

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Eastern Shore Agricultural Research and Extension Center
33446 Research Drive
Painter, Virginia
July 13, 2005

The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 13, 2005, in the Center at Painter, Virginia. President Holland recognized Dr. Henry P. Wilson, Director, Eastern Agriculture Research and Extension Center, who welcomed the Board to the Center and provided a brief history of the facility.

President Holland requested a moment of silence and then called the meeting to order. The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Stephen Wolfe
L. Bruce Holland
Paul W. Rogers, Jr.
T. M. Hardison
Wanda G. McDowell
Andrea Lohr
Edward S. Fleming
Gregory J. Galligan
C. C. Clark, Jr.
John D. Hardesty, Jr.
Melvin E. Murphy
Dr. Clinton V. Turner

DISTRICT

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
5th
6th
7th
8th
9th
10th
11th

Dr. Sharron Quisenberry

Representing Eddie N. Moore, Jr., President,
Virginia State University
Representing Dr. Charles W. Steger, President,
Virginia Tech

ABSENT

All Present

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 17, 2005 meeting were approved as presented.

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ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Holland called on Deputy Commissioner Don Blankenship to preside over the election of Board President. Mr. Blankenship expressed appreciation to everyone on the Eastern Shore for their hospitality during the Board's and staff's visit. He reported that Commissioner Courter was on his way to the meeting and mentioned that the Commissioner, as incoming president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture for 2006, is scheduled to host next year's NASDA annual meeting in Virginia. He noted that Norfolk is a possible location for the NASDA 2006 meeting.

In response to Mr. Blankenship's call for nominations, Mr. Hardesty nominated Mr. Holland for president. Ms. Lohr seconded the motion. There were no other nominations made. Ms. McDowell moved that the nomination be closed and that Mr. Holland be elected by acclamation. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote and Mr. Holland was elected president.

Deputy Commissioner Blankenship then turned the meeting over to Mr. Holland who called for nominations for vice president. Ms. Lohr nominated Mr. Rogers for vice president and Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. There were no other nominations made. Dr. Turner moved that nominations be closed and that Mr. Rogers be elected by acclamation. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and the Board elected Mr. Rogers as vice president by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Holland called for nominations for Board secretary. Mr. Clark nominated Mr. Seward as Board secretary. Mr. Hardesty seconded the motion. Mr. Rogers moved that nominations be closed and that Mr. Seward be elected by acclamation. Dr. Turner seconded the motion, and Mr. Seward was elected secretary by a unanimous vote.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

During his report Mr. Holland thanked the new Board members for accepting the invitation from the Governor to serve. He also talked about his farm operation in Accomack County in the Second Congressional District and gave a summary of current crop conditions on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. Wolfe, a resident of King George County and the First Congressional District, stated that he is a consumer representative on the Board who also serves as Vice Chairman of his County Board of Supervisors. He added that he spent 20 years in public finance and institutional investing and is currently the owner and publisher of a magazine based in Fredericksburg.

Mr. Galligan of the Eighth Congressional District stated that he is consumer representative who is filling the unexpired term of Delegate Mark Sickles who resigned his appointment after being elected to the General Assembly. He noted that he is a defense contractor and that he serves in the Army National Guard. He remarked that he gained an increased appreciation of agriculture's role in the U.S. during a recent cross-country road race. He expressed an interest in working on cell phone issues.

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Ms Lohr of the Sixth Congressional District talked about the Rockingham County farm that has been in her husband's family for over 100 years and the production of different crops there. In her report she advised that farmers in her area are desperate for rainfall and that crops are about two weeks behind normal progress.

Mr. Fleming, a consumer representative from the Seventh Congressional District, noted that he is a native of Louisa County and is resident of Goochland County. In his comments he expressed concerns about the loss of farm land in the two counties to rapid development. He added that from a consumer's standpoint he would like to see more farmers markets where consumers can purchase Virginia grown products.

Ms. McDowell, who represents the Eighth Congressional, reported that she raises Angus cattle on her farm and that she has a fencing business. She noted that farmers in her district need viable alternatives to tobacco. She explained that the federal tobacco buyout is having a major impact on farming in her area where thousands of farmers signing up before the June 14 deadline. She added that farmland is being cut up in small tracts and sold for development. She reported that beef cattle production seems to be growing because of the tobacco buyout.

Mr. Murphy of the Eleventh Congressional District reported that he is on the Fairfax Consumer Protection Board. He indicated that he is a professional speaker, author and seminar leader and facilitates seminars for corporations and associations on partnership and alliance and networking. He added that he is looking forward to serving as a consumer representative on the Board and plans to work with Mr. Galligan on the cell telephone issue.

Dr. Turner, representing Virginia State President Eddie Moore as an ex officio member, advised the Board that he had come out of retirement to serve as Interim Dean/Administrator of the School of Agriculture and Extension Services while the University works to select a permanent replacement for Dr. Lorenza Lyons had retired from VSU. He reported that Virginia State will be having a Field Day at Randolph Farm on August 23, 2005, with the Honorable Robert S. Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, giving the keynote address. He reported on VSU's agriculture mediation program, which is one of only 33 such programs in the nation and the only one in Virginia. Dr. Turner talked about the University's commitment to help Southside Virginia cope with the federal tobacco buyout and the changes it is bringing for farmers and the communities that have depended on tobacco.

Mr. Hardesty, a resident of Clarke County (the second smallest county in nation and the smallest in Virginia's Tenth Congressional District), talked about the diversity of his district and the tremendous growth taking place in Loudoun County and other localities. In his report he mentioned the work of Clarke County leaders including his father, former Board Vice President Jack Hardesty, to promote orderly development. He noted that apple production in his district is on the decline and that there are only five dairy farms (including the Hardesty family's dairy operation) in Clarke County. He

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added that during this transition period more farmers are producing fruits and vegetables for direct sales to the consumers who are locating to the district. He advised that his children represent the eighth generation of family members who have farmed within four miles of each other and that four generations currently live on the family farm of about 1500 acres. He added that approximately 800 head of Holstein purebred dairy cattle and field crops are being raised there.

During his report, Mr. Clark (whose father once served as President of the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services) stated that he is a resident of Smyth County and the Ninth Congressional District and that he serves as Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. He explained that his farm has been in the family since 1962 and that his sons represent the fifth generation of his family engaged in farming. He added that his farm includes nearly 2,000 acres and that he plans add another 500 acres.

Mr. Rogers noted that he is resident of Surry County and the Third Congressional District and that he is a full-time farmer in partnership with his son, producing cotton, peanuts and grain. He added that he has served on the Virginia Cotton Industry Board and the Virginia Corn Board and is currently on the Board of Directors of Colonial Farm Credit.

Dr. Quisenberry, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, represented Virginia Tech President Dr. Charles Steger, who serves an ex officio member of the Board. Dean Quisenberry reported on efforts at Virginia Tech to provide research, education and extension programs that will build a better agriculture for Virginia.

WELCOME FROM SECRETARY BLOXOM

Secretary Robert S Bloxom, Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services, welcomed the Board, staff and guests to the Eastern Shore for the Board's meeting, tour and other events.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Commissioner reported on the following matters:

- Opening Comments
- Proposed Nutrient Management Regulation
- Agency Comprehensive Strategic Plan
- Virginia's Sustainable Future Summit
- Virginia Numbers on National Premise ID for NAIS
- Farmers Market Week Celebration
- Virginia Grown Promotion
- Farmers Market WIC & Seniors Program
- Virginia Food and Beverage Expo
- Legislative Studies
- VDACS Richmond Relocation
- Canadian Ministerial Exemptions

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- Agricultural Exports to Cuba
- Export to Mexico
- Soybean Rust Update
- Meeting of Southern Chapter – Horticultural Inspection Society
- Sudden Oak Death Update
- Gypsy Moth Slow-the-Spread Program Update
- Industry Assistance

During the Commissioner's report he advised the new citizen members that staff will be contacting them about their participation in a new Board member orientation in the afternoon of September 22, 2005, which would be the day before the next regular Board meeting in Richmond.

COMMENTS ON REGULATIONS

Following the Commissioner's report President Holland noted that the state's agricultural industry needs to communicate to the public the regulatory challenges farmers face today in getting our products to the consumer. Mr. Holland, Mr. Hardesty and Dr. Quisenberry expressed concerns about the nutrient management regulation being proposed by the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

APPLICATION OF BIOSOLIDS

Mr. Hardison expressed an interest in knowing the Board's position on the use of biosolids on farmland in Virginia. Mr. Seward advised that, at Mr. Hardison's request, staff will be arranging for a presentation at the September Board meeting on the Commonwealth's current requirements on the application of biosolids on farmland.

CITIZEN PETITION FOR REGULATION MAKING

Dr. Richard Wilkes, State Veterinarian and Director of the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services, reviewed with the Board a petition from Christine Solem of Charlottesville in which Ms. Solem requests that the Board amend 2 VAC 5-140-100(B) and (C) so that the regulations pertaining to goats conform to the same requirements as cattle entering the state from an area or state free of tuberculosis and brucellosis. Dr. Wilkes provided a copy of public comment received in response to the publication of the citizen petition in The Virginia Register of Regulations on April 18, 2005. Dr. Wilkes also provided a copy of the notice of the citizen petition published in that issue of the Register and a copy of a draft response to the petition for the Board's consideration. Following a discussion of the petition and a suggested response, Ms. McDowell made the motion that the citizen petition be denied. Mr. Clark seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION BY DR. DON BUTTS

Dr. Donald W. Butts, the Department's Emergency Services Manager, briefed the Board on the agency's emergency response efforts.

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OVERVIEW OF BOARD TOUR

President Holland reviewed with the Board plans for the tour of agricultural enterprises on the Eastern Shore on July 14. He noted that Butch Nottingham of the Department's Division of Marketing would be leading the tour.

PLANS FOR FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

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

September 23, 2005

December 8, 2005

March 16, 2006

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one came forward to speak during the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Bruce Holland, President

Roy E. Seward, Board Secretary