

Minutes

August 29, 2013

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Casey M. Armstrong	Kirk Mathis
Maurice K. Berry, Jr.	Mark Peters
Doug Boyd	Bert Pitt
John William Carter, III	Robert Sutter
Tommy Burlison	Jeffrey Turner
William Johnston	

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Call to Order

Introductions

Approve Minutes from February 26th, March 7th, and May 28th meetings

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Overview of NC State Forest Service

Legislative Update

Federal Update/FSMA

NASDA Invitation/Update

Other Business

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N.C. Board of Agriculture

The Board of Agriculture meeting on August 29, 2013 was at the Martin Building at the N.C. State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm, read the Ethics Reminder, and then called on Zane Hedgecock to open the meeting in prayer. The following Board members were in attendance: Casey Armstrong, Maurice Berry, Doug Boyd, Billy Johnston, Bert Pitt, Bob Sutter, and Jeff Turner.



Commissioner Troxler started the meeting by introducing new board members Doug Boyd and Bob Sutter and asking for updates from each member present on the conditions in their counties. Following the Board introductions and updates, all others in attendance introduced themselves.



The first official agenda item was the approval of the minutes from the February 26th, March 7th, and May 28th meetings. Maurice Berry made the MOTION, which was seconded by Bert Pitt, that the minutes from each of the meetings be approved. The motion carried unanimously.



Dr. David Marshall, State Veterinarian, then came forward to discuss a proposal from the Veterinary Division for two new poultry diagnostic test fees and an increase in three additional fees. Dr. Marshall noted that the small increases in fees were needed in order to address budget cuts with the least impact on accomplishing the Veterinary Division's regulatory mission. Bob Ford, the Executive Director of the NC Poultry Federation has shared the proposal with industry and there are no objections.

After some discussion among the Board members in regards to needed improvements in the lab, Billy Johnston made the MOTION that the fees be approved. The motion was seconded by Casey Armstrong and carried by unanimous vote.



The next item on the agenda was a proposal from the Agronomics Division to increase certain plant analysis fees. Dr. Colleen Hudak-Wise, Director of the Agronomics division explained the increase of peak-season soil fees and expedited shipper fees were mandated by the Appropriations Act of 2013. The division is proposing to increase the waste sample fee from five dollars to eight dollars in order to generate new receipts to offset reductions to the General Fund appropriations as mandated by the Appropriations Act of 2013.

The proposed fees are coming before the Board as temporary rules in order to allow the Agronomics Division to better prepare for the fiscal year by allowing them to collect the increased fees as soon as possible. The rules would need to come before the Board at a later date to be approved during the permanent rulemaking process.

There was discussion among the Board members and Dr. Hudak-Wise regarding the fees, sample turnaround times, and security after-hours at the drop off site. With no further discussion needed, Jeff Turner made the MOTION that the rules be adopted. The motion was seconded by Maurice Berry and carried by unanimous vote.

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Chrissy Waggett explained to the Board that the State Fair admission prices which had been approved by the Board at an earlier meeting will come before them again at a later date once they have gone through the permanent rulemaking process.

There was some discussion about the improvements to the Commercial building as well as an update on parking in response to a question from Board member Bob Sutter.

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Greg Pate was called upon to give an overview of the NC Forest Service. Mr. Pate described that they had responded to a third of the fires that they normally do because of the weather. He also discussed the management of landowners' forest land and the 1700 programs across the state to promote state forests.

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Joy Hicks then came forward to give an update on the recent legislative session. Ms. Hicks noted that 334 bills were signed into law. The Department increased their piece of the pie in regards to the budget from .5% to .6%. She described that the Department has a \$115 million recurring budget out of a \$20.6 billion general fund. During the session, the Department did receive a 1.5% managerial cut, but it also received money for equipment updates for Research Stations and \$1.5 million in recurring funds for marketing. In addition, bioenergy development is now a part of the Department.

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Commissioner Troxler then asked Assistant Commissioner Joe Reardon to update the Board on the rules coming out of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Mr. Reardon explained that four rules have been released for public comments. The Department is heavily involved with a technical working group through the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) to go through the rules and form comments. Going forward there will need to be more work with FDA to make sure the rules are implemented correctly and to make sure farmers are aware of the regulations.

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Chrissy Waggett discussed the NASDA annual meeting that would be hosted by Commissioner Troxler as president of the organization in Asheville, NC. The meeting will be in September at the Biltmore. They will discuss policy affecting agriculture, visit Dupont State Forest and the Mountain State Fair. We are expecting a large number of participants from all over the country to attend.

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Commissioner Troxler then discussed his presidency of NASDA and the work he and NASDA has done in regards to the Farm Bill and FSMA, among other things. He will turn over the presidency to Chuck Ross of Vermont at the end of the annual meeting in September.

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Commissioner Troxler asked for any other business that needed to be discussed. After some discussion on the state e-verify bill, Casey Armstrong mentioned that the NC Horse Council will be hosting a coalition of state horse councils in October. They will focus on policy rules and regulations that run the horse industry.

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There being no further business, Jeff Turner made the MOTION, which was seconded by Maurice Berry, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by unanimous vote and the meeting concluded at 4:13 pm.

Recorded and Prepared by:
Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 9th day
of April, 2014.



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner of Agriculture
Chairman



Tina Hlabse
Secretary