

Conference and Strategic Planning Meeting of the VA FFA Board of Directors/Advisory Board Council –
1:00PM – Tuesday, April 17, 2012 - Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

Members in Attendance: Andy Seibel, Brandon Monk, Brian Alexander, Brian Fisher, Brian Walsh, Dana Fisher, Darryl Holland, Edward McCann, Frank Saldana, Glenn Anderson, Jennifer Simmons, Jessica Jones, Missy McDonald, Rick Rudd, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtry, Russell Jennings, Sally Shomo, Sarah Scyphers, Ted DeLano, and Teresa Lindberg.

Brian Alexander called the meeting to order. Alexander distributed the minutes from the previous meeting and asked members to review the minutes and to state any questions in regards to the minutes as submitted.

Darryl Holland moved to accept the previous meeting minutes as submitted. Ted DeLano seconded.
Motion passed.

Legislative Policy Development 2012

Andy Seibel stated we had Martha Moore, Director of Government Relations for Virginia Farm Bureau with us to discuss the legislative policy development process concerning the state of agricultural education in Virginia. ***No action needed.***

Teresa Lindberg stated Sarah Scyphers will work with her on the proposed list of statistical data for promotion of agricultural education in the legislation process. There were four proposals that were submitted to the state Farm Bureau and all four were passed by. The four proposals were to sustain funding and/or positions for were: the state agricultural education curriculum specialist position, the Virginia Department of Education Agricultural Education and Related Clusters Specialist, the Virginia FFA Executive Secretary position, and maintaining extended contracts for all Virginia agricultural education teachers. ***No action needed.***

Moore stated she was addressing the agricultural education board today to get a clearer picture as to how the board believes Virginia agricultural education may have gotten into its current state. Moore said she wanted to understand the why of how did Virginia agriculture teachers get to this point before we get to a resolution. The best way to communicate things is to see it from multiple perspectives, so before arriving at any conclusions we must first question the why before we can examine the how. Moore said she had stated last year to the Virginia Farm Bureau that the Virginia agricultural education teachers had a concerted effort within our organization as programs were being lost. She asked the Virginia agricultural education board members to explain why the group believes agricultural education is losing agricultural education programs in so many areas in the state. Moore further asked the group to outline and further explain what the Virginia agricultural education teachers think are the critical points needed to sustain agricultural education currently in the state. Moore asked the board members to define their thoughts about the legislation process in agricultural education. Moore wanted to know who is the voice of agricultural education in the Virginia Department of Education and do you have one voice or are there multiple and where are they located? Alexander stated we are losing a lot of agricultural education programs because of funding. Moore stated when the bottom line comes the Department of Education is not going to cut math and science as they are going to cut career and technical education due to funding in hard economic times. ***No action needed.***

Trailblazers

Seibel distributed the "Trailblazers Newsletter" and stated if you are local CTE Director, you should have the documentation and utilize to help save jobs in Virginia agricultural education but reviewed closely for accurate report. DeLano stated the CTE packet contains employment statistics showing what is taught in agricultural education in a negative means. They are not allowed to use the statistics from the United States Department of Agriculture, but she can only use data from United States Department of Labor. Put out the report from UVA, while they are doing completer options as non-traditional occupations. Lindberg stated some of our professional occupations do not equate under the agriculture field in the Trailblazers Newsletter. Lindberg stated because she is mandated to use the Department of Labor statistics it hurts others outlook on agricultural professions instead of helping. Seibel stated he has tried to rebut their information with actual factual data from the census and he is being told that he cannot use the data because it was not from the Department of Labor. Jessica Jones asked if it was because it cannot be compared to the data source that is being used. Seibel stated yes. DeLano stated they were having similar problems in their Cooperative session in Richmond several years ago as they were making the push that if you are working in a restaurant, those individuals are not in an agricultural job, but they are in a marketing job. Seibel stated that even the perception of children being able to go to college is altered by that data. Brandon Monk was told by those in charge of the College of Agriculture to go during their break to recruit students, but to go to Agriculture classes and recruit students because that would be a waste of time as the students who have the upper level courses needed for full admission to Virginia Tech were not going to be the students in the Agriculture classes. Moore stated that was not the impression she received from Virginia Tech Admissions Department. Moore stated they analyze the school systems challenging curriculum, such as dual enrollment, AP courses, and Governor's school and comparing the curriculums against each other to find out the strength of the student and overall ability to excel in higher level courses. Further, the diploma will be divided into two categories, everybody in the general diploma category will go through CTE, but if you go through the advanced diploma track, you will not be able to get all the courses in to graduate if you take a CTE elective course. The premise would be to have every child go through general courses, then once you have completed all the general courses for the general diploma criteria, then choose to complete the requirements for an advanced diploma. Glenn Anderson stated east of 95, we are losing programs because we have lost the Agricultural Education Department at Virginia State University and the students who want to get the further in coursework are lost part of the way through the program as the same you lose that really good teacher, but you also have antiques equipment and facilities needing updating with the new technical equipment. Anderson stated there are multiple reasons why programs can be lost, but our focus is not on why we lose them, but how to stop losing them. **No action needed.**

Russell Jennings stated one of the good things we have is being able to know we have a CTE Advisory council committee that can advocate for all agricultural education teachers. Jennings stated in Louisa, we have County Farm Bureau leaders saying they are about to lose programs, if needed, as we have always had people in the right position if we get the information to them when they need it. DeLano stated, if you have state superintendents advocating for agricultural education in the state department of education, then we must be doing something right and if we haven't built that network at the local level, then the grassroots at the local level must be sustained – it is our only chance. **No action needed.**

Moore asked the group to explain the mixes of funding for program. Anderson stated Perkins funding at the state is the basis for teacher salary and equipment, reimbursing localities for credentialing exams. Perkins federal funding ranges depending on the size of the locality from \$6,000 up to \$300,000. There

are specific purposes, including staff developments as a requirement for the use of funds for Perkins and a lot of equipment money goes into program inventory for funding. **No action needed.**

Moore stated a lot of youth like what you do, but how many agriculture teachers have moved up to be Career and Technical Education teachers, directors, administrators, etc or how many individuals in the room had a Masters' degree in administration or a career field other than agriculture. One-third of the room raised their hands. Moore stated it used to be where the principal and the agriculture teacher used to make more money than the regular classroom teacher, but now there is such a disparity in salaries, how many individuals are going into the agriculture field and staying in the field when at least one-third of the individuals in the room have an advanced degree in something that is not agriculturally related. Lindberg stated, it doesn't matter how much we are getting paid or even why some of us have advanced degrees. If anything, it should show that agricultural education teachers can advance to other careers and if and when they do, that job should still be there for someone else to continue on the work not just have the children or the community lose out because somebody couldn't be replaced. **No action needed.**

Moore asked the group to explain why is your CTE or CATE Centers required to have an advisory council, but the local agriculture department is not required to have one and many places it is left out and it creates a gap. Alexander stated, regardless if an advisory council is required or not, at some point in time when Dr. Anderson retires, the question we are trying to solve is if we will be able to fill his position. In order to fill the position, we will need to make a concerted effort that plainly states what Glenn does, how he does it, the curriculum development and implementation, including tasks, competencies, SOL correlations, etc. Alexander stated, Dr. Anderson has kept us current in curriculum and in creating new courses and programs over the past several years to keep the teachers and students up to date and we need to focus on his role and his role only. **No action needed.**

Anderson stated as far as the Virginia Department of Education staff, everybody is informed equally as they are moving to the cluster approach, which there are 16 clusters offered in Virginia and most of our programs will be included under the food, fiber and natural resources system. Some of the people in the department on taking on more responsibilities, and some of those areas still have supervisors, and that is because teacher education move on to the 5 year program and eliminated the undergraduate program at Virginia Tech and other state accredited universities. In many ways we are doing pretty good in multiple areas and our enrollment has maintained itself over the past several years, even showing a small increase. They are cutting teachers on extended contracts and a lot of teachers are doing a good job and we haven't reached a critical state yet, but we need to make sure we have plans and we want to make sure Virginia agricultural education is strong in the future. Seibel stated for the state advisory committee to the state board of education, Ronnie Gill is with Farm Credit and is on the advisory committee along with others. A lot of Glenn's importance is based on Dr. Anderson's forefront on the issues, the contacts he's made, the relationships he has, and the drive to maintain Virginia agricultural education programs. **No action needed.**

Moore asked the group how can a two-minute elevator speech be created that legislators, congressman, senators, etc. can understand what it is that agricultural education teachers do. Moore stated with the change in the diploma types and the change in the agricultural education programs, it is on my list to look at CTE programs across the board and break all this information down and create a roadmap to be able to see where we are going for the future. **No action needed.**

State Fair Update

Seibel stated the State Fair of Virginia article outlines the compensation packages for student scholarships and the article stated the State Fair has a trustee that has been appointed and will decide where the scholarship money will go. Seibel stated if the money is still there and we will be working with Martha and Farm Bureau, we have asked that FFA is remembered when the division of assets begins. Seibel stated there is about \$400,000 accounted for as the account was supposed to have \$1.8 million and the interest off the account was supposed to pay for the scholarships to the students and the trustee is looking to settle those issues and Virginia FFA wants to work with Farm Bureau. There is a discussion that the funds were shipped to Virginia Tech, but FFA is not a part of Virginia Tech, therefore, we need to make sure that the money coming to the Virginia Tech Foundation is for continued use for 4-H and FFA events, not just one organization or another. **No action needed.**

Moore stated she would like to continue in working relations with Virginia FFA to assure the State Fair money is split appropriately over both groups and the Fair does remember that both organizations contribute to the scholarship pool of candidates, not just one organization or the other. Seibel further stated, timing is a little bit of an issue with aligning the events with a timeframe as it has been in the past, as it would have been the exact same weekend as the Expo and that would be double dipping and eliminating a lot of students from beneficial activities. Dana Fisher asked if there is the opportunity to add on to Rockingham and expand the events there. Seibel stated he did not know. Seibel said he was interested in the events being done in Chatham at the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex or in Rockingham at the Fairgrounds. Seibel stated Rockingham originally wanted \$16,000 to sign on and rent the property and then Rockingham turned around and donated the fairgrounds, so, with everything already in play at the Rockingham Fairgrounds and the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex still under construction, the choice was to go with the Fairgrounds and then leave options open for moving at a later date, so nothing is set in concrete at this time to expand in either place. Seibel further stated, the State Fair news release said for every kid that won at the State Fair for small engines, the kids that won first got \$600, second \$500, and \$400. State fair charged a \$5.00 entry fee and those funds are gone. So, we also have to evaluate the funding for scholarships and what can be done to make sure those kids get their money they earned. Seibel stated the Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation was willing to underwrite the cost of the State Fair but the facility was not to standards yet and the facility is not up to date yet. The issue is how we can we move forward now and still plan for the future. **No action needed.**

Fisher asked if we did small engines at Rockingham one day and then use facilities of the closest school, such as Turner Ashby, would that help at all and allow us to be able to get more of the contests done in one day. Seibel stated he would prefer to get as many of them done in one day as much as possible. **No action needed.**

Sarah Scyphers stated we do spring rallies and I am new at it but the Appalachian area has been doing it pretty successfully for the past several years. Jennie Simmons stated the Appalachian area is at 518 kids and it is starting to expand where we have to have the people to manage the events. Simmons stated it is coming to a point where it is a great idea, but it is taking on a whole new life form that we got to get control of or it just won't be as successful as it has in the past. **No action needed.**

Seibel stated we are not going to Jr. Dairyman because Dave Winston has to have a certain number of students enrolled to have the contest, whereas, with Junior Foresters' there is at least 100 students that register for that contest and Tractor Troubleshooting always has a great number of participants. Seibel stated, mind you, all of these contests are running at the same time and like last year, student teachers came down to help run the contests but we have to have the commitment from them and the teachers

bringing students to help out. Seibel stated, I can't do all of this by myself. Rick Rudd stated it has to be teacher led to help with the events. DeLano asked if there is a way to enforce teachers bringing students and then helping instead of dropping kids off and then headed their own way. Anderson stated, not really, that's why we have such a hard time at convention and then you will always have those that pull more weight than others, but how can you distinguish the difference if you spend most of your time trying to hunt people down instead of setting up the events. Rudd stated we need to ask Ed Jones to see what he thinks about doing a state rally of FFA events, with facilities at Virginia Tech or at some centralized area that could host such a large number of students. Seibel recommended doing the state rally on the Friday before Columbus Day weekend as it may help alleviate some other conflicts that could arise. Seibel stated the current \$5.00 is reasonable for entry to the fair. Jennings stated it was reasonable. Holland stated the entry fees should be set between \$5 and \$10. Jennings stated the fees should be used for the prizes and awards for the students. **No action needed.**

Virginia FFA Foundation

Sally Shomo stated the Virginia FFA Foundation met this morning. Shomo stated the Foundation decided the Foundation reception June 20 will offer a silent auction and possibly raise money for our new legacy person and a golf tournament where money can be raised there as well. Alexander asked if the Foundation had announced our legacy person and Shomo stated it would not be announced until state convention. Shomo stated there are some state plaques that are not sponsored and chapters will get a plaque next year, 2012, but you won't next year, 2013. Shomo said she will send the list out at some point next week. Shomo also stated the group should commend Andy for all the work he has given this past year and how greatly appreciated he and his work really is. **No action needed.**

Virginia Tech Update

Rudd stated there are 12 student teachers out in the field and 10 signed up for next year and a few were offered positions to teach courses for students at Virginia State. Rudd stated the curriculum for teacher education program; particularly mechanics needs to be revisited. Rudd stated he met with the College of Agriculture Dean last week and we are going to need some data to determine the need for a mechanics laboratory facility, especially if we are going to use the Seitz space which has been converted. Rudd also stated, the one thing we need to do is to form a curriculum development committee, and part of the effort on that committee would be asking what is need other folks from each area, such as Appalachian, Southside, etcetera and at least one member from each of those areas to serve on the curriculum development committee. **No action needed.**

Rudd stated the distance education program has hired James Anderson out of Illinois who serves the teachers well and the program will be revamped. There will be certification online for leadership that will be used as a part of a M.ED or M. plus 15 programs. There will be support to help teach the dual enrollment leadership course with Wytheville Community College and looking for other community colleges to sign on. **No action needed.**

Rudd also stated Tom Broyles has decided to give up his position at Virginia Tech. Rudd talked with the Dean of the College of Agriculture and the dean will fill the position when Tom takes a position somewhere else. Rudd also stated the Governor's School for Agriculture will continue after Tom leaves. **No action needed.**

Constitution

Seibel stated that one member from your chapter is supposed to be on the officer team – Section D; Article IX. The recommendation that came forward was that if there is not a worthy candidate and to allow a second individual from a particular chapter to fill an office that is not filled. Rudd asked what for the definition of an acceptable candidate to be explained. Seibel stated they have to pass with 50% or greater on all of their state officer candidate tests and activities. Seibel stated in the past we have filled the president and the area vice presidents first, and if you were the only student in the top position, the only position you could fill would be an area vice president. Seibel stated that has since been changed. It is up to the advisory council what the decisions will be made or to leave it as is. **No action taken.**

Anderson stated to review Section G of the Constitution which has not been followed in a long time in the association. Seibel stated in the Bylaws under 3, section B – Duties and Responsibilities of the president. That the office of president becomes vacant, who fills the office. Seibel stated this has not been followed in a while as well. We have always in the absence of the president, filled the office with the secretary and sent the secretary in the place of the president and that is not following the bylaws of the organization. **No action needed.**

DeLano stated since we haven't used Section G in the constitution, we either have to remove the section or implement it. Anderson stated we should say state secretary in the wording, but then it needs to be followed through. Seibel asked for recommendations. DeLano stated we should eliminate the under duties of state officers and change it to secretary since it has already been done that way and to allow more than one student from a chapter to serve on a team. Holland stated we should leave it as it is. Holland said it was pretty one-sided in a floor vote and should be left as is. Scyphers stated the Appalachian area stated they could have more than one serve and have the second person fill the role as a vice president if that area had no qualified candidate. Fisher stated the Northern area stated it agreed with the Appalachian area. Jennings stated Central area said during state conference last year to leave it as it is. Ron Daughtry said to fill the position and to be able to provide student leadership to the area. Anderson stated during the nominating process is where it should be really evaluated as to which area(s) lacks a worthy candidate. All those candidates are eligible to become a state officer, but if the nominating committee did not nominate them and because of that they could not add an individual because of the constitution, then the word worthy needs to be defined as eligible to be an officer instead of passing 50% of the state officer candidates. **No action taken.**

Financial Statement

Seibel distributed the profit/loss statement. Seibel stated as you can see from July 1 through April 11, we have taken in \$, [REDACTED]. Expenses shown are \$67,091 – because of the tax year; it makes it hard to understand, so I did a January through December to make it easier to understand. Our operation is bringing in around \$600,000 a year and Mr. Rinker comes in and manages the account and unfortunately that only works for the various accounts. Seibel stated when we went to GuideStar, if somebody complains they could go on the website and review the documentation, but that is not the case anymore. Seibel stated if you go just by the calendar year, we came out \$13,000 to the good. DeLano asked if we were making enough to really seem like a true profit instead of more losses. Seibel stated he is worried about membership and the new AgCN has cost the Virginia FFA Association approximately 2,000 members. It will put the association in a bind looking at \$5.00 per person. Seibel stated if we are down 2,000 members, then if we have kids that aren't joining and have planned for 12,000 and showing 10,000 that will cripple the convention costs and planning. Seibel stated they will

still generate an invoice and send it to you like before it is just having problems entering students in the Ag CN system. **No action needed.**

FFA Sausage

Seibel stated we have almost as a state Association moved two tons of sausage despite at some point we relabeled the sausage because someone complained the label didn't have weight listed. Seibel stated he went back to the label design and added weight. Seibel stated he needed a recommendation in moving on with sausage as a fundraiser. Brian Fisher stated it was a profitable fundraiser for their chapter and he would like for it to be continued. Seibel stated Dave Garrard, head of the animal science department, is cutting back on the amount of sausage that is being produced as unfortunately, 4H has sold under 200 pounds total and without consistent high numbers, Garrard does not want to go under making sausage that will not be sold.

Edward McCann moved we continue to sell sausage as an Association fundraiser. Jessica Jones seconded. **Motion passed.**

State Convention

Seibel stated he put in for dates for next year and hasn't gotten anything back from Virginia Tech yet. Seibel stated Virginia Tech is trying to bring in outside groups to utilize the campus and 4-H is normally the week after Virginia FFA State Convention and the Provost has bumped 4-H and the Provost has the right to do that. Seibel has already been called about 2016 to bump VA FFA during the week of 4-H state convention. Rudd stated other states have their convention in the late winter or early spring. Seibel stated in order to avoid SOL test dates then we would have to host state convention in February. Rudd stated he thought Andy was thinking May to be able to get back on campus and to have it in February would be a bit cumbersome based on the Blacksburg and Virginia overall weather conditions. **No action needed.**

Seibel stated we as an Association have been paying Doug a little over \$3,000 to pay Doug to run our scorecards. The new judging system we have purchased requires that we pay \$1.00 per every scantron and somehow we needed form B and we had more form A. Seibel stated when we called National FFA and we needed several packets of scantrons shipped overnight and we needed the scantrons to score the contest, and was told no that we couldn't have them because National FFA was in the middle of inventory, it infuriated Seibel as National FFA stated these are the scantrons we have to use and how can you tell a state Association no when you know they are relying on you to provide the scantrons regardless if you are in the middle of inventory or not. Seibel stated that we would need to go to a uniform judging card as 4-H intended to go to this same program. Part of the problem we had at the Meats' Judging contest last month was we were running 4 different contests and they did not use the same items so the official was different for each one of them. The gentleman that appraised the program was available at 1:00AM when Seibel contacted him and found that there was an error on the page. The data that you tell the computer to read, it will read, but if you code the scantrons wrong, then the computer will not know what to do. Last year at Blast Off we spent three days sending out results. If you want to know results, then you are going to have to use this program. We just don't have the time or resources to send out every result, to every teacher, for every child, for every contest. **No action needed.**

Seibel asked that if we by area would select three individuals from the Ag teachers list of responsibilities for convention, to give the names to Alexander to serve on the tabulation committee during state convention. Seibel stated to make changes we have to have the people there to make it happen or it just won't. **No action needed.**

National/State Officer Selection

Seibel stated we didn't have a national finalist this past year, but got really close. However, looking at the national officer selection process lends us to look closer at the state officer selection process. We have had a concern raised at the last advisory council meeting due to state officers and state officer candidates being out late at night and getting locked out as well as those on the nominating committee. A proposal on changing the nominating process for state officers was presented by Morgan Slaven and requires the group's approval to change the process, despite it being at the pleasure of the nominating committee chairman. **No action needed.**

Seibel distributed the proposal from Slaven to change the nominating process to Sunday. Delano said the only concern is having housing for those students who come down with chapters and may not have housing. Alexander asked who is responsible for the students on Sunday. Seibel said they would stay with the state officers and Seibel and Anderson would be responsible for them. Seibel distributed Zach Wakeman's proposal about the change of national officer nominating process. Both proposals were reviewed and Alexander asked if the item could be tabled until more information was provided before any changes could be made by the group. **No action taken.**

Honorary Degrees

Seibel stated for Honorary American Degrees we have some individuals that we need to consider putting their name in to receive the honor, such as Alex White who has helped with tabulating and designing scoring tablets and is leaving Tech. Additionally, looking at honoring Garland King, Virginia agricultural education teacher who has taught for over 30 years and never received the American Degree.

Jessica Jones moved to nominate Alex White and Garland King for Honorary American FFA Degrees. Darryl Holland seconded. **Motion passed.**

Big E

Seibel stated there was a recommendation from the board to switch from the Best Western to the Holliday Inn. Seibel stated we try to mark up the rooms to pay for the bus drivers' room and some teachers try to avoid paying the mark up and pay the hotel directly. Some of them did this and then the Association had to pull from another pool of money to pay for the drivers' room and it became a real mess. In the future, we have to abide by the rules provided or seek to have teachers find their own way to the Big E and not have the state office arrange for group transportation. **No action taken.**

National Convention

Seibel stated the Embassy Suites - Downtown, even though we have a written contract with them said that even though we had 200 double rooms and 75 single rooms, it didn't matter. The manager said the contract does not mean anything and overbooked, gave away 38 rooms, we had kids moved to rooms that only had one bed and did not provide rollways. They gave Matt Lohr and Dave Winston's room

away and sent them to hotels that were not acceptable. If you want to continue to do the state trip, as we are moving to Louisville next year we need to discuss the course of action to take because arranging the trip and then having people back out the last minute is costing time, money, and resources that we don't have. Seibel stated when he contacted National FFA they stated there was nothing they could do about it, but after meeting with the manager, the only thing the hotel did was deduct 1 ½ nights stay despite all the rooms being paid for in full in advance. Recommendations from the board for what to do further as we have to stay at the Embassy Suites again this fall. **No action taken.**

The board recommended for National Convention in Louisville, attempt to reserve the Galt House. DeLano asked were we going back to the busing and Seibel stated that it would not be in the best interest of the group as there are multiple people who back out at the last minute and it costs too much manpower and money for that to be a continuous hit to the Association. **Recommendation given.**

National FFA Magazine

Seibel stated Virginia FFA is not allowed to place an index in the front page. National FFA has approved fonts that must be used and if not used, they will not print the inserts provided. Seibel stated the first issue is due April 5 and won't come out until after convention. Seibel stated it is disappointing to him because National FFA wants to have the magazine look to be uniform across the country, instead of being personalized by the states. **No action needed.**

Lancaster Farmer

Seibel stated as an Association, we have put a page on the state degrees only because we only had approximately 65 out of 240 fill it out. Seibel stated if students do not have the information for the state degree on the final page, then the board needs to determine to either enforce disqualifying the degrees or eliminating the Lancaster Farmer. **No action taken.**

CDE Updates

Seibel stated, on the second page, rule number one is that if the student enters the contest and has not paid their FFA fee, and then it is a \$35.00 fee. In order to alleviate things, rule number 3 must be adhered. Also, on the last page, the number of participants of every contest must be adhered. Some people have said for junior contests, we count the top three and for the senior contest all four scores count. Reviewing the list of changes for contest number of participants must be done so advisors are aware of what will count instead of trying to argue the fact afterward. **No action taken.**

Seibel stated when we have a joint contest, we have gone by the 4-H rules and they allow up to three teams per county or per chapter. Alexander asked can we have 4-H declare an official team at state convention and Seibel stated we could. Recommendation from the board was to have individuals bringing 4-H students to declare their student teams before the contest and see where the chips fall once the teams are declared. **Recommendation given.**

Nursery and Floriculture

Seibel stated last year Alan McDaniel charged Virginia FFA \$2,000 to run the contest and has said that if he does serve as the superintendent for the contest, he wants to cut the team event down to one day. Alexander read a concern from Appalachian area that the Virginia FFA recommends continuing with the

contest and hosting the contest at John S. Battle. The individual noted in the concern, that to be fair with all FFA members, they strongly suggest that the FFA Floriculture use the national list. Seibel stated the national list is already being used for the competition. **No action taken.**

Holland read a recommendation that there was a concern that the contest was going to be cut as this is the only contest that solely targets horticulture teachers. The elimination of the contest is disenchanting if the contest is not put on wholeheartedly. **No action taken.**

Parliamentary Procedure

Seibel stated that at a recent parliamentary procedure contest, a teacher approached him about the motion to withdraw should be a property of the assembly to show the realism of the motion. Teacher stated that should not be done as National FFA will allow you to stand up, make a motion, sit back down and stand back up again and withdraw the motion. **No action taken.**

2012-2013 FFA Events

Seibel stated more and more teachers are not able to attend state teachers' conference, so Seibel wants to hand out the 2012-2013 FFA events list at state convention. Seibel distributed the proposed 2012-2013 FFA events calendar. **No action needed.**

Area Concerns

Appalachian Area: See above in Nursery and Floriculture.

Central Area: DeLano asked for someone to explain the process for redistricting the federations within the areas. Since there seems to be some federations that only have one active chapter. Anderson stated there are some old records that may show certain districts being in certain areas, but told DeLano to send him the school and related information and they would research it and see what can be done. Anderson stated that the schools that are agreeable to redistricting and proceed.

Eastern Area: None

Northern Area: None

Southside Area: See above in Nursery and Floriculture.

Advisory Council Meeting Schedule:

Fall Meeting – Either Tuesday, September 25 or Wednesday, September 26, 2012.

Virginia FFA Foundation meeting will be held the morning April 16, 2013.

The Virginia Agricultural Education Conference and Strategic Planning Meeting will begin at 5:00PM April 16 and be the entire day of April 17, 2013.

Minutes of the meeting will be archived with previous minutes at www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html.

DeLano moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Byrd seconded. ***Motion passed.***

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Jessica M. Jones