

MINUTES

VIRGINIA SOYBEAN BOARD MEETING

Williamsburg, Virginia

March 16, 2022

I. Attendance

Board Members Present

Craig H. Giese, *Chairman*
Susan Watkins
Ray Keating
Linda V. Smith,
Lynn P. Gayle
Tom Taliaferro
Ronnie Russell
Harrison A. Moody
Robert White, Jr.
Colin Whittington
Phil Hickman, Program Director

Board Members Absent

Bill Nelson

Guests

Dr. David Holshouser, VA Tech, Suffolk, VA
Ms. Rachel M. Gresham, Virginia Soybean Association, Goochland, VA
Ms. Gayle Terry, Virginia Soybean Association, Goochland, VA
Ms. Rob Puckette, Virginia Soybean Association, Goochland, VA
Ms. Heather Wheeler, VDACS, Richmond, VA
Dr. Joseph Oakes, VA Tech, Warsaw, VA
Mr. Scott Reiter, VA Tech, Prince George, VA
Mr. Kenlon Johannes, Soy Aquaculture Alliance, Ankeny, IA
Dr. David Langston, VA Tech, Suffolk, VA
Dr. Sally V. Taylor, VA Tech, Suffolk, VA
Dr. Mark S. Reiter, VA Tech, Painter, VA
Ms. Tammy Maxey, Agriculture in the Classroom, Richmond, VA
Ms. Jennifer Armstrong, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA
Ms. Danielle Bauer Farace, Atlantic Soybean Council, Federalsburg, MD
Dr. Marta R.M. Lima, VA Tech, Blacksburg
Dr. Mark A. Williams, VA Tech, Blacksburg
Mr. Kshitiz Dhakal, VA Tech, Blacksburg
Dr. M.A. Saghai Maroof, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Ms. Elizabeth Clevinger, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Dr. Bo Zhang, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Dr. A. Ozzie Abaye, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA
Dr. Michael L. Flessner, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA

Mr. Sammy Leach, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA
Mr. Jackson Lohr, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA
Mr. Scott Tindall, Fuel Digital, Richmond, VA
Mr. Mark Gallagher, Fuel Digital, Richmond, VA

- II. **Call to Order** - Chairman Giese called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the group for their service to the Virginia Soybean Industry and for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend the meeting.
- III. **Reading and Approval of Minutes** – Robert White moved and Lynn Gayle seconded a motion for the Board to dispense with the reading of the December 15, 2021 minutes and approved the minutes as presented. Motion passed.
- IV. **Financial Report** – Phil Hickman presented the financial statement that reflected revenues and expenditures from July 1, 2021 – March 9, 2022. The Financial Report showed that on February 9th there was a total balance of \$1,647,331.36; the Board had expended \$789,368.29 with \$257,546.77 outstanding for FY 2021-22 projects; \$400,000 in reserve; \$200,416.30 available for allocation. Linda Smith moved and Harrison Moody seconded a motion for the Board to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.
- V. **History of Collections** - Phil Hickman presented the History of Soybean Collections report that estimated the Virginia Soybean Board (VSB) should collect \$1,682,680 from the 2021 crop and as of March 9, 2022, the Board had received \$483,797.25. The Virginia Ag Statistics price came in at \$12.40.
- VI. **United Soybean Board Nominations** – Phil Hickman reported that the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will be requesting nominations sometime in the spring of 2022, to fill positions that will become vacant, including alternate positions, on the United Soybean Board in December 2022. The Virginia Soybean Board is qualified under section 1969 of the Soybean Promotion, Research, and Consumer Information Act (7 U.S.C. 6301 et. seq.) to nominate soybean producers to serve on the Board. Susan Watkins’ term will expire at the United Soybean Board’s December 2022 meeting. The USDA will be requesting that the Virginia Soybean Board submit the names of nominees on the Form LS-45R “Nomination of Soybean Producers for Section 1220.203(d), “Nominations” of the Soybean Promotion and Research Order, requires at least two nominations for each vacant position (a preferred nominee and a second choice). Each nominee must complete the following forms in their entirety giving attention to question #10 on form AD-755:
 1. Form AD-755--Advisory Committee Membership Background Information (please make sure form is completed and signed) and;
 2. Nominee's Agreement to Serve Form.

Phil Hickman reported that this opportunity had been widely publicized through many trade avenues including the Delmarva Farmer Newspaper, the Virgin Soybean Association, the Virginia Department of Agriculture Regional Market Development

Mangers, the Commonwealth of Virginia's Electronic Public Meeting Calendar and the Virginia Tech Soybean Specialist.

The Board discussed the nominations to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to represent Virginia on the United Soybean Board. Harrison Moody moved and Robert White seconded a motion for the Virginia Soybean Board to nominate Susan Watkins as their first choice and Tom Taliaferro as their second choice to the USDA Secretary of Agriculture to fill the Susan Watkins's position that will expire at the end of 2022. Susan Watkins is eligible to serve 2 additional 3 year terms on the United Soybean Board. Motion passed.

- VII. The Board discussed the fact that Dr. Vijay Singh made a request to the Program Director to submit his FY 2021-22 Project Report and his FY 2022-23 Project Proposal on March 8th when they were due to be submitted in the Virginia Soybean Board Project Management Portal on February 15, 2022. The Program Director instructed him to submit his report and proposal by Noon on March 9, 2022 and the Board would decide if they would consider his proposal when they met on March 16th. Dr. Singh did not meet that deadline but did submit his report and proposal. Susan Watkins made a motion and Ray Keating seconded a motion for the Board to deny Dr. Vijay Singh's proposal for FY 2022-23 due to his late submission. Motion passed.

- VIII. **Projects Reports and Proposals** - The following Project Proposals for the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 were presented to the Board.

1. Dr. David Holshouser – project - \$57,463 requested
2. Dr. Joseph Oakes – Eastern Virginia AREC – project - \$10,000 requested
3. Dr. Joseph Oakes – Eastern Virginia AREC – project - \$11,000 requested
4. Mr. Scott Reiter – project - \$10,250.00 requested
5. Dr. David Langston – project - \$20,515.00 requested
6. Dr. Sally Taylor – project – \$26,377 requested
7. Mr. Kenlon Johannes – Soy Aquaculture Alliance - project - \$10,000 requested
8. Dr. Mark Reiter – project - \$23,268 requested
9. Ms. Tammy Maxey – Ag in the Classroom – project – \$12,000
10. Ms. Jennifer Armstrong – Virginia FFA Agronomy – project - \$7,500
11. Ms. Danielle Bauer Farace – Atlantic Soybean Council – project - \$5,000
12. Dr. Lima Marta – project – 18,174
13. Dr. Mark Williams – project - \$6,835
14. Dr. Song Li – project – \$12,772
15. Dr. M.A. Saghai Maroof – project - \$29,500 requested
16. Dr. M.A. Saghai Maroof – report & project - \$24,662 requested
17. Dr. Bo Zhang - project - \$70,673 requested
18. Dr. Bo Zhang - project - \$63,659 requested
19. Dr. A. Ozzie Abaye – project - \$7,000 requested
20. Dr. Michael Flessner – project \$25,967 requested
21. Ms. Rachel Gresham – project – 245,830 requested

- IX. **Virginia Soybean Board Funding FY 2022-2023** - The following actions were taken on the project proposals that were received by the Board for the upcoming fiscal year. Robert White moved and Ray Keating seconded a motion for the Board to approve payment for the following projects at the stated dollar amounts for a one-year period from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023. Motion passed.

PROJECTS FOR FY 2022 - 2023	FUNDED
1. Applied Soybean Production Research for VA– Dr. David Holshouser	\$57,463.00
2. Eastern Virginia AREC Soybean Research Support – Dr. Joseph Oakes	10,000.00
3. Improving Efficiency and Accuracy of Soybean Breeding Selection using Remote Sensing Technology – Dr. Joseph Oakes	11,000.00
4. On-Farm Investigation and Evaluation of Soybean Production Strategies for 2022 – Mr. Scott Reiter	10,250.00
5. Unravelling Effective Tools for Managing Soybean Cyst and Root-Knot Nematode and Continued Character – Dr. David Langston	20,515.00
6. Single Spray, Commercial Applications for Threecornered Alfalfa Hopper Control – Dr. Sally Taylor	26,377.00
7. Soy Aquaculture Alliance Membership – Mr. Kenlon Johannes	10,000.00
8. Sulfur and Nitrogen Fertility for High-Yielding Soybean Production in Virginia – Dr. Mark Reiter	15,000.00
9. Agriculture in the Classroom - Ag 24/7, Soybean Edition – Ms. Tammy Maxey	12,000.00
10. Virginia FFA Agronomy/Proficiency/Leadership – Ms. Jennifer Armstrong	7,500.00
11. Atlantic Soybean Council – Ms. Danielle Bauer Farace	0.00
12. Evaluating Soybean Varieties for Isoflavone Health Bioactive Components – Dr. Marts R.M. Lima	10,000.00
13. Genomic and Functional Description of a Novel Bacterial Species Discovered in the Williams Laboratories – Dr. Mark Williams	5,000.00
14. Testing Pennycress as a Cash Cover Crop for Virginia Soybean Producers – Dr. Song Li	0.00
15. Developing Disease Resistant Soybean Germplasm – Dr. Saghai Maroof	29,500.00
16. Development of High Protein Soybean Cultivars – Dr. Saghai Maroof	24,662.00
17. Development of Improved Soybean Varieties and Germplasm Adapted to Virginia – Dr. Bo Zhang	60,000.00
18. Development of Soybean Varieties and Germplasm with High Protein Digestibility Using Both Genome Ed – Dr. Bo Zhang	50,000.00
19. Study Abroad – Australia and Study in the USA – Southern California and Arizona (2022), Washington State – Dr. Ozzie Abaye	7,000.00
20. Soybean Weed Management 2022 – Dr. Michael Flessner	25,967.00
TOTAL	\$392,234.00

- X. **Virginia Soybean Association Funding FY 2022-2023** – Ronnie Russel moved and Lynn Gayle seconded a motion for the Board to fund the Virginia Soybean Association’s promotional, educational and market development project in the amount of \$258,330 with the additional \$12,500.00 in funding for the following projects in the amounts stated.

1. Virginia Goodyear Tire Promotional Project - \$5,000.00
2. 2022 Annual Southern Soybean Breeder’s Tour Hosted by VA Tech - \$2,500.00
3. Virginia’s Participation in Soy Aquaculture Alliance Meetings - \$5,000.00

The funding is for a one-year period from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Craig Giese abstained from voting on this motion as he is an Ex-Officio member of the Board of Directors of the Virginia Soybean Association. Motion passed.

- XI. **Reserve Fund:** The Board discussed the Reserve Funds given the excellent 2021 soybean crop coupled with the unprecedented high prices. Robert White moved and Harrison Moody seconded the motion for the Board to increase the reserve fund from \$400,000 to \$500,000. Motion passed.
- XII. **Proposal Submission:** The Board discussed the submission of late proposals. Robert White moved and Tom Taliaferro seconded a motion creating a policy that in future Project Leaders will be given a deadline of 30 days prior to a meeting for submission of their Project Reports and Project Proposals. If a Project Leaders fails to meet that deadline, the Virginia Soybean Board will reserve the right to accept or reject that Project Proposal based on the reason for their late submission. If a Project Leader contacts the Program Director of the Virginia Soybean Board and requests a minor extension due to some unforeseen circumstances, the Program Director can grant that minor extension. Motion passed.
- XIII. **Virginia Soybean Specialist:** Dr. David Holshouser indicated that this year marks his 25th year of service to Virginia agriculture as the Soybean Agronomist. He indicated that these 25 years have been one of the most enjoyable periods of his life, both from a professional and personal standpoint. His association with the Virginia Soybean Board has been a big part of that satisfaction and the opportunity to serve agriculture, especially soybean farmers, has always been the most pleasurable part of this time. David indicated that soybean productivity has increased dramatically due to many factors and he hopes that his efforts have contributed to that increase. David announced to the Board that after some very thoughtful and deliberate contemplation, he has made the decision to retire from his duties with Virginia Tech and the Tidewater AREC in February of 2023. David indicated that Virginia Tech is beginning the process to fill his position and he suggested that the Board’s support in the coming months will insure that this position is filled with someone that will focus on the soybean producer and industry.

- XIV. **Next Meeting** – The Board will hold its next meeting on Wednesday August 24, 2022 with the location to be determined at a later date.
- XV. **December Meeting** – The Board will hold its December meeting at the College of William & Mary's Alumni House on Tuesday December 13, 2022.
- XVI. **Next Funding Meeting** – The Board will hold their next annual funding meeting to receive project proposals for FY 2022 – 2023 on Thursday March 16, 2023. The Board concluded that it will continue with the same meeting format that was used in the 2022 funding meeting for the 2023 funding meeting.
- XVII. **Public Comment** – Chairman Giese opened the floor up for public comment. There was none.
- XVIII. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip T. Hickman, Secretary

These minutes have been approved as written.

Craig H. Giese, Chairman