

**Board Members Present:**

Donald L. Moore, Chairman	Blair Hall
Kenney Barnard	Jay Jennings
Parker Clary	Robert Mills, Jr.
Richard T. Hite, Jr.	Cecil E. Shell

**Board Members Absent:**

**Guests/Staff:**

Jennifer Atkins, Board Secretary  
Melissa Ball, VDACS  
Scott Banks, VDACS  
Dr. T. David Reed, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Dr. Arash Rashed, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Dr. Yuan Zeng, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Dr. Carol Wilkinson, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Kimberly Foley, Tobacco Associates, Inc.  
Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau

**I. Call to Order – 9:37AM**

**II. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

*Ms. Atkins opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairman. Mr. Moore was nominated by Mr. Hite for the position of Chairman. Mr. Jennings seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor; therefore, Mr. Moore was elected Chairman.*

*The Chairman opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Mr. Mills was nominated by Mr. Jennings for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Barnard seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor; therefore, Mr. Mills was elected Vice-chairman.*

### **III. Minutes – Virginia Tobacco Board Meeting, February 11, 2025**

*The minutes from the February 11, 2025, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented.*

### **IV. Financial Statements – Review**

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the financial statements for both the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund and the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund for the fiscal year 2025-2026, which reflected activity from July 1, 2025, to February 17, 2026. Financial statements were provided to the Board prior to the meeting for review.

### **V. Statement of Excise Taxes Collected – Review**

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the 2025 flue-cured and dark-fired tobacco excise tax statements of excise tax receipts received into the two Board funds. The total amount of excise taxes collected as of February 17, 2026, was \$111,929.73 and \$499.09 in the Bright Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund and the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund, respectively.

### **VI. Reports**

#### **Tobacco Associates, Inc. – Kimberly Foley, Executive Director**

The Chairman recognized Mrs. Foley, inviting her to report on Tobacco Associates, Inc. Mrs. Foley provided an overview of Tobacco Associates' activities of the past year, including the newly created strategic plan and Cured in the USA campaign. Mrs. Foley expressed appreciation to the Board for its continued support of their programs and entertained questions.

Mrs. Foley reviewed the planned activities for 2026, which consist of several trade missions and attendance at key tobacco tradeshows and expositions.

#### **Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom – Tony Banks**

The Chairman recognized Mr. Banks for a report on Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). Mr. Banks provided a brief overview of AITC's activities and programs in 2025.

#### **Virginia Tobacco Board Secretary – Jennifer Atkins**

The Chairman called on Ms. Atkins to review her proposals for funding of the 2026 State Fair of Virginia tobacco exhibit and updates to the exhibit.

## **Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SPAREC)**

- ☛ **Dr. T. David Reed, Tobacco Specialist**
- ☛ **Dr. Arash Rashed, Director, SPAREC**
- ☛ **Dr. Yuan Zeng, Assistant Professor**

The Chairman recognized Dr. T. David Reed, who gave progress reports and reviewed the status and results of tobacco production research and education projects that the Board funded in 2025. Dr. Reed also presented four proposals for 2026 tobacco research to the Board. Dr. Reed entertained questions from the Board regarding his presentation and proposals.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Yuan Zeng, who presented progress reports and one proposal for 2026 tobacco pathology research to the Board. Dr. Zeng entertained questions from the Board regarding her proposal.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Arash Rashed, who presented progress reports and two proposals for 2026 tobacco entomology research to the Board. Dr. Rashed entertained questions from the Board regarding his proposals.

### **VII. Consideration of Projects for Funding by the Board**

After review of the financial status of the Board and discussion of the funding requests, the following items were funded:

- ☛ *A motion was made by Mr. Shell and seconded by Mr. Mills for the following funding allocations. The vote was unanimously in favor.*
  - *Allocate \$1,050 from the Bright Flue-cured Promotion Fund to update the State Fair of Virginia tobacco exhibit.*
  - *Allocate \$550.00 from the Bright Flue-cured Promotion Fund for participation in the 2026 State Fair of Virginia.*
- ☛ *A motion was made by Mr. Shell and seconded by Mr. Mills to allocate \$1,000.00 to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom, \$700.00 from the Bright Flue-cured Promotion Fund and \$300.00 from the Dark-fired Promotion Fund. The vote was unanimously in favor.*
- ☛ *From the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund, allocate \$75,000 to SPAREC for research projects (indicated below) during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. The motion was made by Mr. Hite and seconded by Mr. Jennings. The vote was unanimously in favor.*
  - 2027 Flue-cured Tobacco Production Guide (\$2,000)

- Integrated Soilborne Disease Management in Tobacco (\$22,579)
- The Impact of Seed Vigor on Tobacco Crop Performance in the Field; Virginia Tobacco Extension Program Support; Revisiting the Principles of Flue-cured Tobacco Fertilization; Revisiting Budworm Management in Virginia Tobacco; Thrips/Tomato Spotted Wilt Management in Virginia Tobacco (\$50,421)

☛ *Allocate \$56,000 from the Bright Flue-cured Promotion Fund to Tobacco Associates, Inc. The motion was made by Mr. Shell and seconded by Mr. Barnard; there were six votes in favor, none opposed, and two abstentions (Mr. Mills and Mr. Jennings abstained as members of Tobacco Associates, Inc. Board of Directors).*

## **IX. Other Business**

Drs. Reed, Rashed, and Zeng, Mr. Banks, and Mrs. Foley were notified of the Board's funding decisions for SPAREC, Tobacco Associates, and AITC.

## **X. Public Comment**

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

## **XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:17PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Atkins, Secretary