that have been funded. Dr. Ferruzzi mentioned they are conducting a five-year review of the Agricultural Research and Extension Centers to assess stakeholder engagement, facilities, and communications. Dr. Ferruzzi concluded with an update on admissions and enrollment, stating that CALS is at a high point for applications and that the college is growing and expanding.

Margaret Ann Smith

President Smith provided an update on the lack of water from aquifers in her district and the challenges posed by high hay prices. President Smith also reiterated the impact on the price of cattle due to the reopening of the Mexican border within the last few days and mentioned the potential impact on trucks due to the closing of the JBS plant in Pennsylvania, which will result in a drop in the price of cattle. President Smith provided an update on Theileria in Virginia, stating that Virginia is turning the tide on this and is beginning to see the concern about Virginia lessen from buyers in other states.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Green gave a brief report on VDACS's activities since the last Board meeting, including announcing several new key VDACS staff and the transfer of the Office of Hemp

Enforcement from VDACS to the Cannabis Control Authority. A copy of the written report for this and other information was included in the Board meeting agenda and materials.

PROPOSED STAGE TO AMEND 2 VAC 5-320 (REGULATIONS FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ENDANGERED PLANT AND INSECT SPECIES ACT) – DAVID GIANINO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

President Smith called on David Gianino, Deputy Director, Division of Consumer Protection. Mr. Gianino briefed the Board on the proposed action to amend 2 VAC 5-320.

Following Mr. Gianino's presentation and discussion by the Board, Mr. Church moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt 2 VAC 5-320, Regulations for the Enforcement of the Endangered Plant and Insect Species Act, as presented by staff today, and that the Board authorize staff to take any and all steps necessary to file this proposed regulation for public comment. Mr. Ivey seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

ANNUAL ELECTRONIC MEETING POLICY ADOPTION – KEVIN SCHMIDT, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF POLICY, PLANNING, AND RESEARCH

President Smith called on Kevin Schmidt, Director, Office of Policy, Planning, and Research. Mr. Schmidt requested that the Board annually adopt its electronic meeting policy.

Following Mr. Schmidt's comments and discussion by the Board, Mr. Ivey moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt the electronic meeting policy as presented by staff today, effective July 28, 2026. Ms. Jones seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Ivey asked that VDACS staff add a presentation on the VALOR Program to the December 2026 Board agenda.

Ms. Munasifi brought to the Board's attention that she has seen other states inadvertently pull in fertilizer, pesticide, or food manufacturers when drafting legislation to address data centers and to be mindful of this.

The Board also discussed the opportunity held earlier in the day to meet with representatives from the Virginia Tech presidential search committee to provide input into that process.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

President Smith asked Secretary Schmidt and Mr. Wegmeyer to provide an update regarding the remaining schedule for the summer tours. The final meeting for 2026 will be December 10 in Richmond.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

President Smith invited public comment, though none was given.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at approximately 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Ann Smith
Board President

Kevin Schmidt
Board Secretary