

DRAFT  
Virginia Agricultural Council  
Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center  
Staunton, Virginia  
March 26-27, 2018

The Virginia Agricultural Council met on March 26-27, 2018, at the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and Conference Center in Staunton, Virginia. The meeting's purpose was to review and act upon new grant proposals submitted to the Council and to act upon continuation of current projects.

Monday, March 26, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m., by Chairman T.D. Watkins.

Members present were:

Joseph Barlow	Sonny Meyerhoeffer
Kathy Coffee	Mark Newbill
Travis Croxton	Lynn St. Clair
T.D. Watkins, III	Justin Minor
Tia Walbridge	Jason Bush
Kimberley Nixon	Gil Grattan
Phil Glaize	Larry Harris, Executive Director VAC

Members Absent:

Alan Worrell  
Ashley Hardesty

Ex-officio members in attendance:

Charles Green, Acting Commissioner, VDACS

Guests in attendance included the following:

VDACS: Kendra Shifflett, Director of Administrative and Financial Services  
Margie Gehler, AFS Coordinator Administrative and Financial Services

Chairman Watkins called for introductions, asking each person to give their name and the organization/county and/or commodity they represent.

Minutes from the August 2017 meeting were discussed. Chairman Watkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Joe Barlow motioned to adopt the minutes as presented, and Kathy Coffee seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of Council.

Chairman Watkins asked Larry Harris to review the financial reports. Mr. Harris began by discussing the current cash balance for the Council as of March 19, 2018. Mr. Harris stated the opening cash balance for this fiscal year was \$478,645.97. Revenue year-to-date is \$419,171.72 and expenses year-to-date are \$287,366.08, leaving the ending

cash balance at \$610,451.61. Mr. Harris directed Council members to make a note of the feed tonnage revenue amount of \$294,345.10 as of March 19. He stated that this figure is higher than had been received in the past, and it included a \$30,000 payment that was received just prior to pulling the revenue figures. The other revenue categories (seed, fertilizer, lime, motor fuel and interest) remained close to the historical revenue numbers. Mr. Harris discussed expenses and included the anticipated cost for a new projector, which he estimated at approximately \$2000.00.

<b>Current Financial Statement for July 1, 2017 - March 19, 2018 Revenue &amp; Expenditures</b>		
<b>Cash balance - June 30, 2017</b>		<b>\$478,645.97</b>
Add: Revenues		
Feed Tonnage	\$294,345.10	
Seed	57,850.14	
Fertilizer Tonnage	41,208.39	
Lime Tonnage	23,100.52	
Motor Fuel	324.25	
Interest	<u>2,343.32</u>	
<b>Total Balance and Receipts</b>	<b>419,171.72</b>	<b>897,817.69</b>
Less - Expenses		
Postal/Printing/Miscellaneous	\$3,498.50	
Travel - Members Meeting Expenses	9,456.15	
Wages - Assistant Secretary/FICA	12,654.70	
Grant Expenditures	<u>261,756.73</u>	
	<b>\$287,366.08</b>	
<b>Cash Balance - March 19, 2018</b>		<b>\$610,451.61</b>

Mr. Harris then reviewed the Estimated Financial Status for Non-Seed-Anticipated Funds Available for Projects 2018-2019. Net funds available for projects are \$538,590.45. The total amount submitted for all new proposals and second year projects is \$453,131.50. The Council has the option, based on the cash balance, to fund all proposals if they so choose.

Mr. Harris presented an overview of all the seed money and related expenses for the last five years, including current allocations, overhead expenses and how they fit into the Council's overall budget. The total funds available from the Seed Fund this fiscal year were \$106,236.00. This year \$55,249.00 has been recommended for funding by the Turf Grass Foundation. In summary, the Council has the option, based on the cash balance, to fund all proposals if they so choose.

Mr. Harris explained that the Revenue Differentials spreadsheet is the revenue estimation for 2017-2018 and the five-year average. According to these figures, the five-year feed tonnage average is \$69,860.79 lower than the estimated total revenue

amount for 2017-2018. Mr. Harris stated that for the financial estimates, he used FY2017 revenue figures in order to be conservative when calculating FY 2019 projected revenue. The administrative costs as a percentage of total expenses came to 13.41% and equated to \$7,553 for the Seed Fund share of administrative costs.

REVENUE DIFFERENTIALS 2012-2017								
						5 YR AVG	ACTUAL	2018 ESTIMATE INC (DEC)
	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2012-2017	2017-2018	5 YR AVG/ DIFF
Feed Tonnage	224,483.55	227,126.96	272,115.82	207,191.05	\$ 191,504.19	224,484.31	294,345.10	69,860.79
Fertilizer Tonnage	33,919.58	41,385.43	37,495.10	35,611.89	\$ 41,670.56	38,016.51	41,208.39	3,191.88
Lime Tonnage	24,666.45	23,622.09	22,177.29	24,894.97	\$ 22,357.84	23,543.73	23,100.52	(443.21)
Motor Fuel/Interest/M	2,069.79	1,512.48	2,376.83	405.00	\$ 1,943.10	1,661.44	2,667.57	1,006.13
<b>NON SEED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$285,139.37</b>	<b>\$293,646.96</b>	<b>\$334,165.04</b>	<b>\$268,102.91</b>	<b>\$ 257,475.69</b>	<b>\$287,705.99</b>	<b>361,321.58</b>	<b>\$ 73,615.59</b>
Seed	\$56,069.43	\$59,130.16	\$71,138.22	\$45,021.01	\$ 58,652.60	\$58,002.28	57,850.14	(152.14)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$341,208.80</b>	<b>\$352,777.12</b>	<b>\$405,303.26</b>	<b>\$313,123.92</b>	<b>\$ 316,128.29</b>	<b>\$345,708.28</b>	<b>419,171.72</b>	<b>\$ 73,463.45</b>

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Chairman Watkins, due to extra time in the morning schedule, moved to review the second year projects. Kathy Coffee motioned to approve all of the second year projects. Mark Newbill seconded, and the motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Council.

Persia	Evaluation of alternative methods for the prevention and control of histomonosis (blackheads) in turkeys	\$10,000.00
Wolf	Pre-bloom Leaf Thinning to Increase Grape Aromas and Aid Bunch Rot Management	\$13,655.00
Williams	Enhanced Apple Cider Fermentation by Selective Light Exposure	\$11,000.00
Akers	Mastitis in the Developing Bovine Mammary Gland	\$15,000.00
Rhoads	Utilizing Oocyte Reconstruction to Improve the Heat Tolerance of Dairy Cattle	\$8,000.00
Langston	Early Detection of Soilborne Diseases of Peanut Using Multispectral and Infrared Sensor Technology	\$7,002.50
Dalloul	Delivering Probiotics to chicken embryos to enhance post-hatch performance and immunity	\$17,000.00
Booher	Alternative Fencing and Watering Systems to Enhance Stream Exclusion and Grazing Management	\$1,260.00
Dick	Increasing Hops Yield with Phototherapy	\$8,000.00
Holshouser	Increasing Profitability for Virginia's Double Crop Wheat-Soybean System	\$20,466.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>SECOND YEAR PROPOSALS</b>	<b>\$111,383.50</b>

Finally, the Council reviewed the Turf Grass Foundation's recommendation for funding both first and second year seed projects. The projects approved by the Council are as follows:

Prefix	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT REQUESTED
Dr.	Mike	Goatley	Evaluating the potential of perennial two-grass turf management systems utilizing Kentucky bluegrass established and maintained in combination with seeded and vegetatively established bermudagrass	\$5,000.00
Dr.	David	McCall	Improving Soil Moisture Assessment across Turfgrass Systems Utilizing Field and Aerial Radiometry	\$10,000.00
Dr.	Thomas	Kuhar	Strategies for infesting turf with white grubs for evaluating insecticides	\$5,000.00
Dr.	Xunzhong	Zhang	Evaluating effects of humic acid-based biostimulants on rooting and drought tolerance of creeping bentgrass putting green turf and Kentucky bluegrass sod	\$18,000.00
Dr.	Jeffrey	Derr	Management of spreading troublesome weeds in Bermuda grass and tall fescue turf	\$17,249.00
Total				\$55,249.00

Joe Barlow motioned to approve the 2018-2019 seed projects as recommended. Kathy Coffee seconded and the motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Council

The Council began hearing new proposed grant requests for fiscal year 2018-2019. The following projects were those approved by the Council for the amounts shown.

Prefix	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT REQUESTED
Dr.	Gabriel	Pent	Feeding Value of Hulless Barley for Finishing Beef Cattle	\$11,630.00
Dr.	Andrea	Bedford	Evaluating the effect of Propionate on First-Calf Heifer Reproductive Performance	\$14,604.00
Dr.	Sherif	Sherif	A plant growth regulator to induce bloom delay and avoid spring frost injury in peach	\$10,090.00
Dr.	Bo	Zhang	Continue Developing Public, Roundup Ready Soybean Varieties	\$12,000.00
Dr.	Mark	Estienne	Further studies on iron deficiency anemia in pigs fed antibiotic-free nursery diets containing elevated levels of copper	\$16,000.00
Dr.	Alan	Ealy	A diet-based scheme for improving muscle development in ruminants	\$15,000.00
Dr.	Monica	Ponder	Safe cooling strategies for naturally cured artisan meats	\$20,000.00
Dr.	Jan	McDowell	Development of Genomic Resources for Advancement of Hard Clam ( <i>Mercenaria mercenaria</i> ) Aquaculture	\$15,500.00
Dr.	Emily	Rivest	Carry-over effects of hatchery conditions (seawater pH and temperature) on the Virginia aquaculture species, <i>Crassostrea virginica</i>	\$10,004.00
Dr.	William	Frame	Developing a malting barley/cotton double crop system for Southeastern Virginia	\$15,000.00
Dr.	Takeshi	Fukao	Improvement of flooding tolerance in corn	\$12,000.00
Dr.	Ramon	Arancibia	Pre-harvest conditioning to accelerate and improve skin set and reduce bruising in potato	\$18,003.00
Dr.	Michael	Flessner	Weed Identification Website Phase II	\$14,000.00
Dr.	Richard	Snyder	Seaside Aquaculture: addressing roadblocks to commercial production of bay scallops	\$15,118.00

Council adjourned at 5:04pm to end the first day of grant proposals.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

Chairman Watkins called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following projects were approved by the Council for the amounts shown.

Prefix	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	PROJECT NAME	AMOUNT REQUESTED
Dr.	Gonzalo	Ferreira	Effects of feeding hulless barley on production performance and nutrient digestibility by lactating dairy cows consuming diets containing high- and low-quality hay	\$18,172.00
Mr.	Victor	Mercadante	Incorporation of zinc (Zn <sup>2+</sup> ) chelators during fertilization to prevent early embryonic loss in cattle	\$15,000.00
Dr.	Bain	Wilson	Evaluation of beef cow/calf performance when grazed on endophyte-infected or novel endophyte-infected tall fescue summer-stockpiled pastures	\$11,900.00
Dr.	Michael	Persia	Estimation of the Lysine and Methionine Requirements of Starter (Young) Broiler Chickens Using a Short Duration Feeding Approach	\$15,000.00
Dr.	Song	Li	Developing culture-free sequencing technologies to improve ornamental crop disease diagnosis and prevention with a focus on boxwood blight	\$16,000.00
Mr.	Zhiwu	Wang	Turning phosphorus pollution into a marketable product by using fungi	\$23,154.00
Dr.	Sallie	Taylor	Improving and reducing costs of managing corn earworm, <i>Helicoverpa zea</i> (Boddie), in Virginia row crops	\$15,000.00
Dr.	Mark	Hanigan	A survey of Virginia dairy nutritionists' methods and practices for formulating rations across a variety of production situations	\$6,580.00
Dr.	Ben	Tracy	Evaluating the potential for dual-use canola/rapeseed production in Virginia	\$10,683.00
Dr.	Holly	Scoggins	Hops in Virginia: Cultural Practices and Post-Harvest Processing	\$11,300.00

This concluded the session on grant presentations. The Council convened for the business session and public comment period.

The Council reviewed the first year projects. Each project was discussed among Council members as to the merits of the project. Jason Bush motioned to approve the projects for the amounts shown, and Mark Newbill seconded the motion. The new funding was approved by unanimous vote of the Council.

**Business Session**

The Council approved twenty-four new projects in the amount of \$341,748.00, and the continuation of second year projects totaling \$111,383.50. The total amount approved for all seed projects was \$55,249.00. Total funds allotted by the Council were. \$508,380.50.

Chairman Watkins opened the floor for discussion on the location for the August meeting on August 27 and 28, 2018. The decision was made to hold the meeting near Rapidan/Orange County, Virginia. Kimberley Nixon will work with VDACS staff to plan the tours.

Joe Barlow moved to adjourn the meeting. Mark Newbill seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Council and the meeting adjourned at 1:53pm.

Approved:

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Tscharner D. Watkins, III,  
Chairman

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Cecil W. Meyerhoeffer  
Vice-Chairman