

FINAL MINUTES
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
Room 204, Washington Building
Capitol Square, Richmond, Virginia
December 4, 2003

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, December 4, 2003 in the Washington Building, 1100 Bank Street, Second Floor Board Room, Richmond, Virginia. President Holland called the meeting to order. The Board Secretary called the roll:

PRESENT

Steve Wolfe
L. Bruce Holland
Gatewood Stoneman
T. M. Hardison
Jennifer P. Nolen
Gary B. Brown
Mary Campbell
Dr. Winfrey Clarke

Dr. Judith Jones

DISTRICT

1st
2nd
3rd
4th
7th
9th
10th
Representing Virginia State
University
Representing Virginia Tech

ABSENT

Clarence Bryant, III
Andrea Lohr
Mark D. Sickles
Warren H. McConnell

5th
6th
8th
11th

STAFF PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 26, 2003 meeting were approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Brown reported that tobacco sales were good with prices at \$1.94 and some as high as \$2.08. He reported that wheat sales were off 25% from last year and that the wet weather had much to do with this decrease. He noted that cattle prices are very high and he has sold more than he has in a long time. He advised that the hay crop is good and that about 80 percent of the corn harvest is completed.

Mr. Hardison advised the Board that his area is still recovering from Hurricane Isabel. He noted that he believes that the damage reports from the Department of Forestry understate the actual forestry losses. He talked about the work of the Extension Leadership Council in his area and encouraged Board members to get involved with ELC's in their communities. He also reported on his meeting with university officials in Pennsylvania regarding agriculture and forestry related research.

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Mrs. Stoneman noted that she discovered after the September Board meeting that Isabel had done more damage to some of her corn fields than she had reported to the Board. She added that the harvest is coming along, that small grain is up and looking good and that soybeans suffered some damage.

Mr. Wolfe read to the Board his letter concerning his re-election to the King George Board of Supervisors for four years and his plans to abstain from voting on issues such as animal pounds and shelters that would impact local government. He also talked with the Commissioner about the status of Virginia Horse Center.

In her report to the Board Ms. Campbell indicated that Virginia in the past year has received approximately 60 inches of rain—a hundred-year record.

Dr. Judith Jones, who represented Dr. Charles Steger, President of Virginia Tech, thanked the Board for the warm welcome and reported on several matters relating to the University including the national search for a Director of Virginia Cooperative Extension, the Extension staffing initiative, the hiring of Dr. Sharron Quisenberry as Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the opening of the Institute for Advance Learning and Research in Danville, and major faculty changes.

Dr. Winfrey Clarke, who represented Virginia State University President Eddie N. Moore, Jr., thanked VDACS for its support and cooperation in recognizing Mr. Moore's decade of leadership at Virginia State. Dr. Clarke presented each Board member with a written report concerning VSU's December 10 Commencement, the University's \$1.5 million USAID Farmer-to-Farmer Grant, VSU's Aquaponics Seminar, and the annual Small Farm and Family Conference scheduled for December 15-16, 2003 at the Cooperative Extension Building on Virginia State's campus.

President Holland reported on efforts to encourage Virginia Tech to reconsider plans to place the Department of Agricultural Economics in the Department of Economics. He also talked about the long-term efforts of the industry to promote bio-diesel fuels and his delight that there are plans to build a bio-diesel plant in New Kent County, Virginia. He noted that Governor Warner recently announced an initiative to have all state vehicles use some type of alternative fuel. He reported that for the first time the Agriculture Expo will be held on the Eastern Shore. He explained that Bennie Etheridge, former Board President, is providing the land on which the Expo will be held on August 12, 2004.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Commissioner reported on the following matters:

- *New OMPS Program Manager
- *Update on Dairy Regulations & JCAR
- *Agribusiness Development Report
- *Update on AI Indemnity Payments
- *Update on Harrisonburg Lab Replacement Plans
- *Update on Hurricane Isabel Impact on Virginia Agriculture
- *Budget Update
- *Governor's Mission to Mexico
- *Korean Seafood Expo

- *2004 Ag Summit
- *Engaging with Risk Management Agency on Crop Insurance
- *Getting Ready for the Holidays
- *Lifting of State Fire Marshall's Xmas Tree Ban
- *Economic Interest Forms

TEMPORARY PINE SHOOT BEETLE QUARANTINE

Dr. Marvin A. Lawson, Director of Consumer Protection, presented a briefing on the Commissioner's temporary pine shoot beetle quarantine and why the temporary quarantine needs to be extended. A copy of the presentation was sent to the Board members prior to the meeting and a copy was also included in the meeting folders.

PUBLIC HEARING ON EXTENDING TEMPORARY PINE SHOOT BEETLE QUARANTINE

President Holland opened the public hearing on the proposal to extend the Commissioner's temporary pine shoot beetle quarantine. Staff advised the Board that a notice of the public hearing was filed with the Registrar of Regulations and that the notice was published in The Virginia Register of Regulations. The Board was advised that the purpose of this morning's hearing was to provide interested parties an opportunity to comment on the proposal. Dr. Lawson then told the Board that no one had come forward expressing an interest in speaking to the Board on the issue during this comment period. There being no persons requesting to speak, the President closed the public hearing.

PROPOSAL TO EXTEND TEMPORARY PINE SHOOT BEETLE QUARANTINE

President Holland called on Commissioner Courter who asked Dr. Lawson to present staff recommendations regarding extending the temporary pine shoot beetle quarantine. Dr. Lawson recommended that the Board adopt the proposed regulation presented to the Board which would extend the Commissioner's temporary quarantine. Following comments and questions, Mr. Wolfe moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt as a final regulation 2 VAC 5-325, Regulation Governing Pine Shoot Beetle. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoneman and passed by the Board by a unanimous vote.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FINAL COTTON BOLL WEEVIL QUARANTINE REGULATION

President Holland called on Commissioner Courter who asked Dr. Lawson to review staff recommendations concerning the final cotton boll weevil quarantine regulation adopted at the Board's meeting on September 26, 2003. Following comments and questions, Mrs. Stoneman moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services rescind its adoption as a final regulation the version of 2 VAC 5-440, Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of the Virginia Pest Law—Cotton Boll Weevil Quarantine, adopted by the Board on September 26, 2003. This motion was seconded by Mr. Brown and passed by a unanimous vote of the Board.

Mrs. Stoneman then moved that the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services adopt as a final regulation the version of 2 VAC 5-440, Rules and Regulations for Enforcement of the Virginia Pest Law---Cotton Boll Weevil Quarantine put before the

Board this day December 4, 2003. This motion was seconded by Mr. Wolfe and carried by the Board by a unanimous vote.

REPORT OF DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION

Dr. Lawson, Director of Consumer Protection, introduced Plant Pest Services Program Manager Frank Fulgham who briefed the Board on a report on alternatives available to landowners for addressing problems with invasive species such as hydrilla. (The Board had requested this report at the September meeting.) A copy of the report was included in the Board folders. Concerning the membership of the Invasive Species Council, Dr. Clarke expressed concern that Virginia Tech and Virginia State University are not represented on this state body. Ms. Campbell asked the Commissioner to pursue this issue on behalf of the Board.

REPORT OF DIVISION OF MARKETING

Tom Sleight, Director of Marketing, introduced Jim Green, Forest Products Marketing Specialist, who briefed the Board concerning the Department's activities in promoting the sale of Virginia's forest products.

PLANS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Mr. Seward reported that the Board is scheduled to meet March 18 and June 10 during 2004.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Sam Hamilton of the Virginia Agribusiness Council reported on efforts to encourage members of the General Assembly to endorse the Virginia Ag Initiative.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Bruce Holland, President

Roy E. Seward, Board Secretary