

FINAL MINUTES

Virginia Tobacco Board
Sheldon's Restaurant
Keysville, Virginia
March 6, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Virginia Tobacco Board Secretary, William P. Scruggs, called the meeting of the Virginia Tobacco Board to order on March 6, 2018 at 5:30 PM at Sheldon's Restaurant, Keysville, Virginia.

Members Present:

John C. Bledsoe
D. Scott Crowder
Richard T. Hite, Jr.
Glen Price Hudson
Darrell E. Jackson
Joanne J. Jones
Donald L. Moore
Hugh T. Rogers
Cecil E. Shell

Members Absent

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Carol Wilkinson, Director, Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SPAREC), Blackstone, Virginia

Dr. David Reed, Extension Tobacco Agronomist, Virginia Tech SPAREC, Blackstone, Virginia

Dr. Charles Johnson, Professor, Plant Pathology, Physiology and Weed Science, Virginia Tech SPAREC, Blackstone, Virginia

Hank Mozingo, President, Tobacco Associates, Inc., Raleigh, North Carolina

Tony Banks, Assistant Director Commodity Marketing, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, Richmond, VA.

Jay Jennings, President, Virginia Tobacco Growers Association, Chase City, Virginia

Garland Comer, Vice President, Virginia Tobacco Growers Association, Halifax, Virginia

Stephen Barts, Treasurer, Virginia Tobacco Growers Association, Keeling, Virginia

Robert Spiers, Jr., Treasurer, Tobacco Associates, Inc., Stony Creek, Virginia

William P. Scruggs, Secretary and Program Manager, Virginia Tobacco Board, Chatham, Virginia

The Virginia Tobacco Board Secretary, William P. Scruggs called the meeting to order, called the role of members and welcomed the board members.

Mr. Scruggs called for nominations for the election of the Board Chairman. Upon a properly made motion by Mr. Hudson and second by Mr. Crowder, Mr. Donald L. Moore was elected as Chairman of the Board.

Chairman Moore opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Upon a properly made motion by Mr. Shell and a second by Mr. Bledsoe, Mr. Glen Price Hudson was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board.

The Chairman requested a review of the minutes of the Virginia Tobacco Board meeting from February 27, 2017. Upon review the board approved the minutes.

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the financial statement, which had been prepared for the meeting for the period July 1, 2017 through January 31, 2018. A copy of the statement had been included in each member's folder, and a copy is attached to these minutes (additional copies are available). The Secretary brought to the board's attention the various items included in the statement, an explanation of the various revenues and expenditures, and an estimate of further expenditures to be made prior to the end of the fiscal year. After questions and discussion, the board accepted the financial statement.

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the 2017 flue-cured and dark-fired tobacco excise tax statements of excise tax receipts received into the two board funds. A copy of these statements was provided to each board member for review. The total amount of excise taxes collected as of January 31, 2018 in the Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund was \$193,935.96 and \$1,551.84 in the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund. It was noted that an additional \$379.00 and \$20.23 has come into the respective funds as of March 5, 2018 bringing the totals to \$194,315.17 for the Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund and \$1,572.07 for the Dark-Fired Tobacco Promotion Fund for the 2017 crop.

The Chairman recognized Mr. Hank Mozingo, President of Tobacco Associates, Inc., and invited him to report on Tobacco Associates' activities. Mr. Mozingo provided an overview of the Tobacco Associates Annual Meeting in Wilson, North Carolina on March 1, 2018 and expressed appreciation to the board for its continued support of their programs. Mr. Mozingo reviewed the activities of the past year and plans for the upcoming year. Mr. Mozingo entertained questions from board members.

The Chairman requested a report from Mr. Scruggs on the 48th Tobacco Workers Conference held January 15-18, 2018 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Mr. Scruggs provided an overview of the conference including key program presentations on the tobacco economic and market development activities at the Tobacco Workers Conference.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Carol Wilkinson, Director of the Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont AREC, who gave a report on activities at the station. Dr. Wilkinson reported on developments at Southern Piedmont AREC, highlighting the tobacco research in 2017-2018 and the new program updates.

Dr. Wilkinson then introduced Dr. Charles Johnson, Virginia Tech Tobacco Pathologist, and Dr. David Reed, Virginia Tech Extension Tobacco Agronomist, and indicated that they would be giving the Board a program progress report on tobacco research and extension activities. Drs. Johnson and Reed gave progress reports and reviewed the status and results of research and education projects that the Board had funded for the 2017-2018 fiscal year (*A written summary flue-cured tobacco research and education progress reports are attached to the minutes, and additional copies are available*). They then presented the 2018-2019 tobacco research and education project proposals to the board, copies of which had been mailed to each member prior to the meeting. They reviewed the proposals and addressed questions from the board concerning their projects.

The Chairman called on Mr. Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, for a report on the Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) educational program. Mr. Banks provided an overview on Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom. Mr. Banks requested the same funding level in 2018 for AITC as was allocated in 2017, (\$500 from the Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund, \$250 from the Dark Fired Promotion Fund).

The Chairman recognized a proposal before the board for funding of the educational exhibit at the State Fair of Virginia and promotional and educational materials for the Virginia Tobacco Growers participation in the State Fair tobacco production educational exhibit. Mr. Scruggs provided an overview of the 2017 State Fair of Virginia board exhibit indicating that more than 35,000 state fair attendees had visited the exhibit. Stephen Barts and Jay Jennings provided information on the development of Virginia Tobacco Growers Association educational materials and promotions.

After review of the financial status of the board and discussion of the funding requests before them, the following motions were adopted:

Motion: *Made by Mr. Shell, seconded by Mr. Bledsoe, and approved to:*

- *Contribute \$500 from the Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund and \$250 from the Dark Fired Promotion Fund to the Virginia Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom.*

Motion: *Made by Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Mr. Jackson, and approved to:*

- *Provide \$1,500 in funding from the Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund for the tobacco educational and promotional materials, and travel and*

expenses for the Virginia Tobacco Board and Virginia Tobacco Growers Association participation in the State Fair of Virginia.

Motion: *Made by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Crowder, and approved to:*

- *Set aside ten percent (\$20,400) of available Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion funds in reserve for future funding needs.*

Motion: *Made by Mr. Bledsoe, seconded by Mr. Hite and approved to:*

- *Allocate forty percent of the remaining Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund balance (\$73,522) in funding to Tobacco Associates, Inc. for flue-cured tobacco promotion and marketing.*
- *Allocate sixty percent of the remaining Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion balance (\$110,400) and \$1,750 from the Dark Fired Promotion Fund to VA Tech Southern Piedmont AREC for education and research project proposals during the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. The specific tobacco research and education project funding is as follows:*

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>#651</u>	<u>#660</u>
2019 Flue-Cured Tobacco Production Guide	\$ 2,500	
Evaluation of Management Strategies for De-Lugging Flue-Cured Tobacco	\$17,000	
2018 Tobacco Disease Management Research	\$19,550	\$1,750
Harvest Management for Flue-Cured Tobacco	\$32,000	
Molecular Methods to Improve Tobacco Disease Diagnosis and Management	\$13,350	
Sucker Control with Reduced Reliance on MH	\$18,000	
Herbicide Use in Reduced Pesticide Tobacco Production Programs	<u>\$ 8,000</u>	
Total	\$110,400	\$1,750

The Chairman called for any additional business or issues.

The Chairman then called for comments from the public. There were no comments.

With all of the board business completed, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William P. Scruggs, Secretary

Approved: _____
Donald L. Moore, Chairman