

Minutes

July 8, 2015

N. C. Board of Agriculture

Casey M. Armstrong

Kirk Mathis

Maurice K. Berry, Jr.

Mark Peters

Doug Boyd

Bert Pitt

Tommy Burleson

Robert Sutter

John William Carter, III

Jeffrey Turner

William Johnston

Steve Troxler, Chairman

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Global Vision for NC – *Center for International Understanding*

Other Business

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N.C. Board of Agriculture

The July 8, 2015 N.C. Board of Agriculture meeting was held in Raleigh, North Carolina at the Martin Building on the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and read the Ethics Reminder. The following Board members were present: Casey Armstrong, Maurice Berry, Doug Boyd, Tommy Burleson, Billy Carter, Billy Johnston, Mark Peters, Bert Pitt and Bob Sutter. Kirk Mathis arrived at 2:22 p.m.

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The first item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from the April 22, 2105 meeting. Billy Johnston made the MOTION to approve, which was seconded by Jeff Turner. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

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Jim Fain and Warren Miller for Global Vision of NC spoke on the project that will be continuing until the fall. They spoke about the Regional meetings, key leaders in business, agriculture, etc. to talk about elements of global success. They explained that they are augmenting their project by educating various groups with special meetings like this one. Tommy Burleson spoke about having a business plan, need for exports and not simply import products. Jeff Turner commented on the need to help folks be export ready and educating people about products special to North Carolina.

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Wesley Wyatt, State Fair Manager, provided an update on facilities on the fairgrounds and brought forth a request to increase rental rates for these facilities. He explained that the Fair rents and runs these facilities every day of the year except in the month of October and Christmas day. He discussed increased costs – just like any other business – and the need to raise rental costs to maintain the facilities.

Commissioner Troxler mentioned that there would be roughly \$200,000 in additional revenue (not counting the horse complex). Casey Armstrong commented that having a minimum rate to attract new shows needs to be considered and agreed that it would be sensible to combine shows. She discussed that 20-25% of shows will be impacted by this and that she is all for getting bigger shows and having things more cost effective, but that we need a strategy for enticing big shows that will need 600-700 stalls.

Maurice Berry made the MOTION to approve the rental rates, seconded by Bob Sutter. There were no further questions on the topic of rental rates. The vote was unanimous to approve the increased rental rates.

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Pat Harris provided an update on division of Soil and Water programs. She explained that there are 137 NRCS employees in the state now, down from 300+. She mentioned that the Farm Bill will streamline some of the SWC programs.

Bob Sutter asked for further explanation. Pat Harris explained that they will be partnering with 40 districts to get funding for projects. The mission is to bring in non-traditional partners. Kirk Mathis commented on the departure of the USDA NRCS staff members and its burden on the ones left behind. Pat Harris said that they are the technical support/assistance. Bob Sutter inquired about Waters of the US (WOTUS)? Pat Harris responded that the Department opposes WOTUS as it is currently drafted. David Smith further explained WOTUS issues and its connection with the pond on the State Fair.

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Dr. Meckes provided an update on High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI). He explained that HPAI was initially identified in Canada in December 2014. He further explained its progression across the United States and how it affected 22 states. Dr. Meckes explained the devastating affect HPAI has had on the poultry industry. He explained the thinking that lateral spread of HPAI was brought about by poor biosecurity. NCDA&CS sent teams to Minnesota and Iowa to help depopulate birds. Kirk Mathis asked about methods of disposal. Dr. Meckes explained options about burial and the preferred method of composting. Tommy Burleson questioned the option of incinerating the birds. Dr. Meckes responded that there are some small-scale incinerators that have not proven to be very effective and there is a potential risk in transporting the poultry.

Sharron Stewart provided an update on Emergency Program's preparations for HPAI. EP has sent four (4) teams to Minnesota. EP took what they learned in Minnesota and developed what a command structure might look like in North Carolina. Casey Armstrong asked about the possibility that we will luck out and not get the disease. Ms. Stewart responded that everyone believes it will come to the Atlantic flyway this fall. She said we want to be able to be prepared and respond quickly. Jeff Turner inquired about vaccines and the effects on exports. Kirk Mathis wanted to know about biosecurity changes that need to be in place. Sharron Stewart responded to each of these topics. There was further discussion about knowledge with poultry farmers across the State.

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Commissioner Troxler asked if there was any other business.

Having concluded the business set forth on the agenda, a MOTION was made by Mark Peters to adjourn. The motion, seconded by Tommy Burleson, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Recorded and Prepared by:

Christina L. Waggett

Adopted by the Board this 3rd day
of November, 2015.



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner of Agriculture
Chairman



Tina Hlabse
Secretary