

Board Members Present:

Jeff Bloem	Scott Harris
Joshua Chandler	Gareth Moore
David Cuttino	Tim Nichols
Matthew Harris	Andrew Yancey

Board Members Absent:

Joseph Guthrie
Vicki Haneberg
Travis Hill

Guests/Staff:

Jennifer Atkins, VDACS
Melissa Ball, VDACS
Jack Gorman, Spirits Board Marketing Office (VSBMO)
Julia Loudy, VSBMO
Alison Jones, Virginia FFA
Jennifer Armstrong, Virginia FFA
Christy Murphy, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom
Sean O’Keefe, Virginia Tech
Nicholas Santantonio, Virginia Tech
Cory Jensen, Virginia Commonwealth University
Shelley Sackier, Reservoir Distillery
Brian Sullivan
Sebastian Wolfrum

I. Call to Order – 1:02PM

II. Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2023

The minutes from the March 13, 2023, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Yancey and seconded by Mr. Scott Harris.

III. Research & Education Grant Presentations

The following project managers/principal investigators/designees were given the opportunity to speak about their grant proposal and receive questions from the Board in advance of the Board's consideration and award decisions.

- Christy Murphy – Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom
- Alison Jones (on behalf of Jennifer Armstrong) – Virginia FFA
- Dr. Sean O'Keefe – Fundamental Theory & Practice of Distilled Spirits Workshop
- Dr. Nicholas Santantonio - Developing low-GN and GN-zero malt barley varieties for the Eastern United States
- Cory Jensen - Spirits Pilot Laboratory
- Shelley Sackier (on behalf of Campbell Field Farm) - The Virginia Heritage Grain Study: Analyzing Flavors of History

IV. Review and Consideration of Research & Education Grant Proposals

After review and discussion of each proposal by the Board, the following proposals were funded for the fiscal year 2023-2024:

- *Allocate \$1,500.00 from the Spirits Promotion Fund to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, \$10,000.00 to Virginia FFA, and \$14,245.00 to Dr. Sean O'Keefe (Virginia Tech): Fundamental Theory & Practice of Distilled Spirits Workshop. The motion was made by Mr. Scott Harris and seconded by Mr. Cuttino; the vote was unanimously in favor.*
- *Allocate \$113,533.00 from the Spirits Promotion Fund to Dr. Nicholas Santantonio (Virginia Tech): Developing low-GN and GN-zero malt barley varieties for the Eastern United States. The motion was made by Mr. Scott Harris and seconded by Mr. Moore; there were seven votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (Mr. Bloem abstained due to his company writing a letter of support for the project).*
- *Allocate \$43,817.66 from the Spirits Promotion Fund to Cory Jensen (Virginia Commonwealth University) - Spirits Pilot Laboratory. The motion was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Bloem; the vote was unanimously in favor.*
- *Allocate \$45,000.00 from the Spirits Promotion Fund to Campbell Field Farm - The Virginia Heritage Grain Study: Analyzing Flavors of History. The motion was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Yancey; there were seven votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (Mr. Cuttino abstained due to his company being named as a resource in the project).*

V. Chairman Attendance at the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) Annual Conference

- Chairman Cuttino requested funds, including travel and registration, for his attendance at the 2023 DISCUS Annual Conference in Chicago, IL, June 14-15. *The Board voted to allocate up to \$1,700 to Chairman Cuttino for registration fees and travel to the 2023 DISCUS Annual Conference. The motion was made by Mr. Moore and seconded by Mr. Yancey; there were seven votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (Mr. Cuttino).*

VI. Virginia Spirits Board Marketing Office Update

The Virginia Spirits Board Marketing Office Executive Director presented updates on activities since the last Board meeting and reviewed upcoming events and initiatives. VSBMO will give a more in-depth presentation at the next meeting.

VII. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

VIII. Public Comment

The Chairman opened the floor for any public comments. There were no public comments.

IX. Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for August 2023, exact date, time, and location are to be determined; this will be an in-person meeting.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 4:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jennifer Atkins
Secretary