

## **VA FFA Board of Directors/Advisory Board Council Meeting –**

11:00AM – Tuesday, August 25, 2015 – Staunton Church of the Brethren - Staunton, VA

**Members in Attendance:** Allison Sutphin, Brandon Monk, Brian Alexander, Brian Fisher, Carly Woolfolk, Charlie Carroll, Christy Kerr, Cindy Blaha, Dana Fisher, Derek Ritenour, Ed McCann, Elizabeth Duncan, Jennie Simmons, Jessica Jones, Jim Pugh, Katie Reames, Kristen Berry, Lane Woodward, Larry Case, Martha Moore, Matt Spindler, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtrey, Russell Jennings and Sherry Heishmann.

Brian Alexander called the meeting to order. Alexander distributed the minutes of the spring 2015 and summer 2015 advisory council meetings.

Ron Daughtry moved to accept the minutes of the spring 2015 and summer 2015 meetings. Sherry Heishmann seconded. ***Motion passed.***

### **Virginia DOE Update**

Carly Woolfolk stated the curriculum updates have been going well. Woolfolk stated there would be ongoing updates and there is a need to have review committees filled. Woolfolk stated she has sent out 100 certificates from conference for those who attended conference and completed the survey. Woolfolk stated she shared the information with VAAE this morning and asked them to send out one final plea over the listserv to complete conference survey. Woolfolk stated that anyone that presented during the conference also got an additional certificate and broken down data and feedback to make them aware of what their workshop participants thought and learned from their experience. Woolfolk stated she needed business contacts for business panels because the business panels come before teacher panels. Woolfolk stated there is no one in the state that teaches Urban Forestry, so she may be bringing in industry and teachers to redo the curriculum all together. Larry Case asked if there was a replacement for Anne Rowe yet. Woolfolk stated VDOE isn't talking about replacing the position, but what they are talking about it they will be able to post a position within the next month. Woolfolk stated it normally takes three months to get a position filled because of the pace that VDOE operates.

### **Virginia FFA Update**

Lane Woodward stated that state convention will be June 20-23, 2016 as whatever international event that Virginia Tech had was released and facilities were now available for Virginia FFA. Woodward stated that she had a calendar of events and distributed them to the council. She stated that they took the calendar from last year posted on the VA FFA website and did the calendar for this year. Woodward stated the concern for the calendar would be based on the testing dates and trying not to interfere with them. Woolfolk stated she would look it and up let the group now. Woolfolk stated the state testing window is October 19-December 11, 2015 but those dates are for term graduates for seniors graduating. The majority of students will be testing April 11-June 24. Woolfolk stated that regardless of the testing window, there will be testing going on at the end of the school and it's not when the contests are, it's the intensity in the number of contests in May that make a difference.

Allison Sutphin stated that its Russell County for Appalachian Area Rally instead of Rural Retreat which is listed on the paper. Katie Reames stated that State Soils is supposed to be November 12. Russell Jennings stated that Central Area ag teachers meeting will be September 15 and will be in conjunction with their COLT. Area teachers meeting is November 9 for Central Area. Central Area Rally is April 6. November 5 Northern Area will be hosting a soils invitational, which is made to be a learning event and

will be federation elimination contests. Woodward stated FFA Camp is July 11-15, 2016 and VAAE Ag Teachers Summer Conference is July 18-21, 2016 in Culpeper. Early teachers conference is December 3-4 and Winter In-Service is December 4 and 5 at Riverheads High School.

Woodward stated when looking at events, teachers have requested that state contests should rotate. State Forestry judging is scheduled to be held on May 13, 2016, but Southside Area volunteered to host the contest and will find someone and will report to Woodward what occurs. Discussion was had by the group about hosting parliamentary procedure in other areas. Brian Fisher stated that parliamentary procedure doesn't rotate by area, but would rather it move to another locality. Woodward stated she would start at James River and move north with the approval from the group. Woodward stated she had several duplicates on the calendar, so please make adjustments accordingly.

### **VA FFA Financial**

Woodward distributed the tentative budget. Woodward stated she came up with the five main sources of income which was based on what was brought in during the 2013-14 fiscal year or the 2014-15 fiscal year. Woodward stated all the projected expenses are based on what has been done in previous years. Woodward stated that monthly the accounts are reviewed. Using the basis of \$5.00 dues is trying to make sure the financials shift into the right category on the left. \$1.50 goes to magazine and advertising and paying the company, \$1.00 for state officer travel, \$1.00 for career development events, \$0.50 FFA camp, \$0.50 supplies, and \$0.50 miscellaneous. Woodward stated that what's on the budget is what is going on and coming out on a regular basis annually. Reames asked what is the General Wages of \$15,000 for on the budget. Woodward stated that's state staff wages. Reames asked if they were paid by work study. Woodward stated not all wages are work study. Blaha asked about the Banking line item of \$50.00. Woolfolk asked if it dealt with reconciliation. Dana Fisher stated that the bank fee probably went down because of the number of deposits decreasing from the previous year. Reames stated that FFA Camp line item budget decreased. Woodward stated that VA FFA will be covering the past year's and current year's. Larry Case asked about the miscellaneous at the bottom of the budget decreased. Woodward stated that it was unaccounted money from the previous year. Woolfolk asked what's in the FFA account. Woodward stated, \$65,235.25. Woolfolk asked what we started the beginning of the year in the budget. Alexander stated approximately \$72,000. Woolfolk stated there needs to be a cushion of funds in the account. Woodward stated that it would be the projected amount not the net income. July 1, 2015 beginning balance is \$65,235.25 with a net of approximately -\$10,000 from the previous year. Woolfolk stated at the last spring meeting to keep the price from previous year and housing was voted to remain the same, but went up \$20,000 that wasn't accounted for. Blaha asked how in 2013-14 we spent \$10,600 and the amount went down. Jennie Simmons stated that Dr. Alan McDaniel had received \$2000 per contest at two contests and that could attribute as to why the line item was considerably high and then showed a decrease because McDaniel wasn't leading the contests any longer.

Dana Fisher stated from a VA FFA Foundation, there is money that Sarah Hanks and Woodward will square up on Friday, August 28 to assure that money is coming into Virginia FFA that should be accounted for in the budget. Alexander stated that Woodward needed to get to the bottom of what the real number is in the account. Alexander state that there were things that may not have been taken care of from state convention to national convention and everything in the middle due to the transition. Woolfolk stated there were things like lodging, travel, etcetera that aren't listed. Alexander stated that was more expenses and not more income which is what we need to find. Alexander stated it is a draft copy and needs to be turned back in before the group leaves for the day.

## Virginia Tech Update

Matt Spindler distributed the “*ALCE Update at the 2015 VAAE Summer Conference*” and “*Virginia Tech College of Agriculture & Life Sciences Department of Agricultural, Leadership, & Community Education Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Sciences Graduation Checksheet.*”

Spindler stated that one thing that changed is that Kaitlin Sonifrank is going to do undergraduate work with him and assist with leadership development and career development training. Spindler stated the goal is to have a more wide ranging experience that allows students to get more than leadership training but be better-rounded in their training. Spindler stated there will be seven undergraduates that are going to go to NAAE in December. Spindler stated they have received money from the department to pay for the van and are getting more funds in to aid with travel and lodging.

Another undergraduate will be working with Spindler to be a part of the student run farm that will give them opportunities to engage in hands-on learning, management experience, and leadership development as a potential opportunity for students in the future. Blaha stated on the *ACLE Update*, how many listed on the form are actually interested in teaching agricultural education. Spindler stated that there are 16 enrolled in the Agricultural Sciences class who are seniors and at least 14 said they want to teach agricultural education.

Spindler stated that under the undergraduate programming of the *ALCE Update*, item 1d, its reported low and there are at least 100 students looking at the Ag Ed leadership minor. Case asked Spindler how many of the students interested will pursue their masters. Spindler stated that it's hard to determine as if they get a job, then they leave the masters program. Spindler stated at least four or five from the class yesterday said they wanted to pursue their masters. Case asked if those classes included any methodology. Spindler stated yes and in the courses, they talk about SAE, internship, co-op, and in the spring, there is a course about methods and delivery. Spindler stated that they have to be careful of how the courses are named. Spindler stated that the School of Education would block the College of Ag trying to have an education program. Spindler stated there are other ideas about where we are moving the teacher preparation program at Virginia Tech but the numbers look encouraging. Case asked if there was a teaching shortage in the state. Woolfolk stated there are vacancies. Case stated his issue is that things are not working as they should at Virginia Tech. Case stated it's an issue that needs to be looked at to resolve the problem. Spindler stated that as a faculty member, untenured, at the University, he can't go against the School of Education. Spindler stated the decision at VT at the university-wide decision that there would be no undergraduate teacher preparation programs on campus. Spindler stated he has reached out to community colleges and getting the information to the students. However, the issue is there is no way to get the students in the bachelor's/master's program. Spindler stated there could be a 4 plus 1 option, where the curriculum could be tailored with their community college credits where the coursework could be accepted, for example, business only takes certain programs, so if the credits could be accepted, then it would assist CTE students in getting in the bachelor/master's program and out to fill vacancies. Spindler stated if teachers have contacts at the community college, please send them to him. Blaha asked where was Spindler on the Teach Ag CDE. Spindler stated he had looked at others states, such as CA, TX, FL, IN and has looked at what they did in their CDEs and how it could be incorporated in VA. At state convention, there will be some Teach Ag sessions. Spindler stated he will have students going to national convention and some students will go to NAAE, and there will a Teach Ag Ed session and get the students from VA to go work that so when state convention comes up they can teach the Teach Ag Ed sessions. Case stated that VA has a STAR program that comes from NAAE that will hopefully get some things worked around in the state to work on the vacancies.

## **STAR Program**

B. Fisher stated that the STAR program is new to Virginia but not as a whole; it's a program State Teach Ag Results and its results-based and we're trying to recruit and retain agricultural education teachers in Virginia. The money comes from donors and some of the donors are CSX, DuPont, Pioneer etc. When Virginia wants to have a program, they set a budget and let Ellen know what's needed and she hunts down the funds. With the STAR funds received this year of \$2000, Spindler will be taking on student teachers and undergraduate students to work with the STAR program. B. Fisher stated that Dana Fisher, Katie Reames, Carly Woolfolk, Elizabeth Duncan, Matt Spindler, Donna Westfall-Rudd, Christy Kerr, Dana Fisher, Clint Jones, and a representative from each university will serve on the VAAE STAR Program team. The first year strategies are strategies that have been identified in other states that have worked. Strategies are for 2016 to implement are:

1. Community college promotion (3-4 people on a team) some students have a hard time finding their path from community college to get Spindler and an agriculture teacher.
2. Teach Ag workshop at state convention in 2016.
3. State program tours (One day program tours starting with the Appalachian. Allison's going to start with schools and move through 3-4 schools and highlight a different area each year.).
4. Scholarships to attend NAAE and VAAE Ag teachers' conference.
5. Teach Ag page off the VAAE website.
6. New teacher welcome kit from Christy Kerr with Carly Woolfolk.
7. New teachers' conference during winter in-service to get everyone together to do more of an intensive training. Looking at proficiency, national chapter, horticulture, vet science, electricity, Environthon and lab maintenance.

Teachers with 1-3 years will stay from December 4 through December 5 and then depart. Dana Fisher stated that FFA Foundation would assist where it could in funding but are working through matters at this time to collect more sponsorship for activities. B. Fisher stated the STAR program team wants to have internships where the student teacher would get paid when they come in and work with you. It's a minor amount of what they get paid. Minnesota started an immersion camp. There will be a flyer that is designed and go to area representatives. The goal is to meet back every year and periodically keep states in check.

## **Virginia State Update**

Dr. Jewel Hairston left and is on a 2-year sabbatical and is the state director. They are announcing this week taking North Carolina A & T and comes highly recommended. The new president selection committee will start in November and start the interview process there. Virginia State University is still eager to work with teachers and get the agricultural mechanics laboratory up and running.

## **Virginia Farm Bureau Update**

Martha Moore stated she appreciated being included in the meeting. Moore stated that building relationships with the local county farm bureaus and working with new teachers to connect. Moore has been encouraging county farm bureau leaders to work with 4-H and getting students earlier on and getting them interested in teaching. County farm bureau leaders need to build the relationships and being able to explain to people what you do and articulate that in a clear and concise way. As farmers are aging, partnerships can build. Woolfolk and Moore met last week and look to continue to have elected officials or government officials to have things stay in front of them so it doesn't have to start from scratch again. D. Fisher stated that with Jennings there has been much success in getting his programs up and running again through making the connections with farm bureau and expressing what was needed and reporting back what is done. Blaha stated that Moore and D. Fisher could sponsor a

legislator appreciation day where prominent agriculture leaders and officials in the county where there's a casual meet and greet on a farm where students ask questions and get exposed, more so, letting the FFA members see how the political process works and to have the general public see what FFA members do and are about. D. Fisher stated there are awards out there that are similar to FFA.

Moore stated that somehow it takes county farm bureau leaders by recruiting members early and working the system to your advantage. Moore reported there is a battle between republicans and democrats in the senate. RFD-TV is hosting forums for the republicans projected through the fall. It's going to be a very heated election scene and I Farm, I Vote – Tennessee Farm Bureau did it Take a sign and take a picture on your farm and sent it to Kelly Pruitt for it to be posted on the Virginia Farm Bureau Facebook page. Moore stated Kelly Pruitt posted Secretary Haymore and teachers from the conference and a reminder to people that farmers do have a voice politically and to get them engaged in social media. At this point, Farm Bureau is testing the waters and getting the members more comfortable and whatever the case may be how to use the technology as an advocate for agriculture. Moore stated when you come to the state fair; some have never touched a farmer and the I Farm, I Vote campaign in Virginia will go far in changing the public's perception about agriculture and what "it" looks like. It's evolving the persona they have in their head and if you're there and want to stop by to have selfie with a farmer, you are invited. D. Fisher is working on trying to get students involved and get them involved in going to state fair. Moore stated that if you're a farm bureau member, you get a \$5.00 discount off your tickets. Moore stated remember Member Deals and use them as they are a real advantage for Farm Bureau members.

Case stated that the number of people on Facebook compares second or third to the population of China. Case stated that the stock market is going down and he bought shares on Facebook as it will be around a while.

### **Virginia Agribusiness Council**

Katie Frazier stated that Moore hit the highlights. Frazier stated she would send a document to Reames to share with the group. Frazier stated they are trying to help Woolfolk fill the business panel and stated that if the teachers know of anybody who can fill the business/industry slots, please let her know.

On November 12 and Agribusiness is January 14, the annual meeting will be in Richmond and if you are able to attend, please attend as VAAE will be there. Frazier stated that she hopes that as many agricultural education teachers can be in attendance as possible. Frazier also want to thank everyone for nominating her for the VAAE Outstanding Cooperation award and is thrilled and through cooperative efforts, it is quite an honor and officially thank you.

### ***Lunch Session (Dismissal)***

Those who were VAAE and didn't sit on advisory council/governing board were dismissed, but invited to remain should they want.

Those in attendance for the afternoon session were: Allison Sutphin, Brian Alexander, Carly Woolfolk, Cindy Blaha, Dana Fisher, Derek Ritenour, Ed McCann, Jennie Simmons, Jessica Jones, Jim Pugh, Katie Reames, Lane Woodward, Larry Case, Martha Moore, Matt Spindler, Ron Byrd, Ron Daughtrey, Russell Jennings and Sherry Heishmann.

### **VA FFA Foundation Update**

Scott Lily is the new chair of Foundation but they have agreed that D. Fisher will stay on as the governing board representative. Staff wise Foundation has Mary Hunter as the executive assistant and has a background in agriculture. Sarah Hanks was a volunteer all last year and didn't start working with the Foundation for pay from late May until currently. Foundation decided last week in the board meeting that Sarah will work through the school year. She's still doing an assistantship through Virginia Tech and has cut back on her other obligations. Foundation is still working on fixing problems with the website and hopefully vaffafoundation.org. The goal is to get that updated within the next week. The fiscal year runs until the end of June and hopefully the information will be back from the big issues were to have solid data, this is exactly where funds are, and to have a CPA in order to take care of the defined information. There are new board members coming onto Foundation in September and again in December. There will be an annual campaign that will bring in major dollars to Foundation. The Foundation campaign will be asking for 90 for 90, \$90,000 for the 90<sup>th</sup> convention. Convention awards and the survey went out. 40 people accessed it and 37 completed. Please make sure that if people said Blaha asked if there is a timeline when people can expect their awards. D. Fisher stated a clearer answer should be underway on Friday, August 28 when she and Woodward meet.

Sarah Hanks has been working with the FFA office to get a central list and get information out. For ISSLO, if folks were giving to an individual student, the Foundation couldn't give a tax credit to the individual donating. If someone wants to give to a pool of funds, then the money will go to VA FFA. There will be a requirement for students to go through a study and test process and have all participate. There was an issue last year where there were officers that had difficulty paying back but that should be resolved through the system this year. The total \$998 and a check for half will be cut and turned back into the VAAE with \$0.25 per pound. Money goes directly to the meats lab and then goes to Foundation and then Foundation cuts a check back to VAAE. The price will stay the same at \$2.50 per pound for this year. D. Fisher stated Foundation will still be donating this fall for fruit sales. According to staffing costs, they match up to fruit rebate program, southern states for the emblem program. Blaha stated they were told yesterday by their activities director that the General Assembly passed a regulation that there will be 30 "non-healthy" fundraisers per school per year. Sausage, Boston butts and BBQ, beef jerky sticks, bake sells, and etcetera are now all unhealthy foods. Alumni would do the sales and then make a donation back to the FFA chapter. \$0.50 of the dues money does go to FFA Camp and those that participate Jaclyn Ryan requests the funds from VA FFA so they can be distributed out to the students in their scholarships. Scholarships will be paid directly to the students at the school.

### **Big E**

Woodward stated she collected the final registration yesterday for Big E and everything looks like it's going as planned.

### **State Fair**

Woodward stated there is a request from a Jeff Wilt as contest chair to find Small Engines and a request for eight. Alexander asked if Woodward knew why he needed eight engines instead of five or six. Woodward stated she thinks it's because based on what she received from Wilt that he just wanted to have enough parts to do the contest. Alexander stated that Briggs & Stratton has been in realignment for how they distribute their free engines to people who have certification, teach the course, and need them. Alexander stated he had heard that if a teacher who could teach with confidence and didn't have the certification; Briggs & Stratton would allow those teachers to have them. Jennings stated he had

contacted the local Honda dealership and stated that he had reached out and then gentlemen said he had no idea of the free engine program.

Reames stated that for the contest superintendent, there is nobody listed on the forms and most of the contest says TBA and moving forward, who is the contest coordinator for state fair and what materials do they need. Woodward stated that Glenn (*State Fair coordinator*) needed them before state convention and she didn't know who they were at that point. Reames asked if she knew who those coordinators were and Woodward stated she didn't bring any of the materials with her. Woodward asked if Woolfolk needed judges. The names listed as superintendents/judges are:

- Tom Hardin and Ron Byrd – Crops Judging
- Ron Byrd – Tractor Troubleshooting
- Dennis Gaston – Jr. Foresters'
- Jeff Wilt may or may not serve as the chair for Small Engines.
- Jimmy and Melissa – Horticulture Demonstration
- Tom Snooky and Brian Alexander – Forestry Field Day
- Hannah Scherer – Agriscience Demonstration

Blaha asked when could the information be up on the website. Woodward stated she could have it updated by this Friday, August 28. Blaha stated that teachers need to know what the registration will be so they can get their students registered. Woodward stated lodging for state officers will be provided during state fair. Moore asked if there is a schematic book on what needs to happen from event to event. Woolfolk and Woodward stated there was no schematic book.

Alexander stated that it seemed that there have been many changes and despite having multiple people for a few years now try to work on a solid "rule book," one still doesn't exist and that as a group we're doing a lot of decisions based on memory and nothing is truly written down.

### **National FFA Convention**

Woodward stated there were about 25 rooms still available for national convention, but all the teams that are eligible to compete and need to attend have registered to attend. Woodward stated she had spoke to Ellen Williams (National FFA Housing) that the issues will be resolved with Virginia housing and to contact her directly should there be a problem. Woodward stated VA FFA does have a national officer candidate (Whitney Bowman) already has her flight book and lodging.

Woodward stated we will have a committee member (Daniel Black) for national convention and those on nominating are required to drive in on October 22 and will not be allowed to leave until November 2. Woodward stated since that person is giving such a chunk of time, what can VA FFA do to help this person with travel. Woodward stated that Daniel needs to make contact with their professors as it will be a huge time commitment as well as missing over a week of class from school. Woodward stated Daniel has asked if VA FFA could do anything to assist with travel costs. Alexander stated that would be a governing board/Foundation decision.

Sherry Heishmann stated that out of the rooms remaining, we normally save two rooms for honorary. Woodward state she would. Reames asked if busses were reserved. Woodward stated yes and there are 7, including the early Shenandoah bus. Woodward stated for convention registration, there is a hang-up between her and accounting and teachers should contact her if they were at \$65 instead of \$50.

Woodward stated Belle of Louisville is reserved. There is one school that is appealing that they had completed the old form and it was overlooked which affects seven students.

Katie Reames moved the travel concern for Daniel Black to governing board. Cindy Blaha seconded. ***Motion passed.***

### **Increase Membership**

Ron Daughtry reported that he has a new teacher in the area that has never been in Ag Ed without an FFA background and looking at the eastern area list and seeing the new teachers and if they were to walk in the room, you wouldn't be able to tell who they are or what they need. Woodward stated she is working on tutorials on CamTasia. One of the tutorials is going to be on how to complete the membership form.

### **Applications & Review**

Reames stated there needs to be a review team that would look over the applications and in the next year that are due by June 10 so somebody could look over the application and get them done before Woodward has to have them submitted by July 1.

Reames nominated Ron Daughtry, Ed McCann and Sherry Heishmann to work on applications and get them repaired, specifically since Heishmann sat in tabulation and did nothing and could use her time wisely. Reames stated for national chapter judging Jenna Genson has to get judges from various places and then train them to work on just one section of a national chapter application and has said she will help VA FFA. Reames stated Genson comes in Tuesday morning of winter in-service and come in for review.

Woodward stated that we had options for GPS – Name Your Brand (Brandon Monk) and Emily Hill have separate proposal which will be sent to governing board members to decide on which vendor to select. Woodward stated that for National FFA, just curriculum costs \$2500 plus \$10 per workbook per child that would include facilitator training and national FFA does the entire event. Woodward stated that National FFA may not be an option as the deadline has passed but an option to research for next year.

Cindy Blaha moved for VA FFA to get the materials from Brandon Monk and Emily Hill and have governing board make a decision for GPS. ***Motion died for the lack of a second.***

Reames moved that Lane Woodward research all options for GPS and related entities including price and all materials that would be included and report those to the governing board for a meeting. Jessica Jones seconded. ***Motion passed.***

### **Area Concerns**

Central Area: None

Eastern Area: There are two prices listed for national convention, \$160 and \$162. Some of the rooms are triple occupancy (not clarified if it's Big E or National Convention).

Southside Area: Clarification on Job Interview for letters of reference and clarification with nothing on the rubric for it.



Appalachian Area: None

Northern Area: National convention pricing being listed as two different prices.

Dana Fisher moved that a contest which aligns with junior and senior competitors to compete together in the same contest with the same scores are to compete as senior competitors. Cindy Blaha seconded.  
***Motion passed.***

Reames moved to adjourn the advisory council meeting. Jennie Simmons seconded. ***Motion passed.***

Minutes of the meeting(s) will be archived with previous minutes at [www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html](http://www.vaffa.org/abouts/advisory/html).

Meeting adjourned at 5:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Jones