



VIRGINIA CORN BOARD
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
 Farm Bureau, Richmond Virginia
 February 4, 2026

I. Attendance

<u>Board Members Present</u>	<u>Board Members Absent</u>
L. Hayden Eicher, Chairman	Raymond Keating
E. Phillip Hickman, III	Wesley S. Marshall, Vice Chairman
Shannon Ellis	
Savannah McQuarrie	
Phil Egolf	
Wallick Harding	
Elizabeth Cooper	
Wanda Lambert	
David Jennings	
<u>Staff & Guests</u>	
Ms. Laura Maxey-Nay, VDACS	Mr. Will Ubben, VT
Ms. Lynn Black, AITC	Ms. Carly Thomas, FFA
Dr. Olga Walsh, VT, Virtually	Dr. Megan Seibel, VALOR, Virtually
Dr. Mark Reiter, VT	Ms. Leigh Hubbard, VGPA
Ms. Lindsey Anderson, VDACS	Dr. Brian Badgley, VT
Dr. Vijay Singh, VT, Virtually	Ms. Lissie Lockard, VAITC
Dr. Youngfa You, VT	Dr. Michael Flessner, VT
Dr. Zhiwu Wang, VT	Dr. Ozzie Abaye, VT, Virtually
Dr. Runze Sun, VT	Mr. Trent Jones, VCE
Dr. Ashley Jernigan, VT, Virtually	Ms. Sam Redfern, US Grains
Dr. Azahar Ali, VT, Virtually	Dr. Kemper Sutton, VT
Dr. David B. Langston, VT	Ms. Kendra Ricks, NCGA
Dr. Hunter Frame, VT	Dr. Tim Bryant, VT
Dr. Yuan Zeng, VT	Ms. Stella Quaian, US Grains
Dr. Thomas Kuhar, VT	Mr. Franco Abud, FFA
Dr. Joseph Haymaker, VT	Mr. Lee Kent, FFA
Dr. Guillaume Pilot, VT, Virtually	Dr. Kamal Chhetri, VT

II. Call To Order and Roll Call– Chairman Eicher called the meeting to order at 9.01 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the annual funding meeting. He thanked the group for their service to the Virginia Corn Industry and for taking time to attend the meeting.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes – *It was moved by Shannon Ellis and seconded by Phil Hickman to approve the minutes of the 12-18-25 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.*

IV. Financial Report – The Chair presented the Financial Report as follows:

Balance 7.1.25	1,016,352.49
Receipts through 01.14.26	135,187.47
Interest through 01.14.26	<u>8,979.81</u>
Balance 01.14.26	1,160,519.77
Expenses	(421,345.20)
Unspent Allocations	(310,138.43)
Reserve Funds	(186,000.00)
Funds Available for Allocation	243,036.14

A motion was made by Wallick Harding and seconded by Shannon Ellis to approve the Financial Report as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Project Reports and Proposals – The Board reviewed project progress reports for the period July 1, 2025– June 30, 2026, and heard the following project proposals for the period July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027.

Presenter	Title	Requested
Lynn Black	AITC Educator Outreach	\$ 12,500.00
Leigh & Taylor Hubbard	Driving Impact for Virginia, Grain Producers: Research, Education, and Engagement	\$ 175,000.00
Ryan LeGrand	The Time is Now: FY2027 Request For Funding	\$ 67,691.00
Nicole Hasheider	National Corn Growers Association Base and Team Funding	\$ 49,500.00
Jennifer Armstrong	Virginia FFA Career Development Events & Proficiency Awards	\$ 8,000.00
William Hunter Frame	Rapid Determination of Cover Crop Biomass for Nutrient Management & Evaluation of Biological/ Biostimulants in Virginia Corn Production	\$ 24,571.00
William Hunter Frame	Utilizing Cover Crops to Offset Fertilizer Inputs for Corn in Virginia – TAREC	\$ 25,531.00
R. Trent Jones	On-Farm Evaluation of Corn Production Strategies	\$ 10,000.00
Yongfa You	When Irrigation Matters Most: Adapting Virginia Corn to Increasing Heat and Drought Stress	\$ 19,579.00
Ozzie Abaye	Experiential-Learning: Service to Virginia and Abroad	\$ 10,000.00
Thomas P. Kuhar	M-Pede their progress: Testing a promising deer repellent on corn	\$ 10,065.00
Olga Walsh	Corn Hybrid Evaluations, Management Research, and Corn Extension Program	\$ 50,310.00
Joseph Haymaker	Utilizing Cover Crops to Offset Fertilizer Inputs for Corn in Virginia	\$ 27,388.00
Michael Flessner	Weed Management in Corn 2026	\$ 21,890.00
Azahar Ali	In-Plant Xylem pH Sensing to Predict Water Stress and Yield Risk in Corn	\$ 25,955.00
Ashley Jernigan	Evaluating native Virginian perennial groundcovers for corn production systems	\$ 15,870.00
Vijay Singh	Herbicide-Resistant Weed management in corn, 2026	\$ 22,457.00
Vijay Singh	Drone-based cover crop seeding	\$ 22,457.00
Brian Badgley	Identifying Microbes Related to Agronomic Traits of Diverse Corn Varieties	\$ 13,556.00
Tim Bryant	Addressing soil-borne insect pests of corn in Virginia	\$ 19,630.00
David Langston	Return on investment of fungicides in corn.	\$ 17,084.00
Kemper Lewis Sutton	Integrated Evaluation of Cover Crop Species and Pyrethroid Burndown on Insect Communities, Nutrient Cycling, and Yield in VA Corn	\$ 19,240.00
Zhiwu Wang	Managing PFAS Risks in Virginia Corn Systems by Identifying Sources, Plant Uptake, and Practical Mitigation Strategies	\$ 25,000.00
Yuan Zeng	Yuan Zeng	\$ 38,546.00
Megan Seibel	Corn Commodity Education to Enhance VALOR Program Impact	\$ 7,500.00
Guillaume Pilot	On-farm trials to evaluate the effect of a protein hydrolysate biostimulant on the yield of corn	\$ 7,600.00

VI. History of Corn Board Collections – Chairman Eicher presented the “History of Corn Board Collections” that indicated scenarios ranging from a 75% crop assessment to an 90% crop assessment. The report indicated that producers harvested an estimated 58,800,000 bushels of

corn in 2025 and at an 80% crop assessment; the Board should collect approximately \$464,720.00 from the 2025 Virginia Corn Crop.

A motion was made by P. Hickman and seconded W. Harding by using the 80% crop assessment estimate for the current round of funding. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Virginia Corn Board Funding FY 2026-2027 – The Board took the following actions on the project proposals listed below.

A motion was made by S. McQuarrie and seconded by P. Hickman to fund a block of projects totaling \$572,529.00. Projects will begin July 1, 2026, and conclude June 30, 2027.

Phil Hickman, Shannon Ellis and Wanda Lambert abstained from voting on the Virginia Grain Producers Association item.

Elizabeth Cooper abstained from voting on the Virginia Tech sponsored projects.

Org	Presenter	Requested	Funded
AITC	Lynn Black	12,500	\$ 12,500
VGPA	Leigh & Taylor Hubbard	175,000	\$ 175,000
US Grains	Ryan LeGrand	67,691	\$ 57,691
NCGA	Nicole Hasheider	49,500	\$ 50,000
FFA	Jennifer Armstrong	8,000	\$ 8,000
VT	William Hunter Frame	24,571	\$ 20,000
VT	William Hunter Frame	25,531	\$ 20,000
VT	R. Trent Jones	10,000	\$ 10,000
VT	Yongfa You	19,579	\$ -
VALOR	Megan Seibel	7,500	\$ 7,500
VT	Thomas P. Kuhar	10,065	\$ 10,065
VT	Olga Walsh	50,310	\$ 20,000
VT	Joseph Haymaker	27,388	\$ 10,000
VT	Michael Flessner	21,890	\$ 21,890
VT	Azahar Ali	25,955	\$ -
VT	Ashley Jernigan	15,870	\$ -
VT	Vijay Singh- Atrizine	22,457	\$ 22,457
VT	Vijay Singh-drone	22,457	\$ -
VT	Brian Badgley	13,556	\$ 13,556
VT	Tim Bryant	19,630	\$ 19,630
VT	David Langston	17,084	\$ 10,000
VT	Kemper Lewis Sutton-focus on slugs	19,240	\$ 19,240
VT	Zhiwu Wang	25,000	\$ 20,000
VT	Yuan Zeng	38,546	\$ 30,000
VT	Ozzie Abaye	10,000	\$ 10,000
VT	Guillaume Pilot	7,600	\$ 5,000
	Total	746,920	\$ 572,529

- VIII. Virginia Grain Producers Association Funding FY 2026-27** - As detailed in the above motion, the Board approved the Virginia Grain Producers Association's Driving Impact for Virginia Grain Producers: Research, Education, and Engagement project for the period July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$175,000.00. The Board recognizes, given their individual relationships with the Virginia Grain Producers Association, that they can vote fairly, objectively, and in the public interest of the Commonwealth of Virginia and on behalf of all of Virginia's corn producers.
- IX. NCGA Action Team Selection**- With the Board funding the base funding for NCGA, the Board can decide which action team their monies contribute to. The Board requested that Laura Maxey-Nay organize a virtual meeting to decide once the Board was provided with more information about each Action Team.
- X. Board Strategic Planning**- The Board asked that Laura Maxey-Nay organize a Strategic Planning meeting for the Board in June of 2026. Laura requests that facilitators email her their proposals for facilitating the Strategic Planning discussion. The Board will hold this meeting in the Tappahannock area. Laura will compile proposals and distribute them to the Board for consideration. A virtual meeting will be held for the Board to select the Facilitator.
- XI. Next Meeting** – The Board will hold its next regular meeting on November 12, 2026
- XII. Next Funding Meeting** – The Board will hold its next funding Meeting on February 3rd, The Board will continue to give Project Leaders up to 15 minutes to present their current project report and their next funding cycle project proposal. Presenters should expect to be physically present at the meeting.
- XIII. Public Comment** – Chairman Eicher asked for public comment. There were no comments.
- XIV. Adjournment** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 pm.

A motion was made by P. Egolf and seconded by D. Jennings. The motion passed unanimously.