

Minutes

April 14, 2016

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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N.C. Board of Agriculture

The April 14, 2016 Board of Agriculture meeting was held in Raleigh, NC at the Donald W. Eaddy Building Conference Room in the Agronomics Building on Reedy Creek Road. Commissioner of Agriculture, Steve Troxler, called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. and read the Ethics Reminder. Zane Hedgecock then opened the meeting with prayer. A roll call by Chrissy Waggett established that there was a quorum. The following Board members were present: Casey Armstrong, Maurice Berry, Doug Boyd, Tommy Burleson, Billy Carter, Kirk Mathis, Bob Sutter, and Jeff Turner.

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The first official item on the agenda was approval of the minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting. Jeff Turner made the MOTION to approve the minutes as presented. The motion, seconded by Kirk Mathis, carried by unanimous vote.

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Commissioner Troxler called on James Romer, Assistant State Fair Manager, to present the next order of business, the approval of rental rates at the NC State Fair. Mr. Romer noted that we were six months away from the opening day of the 2016 State Fair and several construction projects were currently underway at the fairgrounds. One of those projects, almost complete, was the Tobacco Pavilion. Consequently, the State Fair was seeking approval of rental rates for the Pavilion

The proposed rates are \$1,000.00 a day, or 10% of the gross gate for a ticketed event, whichever is higher, for a non-agricultural event; and \$500.00 a day, or 10% of the gross gate for a ticketed event, whichever is higher, for an agricultural event.

A MOTION was made by Kirk Mathis to approve the rates as presented to the Board. The motion was seconded by Casey Armstrong.

There was a question about this space having restrooms, or restrooms located close-by. It was explained by Commissioner Troxler and Mr. Romer that additional restrooms for this space are in the plans for a later phase of the project. It was also mentioned that the State Fair is in possession of a portable restroom that will be able to be used during events and there are established restrooms nearby.

Being no further discussion, the motion carried by unanimous vote.

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Mr. Romer was then asked to update the Board on other construction projects currently underway at the fairgrounds. There was an update on projects including the Dorton Arena roof,

changes to the Hobbies and Crafts Building to assist in traffic flow during the annual State Fair, and changes to the Flower and Garden show. The Department is also in the process of developing additional parking at the corner of Reedy Creek and Edwards Mill Roads. There are also improvements happening at several gates. Finally, the chairlift project is underway and moving forward with plans to be in operation by the opening of the 2016 State Fair.

Casey Armstrong asked for an update on the Food Services Contract with the Hunt Horse Complex. An update was given and several improvements at the Hunt Horse Complex were noted.



The next item on the agenda was an update on the Connect NC Bond by Property and Construction Division Director, Kent Yelverton. Before Mr Yelverton updated the Board on the bond, he noted that the Chair Lift at the State Fair is now in the design phase, and construction on the various parts of the Lift will start in June and finish before the start of this year's fair. He also explained that the satellite parking lot at Reedy Creek and Edwards Mill Roads is currently going through permitting. The Department is also working with the Department of Transportation to allow access from Edwards Mill Road. This parking area will have a shuttle to the fairground gates.

Moving on to the Connect NC Bond update, Mr. Yelverton explained that a \$2 billion bond package was passed by voters on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Of most importance to the Department is \$94 million for construction of a consolidated lab facility. The new lab will bring the following properties into one co-located system: Rollins Laboratory (Veterinary Division), Constable Laboratory (Food and Drug Protection Division), the Ballantyne Building (Pesticide Division), the Motor Fuels Lab, and the Standards Lab. The current buildings average over forty years old and are built for different science than what is used today.

Work in the Department on this new lab started three days after the bond passed. A working group has been put together that includes Assistant Commissioner Joe Reardon, the lab directors, division directors, and other technical staff. The group has already been assigned different tasks, and will plan visits to other states' labs. In the next couple of weeks, they will advertise and later select a design company, although those contracts will not be signed until sometime later in the year. Mr. Yelverton also wanted it noted that the bond does not include money for equipment, which will need to be addressed through the General Assembly.

There was some discussion on what will happen to the current buildings and the proposed location of the new lab. It was also noted that the Department has 185 additional current construction projects that still need to be completed.

Casey Armstrong inquired about the status of the horse stalls in Lumberton. A six month contract has been signed, but is expected to be completed before then. It was indicated that \$160,000 is still needed to complete this project.



Commissioner Troxler then asked Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, to update the Board on a couple of current matters. First, Mr. Reardon explained an issue arising in the Food and Drug Protection Division pertaining to “Human Grade” claims on pet treat packaging.

Next, Mr. Reardon announced that FDA is giving a whole-genome sequencing machine to North Carolina. There are only 11 of these machines throughout the United States and it is used for food safety to trace pathogens. The money and the staff to operate this machine will be provided to the Department and to the College of Veterinary Medicine, NCSU by FDA and will be housed at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Mr. Reardon then gave a quick update on the audit of the Grade A Dairy Program being performed by the State Auditor’s office. He also discussed a few issues regarding raw milk that had recently arisen. There was some discussion on the state of the dairy industry, with Chester Lowder from the North Carolina Farm Bureau, making a few comments, including praising the Department for its work with the dairy industry.

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Tina Hlabse reminded everyone that their Statement of Economic Interest was due on April 15th, 2016.

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The MOTION was made by Kirk Mathis, and seconded by Jeff Turner to adjourn the meeting.

Casey Armstrong asked about the proposed fees at Dupont State Recreational Forest. It was explained that the North Carolina Forest Service worked with the Friends of Dupont and others to come up with suitable fees. The proposal will come before the Board for approval soon.

There being no further business to discuss, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting concluded at 3:21 pm.

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Recorded and Prepared by:

Chrissy Waggett

Adopted by the Board this __26th__ day

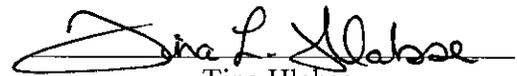
of __July____, 2016.



Steven W. Troxler

Commissioner of Agriculture

Chairman



Tina Hlabse

Secretary