



## **DRAFT MINUTES VIRGINIA SOYBEAN BOARD MEETING**

Williamsburg, Virginia  
March 12, 2025

### **I. Attendance**

#### Board Members Present

Lynn P. Gayle, *Chairman*  
Susan Watkins, *Vice Chairman*  
Harrison A. Moody  
Tom Taliaferro  
Ray Keating  
Bill Henley  
Colin Whittington  
Michael Bryant  
Chuck McGhee

#### Board Members Absent

Linda Smith  
Robert White, Jr.

#### Staff

Laura Maxey-Nay, Program Director, VDACS  
Melissa Ball, Virginia Department of Agriculture, Richmond, VA

#### Guests

Dr. Carrie Orel, VA Tech, Suffolk, VA  
Ms. Rachel M. Gresham, Virginia Soybean Association, Goochland, VA  
Ms. Gayle Terry, Virginia Soybean Association, Goochland, VA  
Ms. Maria Brockamp, American Soybean Association, MO  
Dr. Carol Wilkinson (presenting for Dr. Pilot), VA Tech  
Dr. Michael L. Flessner, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
Mr. Caleb Henderson, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
Mr. Scott Reiter, VA Tech, Prince George, VA  
Dr. Yuan Zeng, VA Tech  
Dr. David Eisenback, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
Ms. Stephanie Romeleczyk, Montross, VA  
Dr. Mark S. Reiter, VA Tech, Painter, VA  
Dr. Joseph Haymaker, VA Tech, Painter, VA  
Dr. Kemper Sutton, VA Tech, Painter, VA  
Mr. Will Ubben, VA Tech, Painter, VA  
Dr. Vijay Singh, VA Tech, Painter, VA  
Ms. Lynn Black, Agriculture in the Classroom, Richmond, VA  
Mr. Ryan Livesay, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA  
Ms. Keller Cooley, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA  
Ms. Jennifer Armstrong, VA FFA, Weyers Cave, VA

Ms. Danielle Bauer Farace, Atlantic Soybean Council, Federalsburg, MD  
Dr. Yuan Zeng, VA Tech, Blackstone, VA  
Dr. Bo Zhang, VA Tech, Blacksburg, VA  
Dr. Joseph Oakes, VA Tech, Warsaw, VA  
Mr. Scott Tindall, Fuel Digital, Richmond, VA  
Mr. Mark Gallagher, Fuel Digital, Richmond, VA  
Mr. Easton Kuboushek, Soybean Aquaculture Association, joined via Teams

- II. **Call to Order** - Chairman Gayle called the meeting to order at 7:55 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** – Bill Henley moved and Chuck McGhee seconded a motion for the Board to dispense with the reading of the December 18, 2024 minutes and approved the minutes as presented. Motion passed.
- IV. **Financial Report** – Laura Maxey-Nay presented the financial statement that reflected revenues and expenditures from July 1, 2024 – March 1, 2025. The Financial Report showed that on February 13<sup>th</sup> there was a total balance of \$2,133,507.20; the Board had expended \$830,334.04 with \$270,317.21 outstanding for FY 2024-25 projects; \$500,000 in reserve; \$532,855.95 available for allocation. Harrison Moody moved, and Bill Henley seconded a motion for the Board to accept the Financial Report as presented. Motion passed.
- V. **United Soybean Board Conflict of Interest Form:** Laura Maxey-Nay presented the United Soybean Board Conflict of Interest Form and encouraged each member to complete the form and return it to her.
- VI. **United Soybean Board Meeting in Virginia:** Laura Maxey-Nay informed the Board that the United Soybean Board will hold their meeting in Norfolk, VA on July 13-17, 2025.
- VII. **State Executive Operating funds:** The Board was presented with the estimated travel expenses for the State Executive to attend the Virginia, USB Board Meeting, the State Executive Retreat, The Soybean Leadership Academy, the Commodity Classic and the National State Staff meeting. Colin Whittington made a motion that the Board expense \$15,000 in the operating expense budget to cover State Executive travel. Bill Henley seconded and the motion passed.
- VIII. **Review of Virtual Meeting Policy:** At the December 18, 2024 meeting, the Board requested the current virtual meeting policy be presented. The Board was presented with the Handbook, the draft policy presented on March 19, 2024, and VDACS's virtual meeting policy which is listed in the Handbook.
- IX. **Dr. Williams FY 25 project:** Due to administrative errors, Dr. Mark Williams at Virginia Tech did not receive notice that he was awarded \$5,320.00 for FY 25 for his

project: *Molecules and Mechanisms of Suppressive Activity of Psudeomonas*. Bill Henley made the motion that Dr. Williams be awarded \$5,320.00 for FY 26 and for the State Executive to send out the draft financial meeting minutes to all Project Leads in the future to prevent this oversight. Harrison Moody seconded and the motion passed.

- X. **Projects Reports and Proposals** - The following Project Proposals for the period July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026 were presented to the Board.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Topic And Category</b>	<b>Project Type</b>	<b>Project Leader</b>	<b>Requested Funds</b>
Serving communities through agriculture nutrition and food	Education	New	Abaye, Dr. Azenegashe Ozzie	\$ 10,000.00
Virginia FFA Agronomy/Proficiency/Leadership	Education	New	Armstrong, Jennifer H	\$ 8,000.00
Regional Research Collaboration	Research	Cont.	Bauer Farace, Mrs. Danielle Marie	\$ 5,000.00
ASA Action Partnership	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 1,500.00
Innovation to Market Work Group (I2M)	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 7,500.00
Young Leaders Program	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 9,200.00
Soybean Leadership Academy	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 3,000.00
SoyStats	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 600.00
ASA Awards Celebration	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 6,000.00
ASA Economic Support and Analysis	Education	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 5,000.00
Biomass-based Diesel Initiative	Market Development	New	Brockamp, Maria	\$ 5,000.00
Improving Virginia Corn Earworm Monitoring and Management for Soybeans	Research	New	Bryant, Dr. Tim	\$ 17,506.00
Developing Biocontrol Consortia for Enhanced Soybean Productivity and Resilience Against Root-Knot	Research	New	Eisenback, Dr. Jonathan David	\$ 59,272.00
Weed Management in Soybean 2025	Research	New	Flessner, Dr. Michael Luke	\$ 36,954.00
VSA FY25.26 Marketing, Education, & Promotion Budget Proposal	Education	New	Gresham, Rachel M	\$ 307,000.00

SAA Membership and Program Funding Proposal	Promotion of Use	Cont.	Kuboushek, Easton	\$ 25,000.00
Performance of soybean varieties with and without fungicide applications in Virginia.	Research	New	Langston Jr., Dr. David Barnes	\$ 26,507.00
Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum Connections	Education	New	Maxey, Tammy	\$ 12,500.00
Eastern Virginia AREC Soybean Research Support	Research	New	Oakes, Dr. Joseph C	\$ 12,000.00
Optimizing Early Season Soybean Management in Virginia	Research	Cont.	Ortel, Carrie	\$ 39,142.00
Validating In-Season Potassium Management Opportunities in Virginia Soybean	Research	Cont.	Ortel, Carrie	\$ 47,000.00
Supporting Innovation with On Farm Research	Research	New	Ortel, Carrie	\$ 11,213.00
Testing the Effect of Protein Hydrolysate Biostimulants on the Yield of Soybeans	Research	Cont.	Pilot, Dr Guillaume	\$ 24,944.00
Cover Crop Termination Timing for Nutrient Cycling, Reduced Slug Damage, and Improved Yields	Research	New	Reiter, Dr. Mark Stephen	\$ 25,342.00
On-Farm Investigation and Evaluation of Soybean Production Strategies for 2025	Research	New	Reiter, Scott	\$ 11,250.00
Effectiveness of weed management tactics and control of troublesome weeds	Research	New	Singh, Dr Vijay	\$ 21,414.00
Monitoring Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) Progression and Soil Microbial Communities for Improved Soybeans	Research	New	Zeng , Dr. Yuan	\$ 22,820.00
Development of Improved Soybean Varieties and Germplasm Adapted to Virginia	Research	Cont.	Zhang, Bo	\$ 77,731.00
Integrating Genomic and Multimodal Phenomic Prediction to Enhance Soybean Breeding Strategies	Research	Cont.	Zhang, Bo	\$ 79,767.00
			<b>Total Requested</b>	<b>\$ 918,162.00</b>

- XI. **History of Collections** – Laura Maxey-Nay presented the History of Soybean Collections report that estimated the Virginia Soybean Board (VSB) should collect \$1,293,600.00 from the 2024 crop and as of February 19, 2025, the Board had received \$320,880.19. The Virginia Ag Statistics estimated price for the Virginia 2024 crop came in at \$9.80. The Board requested that calculations be made based on 85% of the expected revenue which is \$1,099,560.00; \$389,339.50 is still expected to be collected by the Virginia Soybean Board. These calculations at 85% expected return less expected operating expenses gave the Board a budget goal of \$886,195.00 for FY 26 projects.
- XII. **Virginia Soybean Board Funding FY 2024-2025-** The following actions were taken on the project proposals that were received by the Board for the upcoming fiscal year. Chuck McGhee moved and Harrison Moody 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, 2025 - June 30, 2026. The total funding amount to equal \$868,418.00. Motion passed. Mike Bryant abstained from Virginia Soybean Association Funding decisions.

Title	Topic And Category	Project Leader	Requested Funds	Amount Funded
Serving communities through agriculture nutrition and food	Education	Abaye, Dr. Azenegashe Ozzie	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Virginia FFA Agronomy/Proficiency/Leadership	Education	Armstrong, Jennifer H	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
Regional Research Collaboration	Research	Bauer Farace, Mrs. Danielle Marie	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
ASA Action Partnership	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Innovation to Market Work Group (I2M)	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
Young Leaders Program	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$9,200.00	\$0.00
Soybean Leadership Academy	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
SoyStats	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$600.00	\$0.00
ASA Awards Celebration	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
ASA Economic Support and Analysis	Education	Brockamp, Maria	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Biomass-based Diesel Initiative	Market Development	Brockamp, Maria	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00

Improving Virginia Corn Earworm Monitoring and Management for Soybeans	Research	Bryant, Dr. Tim	\$17,506.00	\$17,506.00
Developing Biocontrol Consortia for Enhanced Soybean Productivity and Resilience Against Root-Knot,	Research	Eisenback, Dr. Jonathan David	\$59,272.00	\$59,272.00
Weed Management in Soybean 2025	Research	Flessner, Dr. Michael Luke	\$36,954.00	\$36,954.00
VSA FY25.26 Marketing, Education, & Promotion Budget Proposal	Education	Gresham, Rachel M	\$307,000.00	\$307,000.00
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Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum Connections	Education	Maxey, Tammy	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Eastern Virginia AREC Soybean Research Support	Research	Oakes, Dr. Joseph C	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
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Supporting Innovation with On Farm Research	Research	Ortel, Carrie	\$11,213.00	\$11,213.00
Testing the Effect of Protein Hydrolysate Biostimulants on the Yield of Soybeans	Research	Pilot, Dr Guillaume	\$24,944.00	\$0.00
Cover Crop Termination Timing for Nutrient Cycling, Reduced Slug Damage, and Improved Yields	Research	Reiter, Dr. Mark Stephen	\$25,342.00	\$25,342.00
On-Farm Investigation and Evaluation of Soybean Production Strategies for 2025	Research	Reiter, Scott	\$11,250.00	\$11,250.00

Effectiveness of weed management tactics and control of troublesome weeds	Research	Singh, Dr Vijay	\$21,414.00	\$21,414.00
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Development of Improved Soybean Varieties and Germplasm Adapted to Virginia	Research	Zhang, Bo	\$77,731.00	\$77,731.00
Integrating Genomic and Multimodal Phenomic Prediction to Enhance Soybean Breeding Strategies	Research	Zhang, Bo	\$79,767.00	\$79,767.00
				<b>\$868,418.00</b>

- XIII. **Virginia Soybean Association FY-2024-2025 request**– Rachel Gresham with the Virginia Soybean Association asked if \$7,500 could be subtracted from the remaining \$40,000 owed to the Board due to the following. The United Soybean Board (USB) sent the VA Board a check to refund expenses for marketing items. The Soybean Association had receipts of their \$7,500 in expenses that were refunded by USB. Verses the Board sending the \$7,500 to the Association, the request was for the Board to retain the funds and subtract that amount from the owed amount of \$40,000. This would leave the Virginia Soybean Association owing VSB \$32,000. Bill Henley made a motion to subtract \$7,500 from the \$40,000 owed from the Virginia Soybean Association to the Virginia Soybean Board. Colin Whittington seconded the motion passed. Mike Bryant abstained.
- XIV. **Next August, December and Funding Meetings** – The Board requested that Laura Maxey-Nay send out a poll asking for dates for upcoming meetings. Meeting dates will be set after the poll. The meetings’ locations will be determined.
- XV. **Public Comment** – Chairman Gayle opened the floor up for public comment. There was none.
- XVI. **Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.