

**Board Members Present:**

Donald L. Moore, Chairman	Glen Price Hudson
Richard T. Hite, Jr.	Joanne J. Jones
Hugh T. Rogers	Darrell Jackson
Douglas S. Crowder	Cecil E. Shell
John Bledsoe	

**Guests/Staff:**

Jennifer Atkins, Board Secretary  
Dr. T. David Reed, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Virginia Tech SPAREC  
Hank Mozingo, Tobacco Associates, Inc.  
Robert Spiers, Tobacco Associates, Inc.  
Jay Jennings, Virginia Tobacco Growers Association  
Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau  
Bill Scruggs, VDACS

**I. Call to Order – 10:03AM**

**II. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman**

*Ms. Atkins opened up the floor for nominations for Board Chairman. Mr. Moore was nominated by Mr. Hite for the position of Chairman. Mr. Crowder seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous to elect Mr. Moore as Chairman.*

*The Chairman opened up the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Mr. Hite was nominated by Mr. Bledsoe for the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Shell seconded the nomination, and the vote was unanimous to elect Mr. Hite as Vice-Chairman.*

**III. Financial Statement – Review**

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the financial statements for both the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund and the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund. Both statements reflected activity from July 1, 2018 to January 31, 2019. The Secretary reviewed expenses, revenue, and outstanding obligations to be paid. The Secretary reported that the board had not been billed by Virginia Tech for board-funded research projects since June

2018. In addition, the board was provided with the complete financial statement for fiscal year 2017-2018 for review.

#### **IV. Statement of Excise Taxes Collected – Review**

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the 2018 flue-cured and dark-fired tobacco excise tax statements of excise tax receipts received into the two board funds. A copy of these statements was provided to each board member for review. The total amount of excise taxes collected as of January 31, 2019 was \$156,104.23 and \$1,106.49 in the Bright Flue-Cured Tobacco Promotion Fund and the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund, respectively.

#### **V. Reports**

##### **Tobacco Associates, Inc. – Hank Mozingo, President**

The Chairman recognized Mr. Hank Mozingo, inviting him to report on Tobacco Associates, Inc. Mr. Mozingo provided an overview of the 2018 Tobacco Associates Annual Meeting, activities of the past year, and plans for the upcoming year. Mr. Mozingo expressed appreciation to the board for its continued support of their programs and entertained questions from the board.

Robert Spiers, Tobacco Associates, Inc. Treasurer, added that, because of the decreased yields in Virginia and North Carolina, Tobacco Associates, Inc. has made cuts to their budget. He stated that any funding given by the board is greatly appreciated.

##### **Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center (SPAREC)**

###### **Dr. T. David Reed, Tobacco Specialist**

###### **Dr. Charles Johnson, Tobacco Pathologist**

The Chairman recognized Dr. T. David Reed, who gave a report on activities at the station. Dr. Reed reported on developments at SPAREC, highlighting the tobacco research in 2018-2019 and new program updates.

Dr. Reed gave progress reports and reviewed the status and results of tobacco production research and education projects the board funded for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Dr. Reed encouraged the board to make suggestions to SPAREC for any research project needs that are not currently being addressed. Dr. Reed also asked for board input on how to better communicate with growers (e.g. more social media, text messaging) and discussed updates regarding GAP Connections Certification.

Dr. Johnson presented the status and results of disease management research projects the board funded for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

After Dr. Johnson's presentation, Dr. Reed presented the 2019-2020 tobacco research and education proposals to the board. The proposals had been mailed to each board member prior to the meeting for their review. Dr. Reed and Dr. Johnson entertained questions and concerns from the board regarding their presentations and proposals.

**Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom – Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau**

The Chairman recognized Mr. Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau, for a report on Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). Mr. Banks provided a brief overview of AITC's activities and programs in 2018.

**Virginia Tobacco Growers Association – Jay Jennings, President**

The Chairman called on Mr. Jennings for an update on the 2018 activities of the Virginia Tobacco Growers Association (VTGA).

**Virginia Tobacco Board Secretary – Jennifer Atkins**

The Chairman called on Ms. Atkins for a quick update on the Virginia Tobacco Board educational exhibit at the 2018 State Fair of Virginia. Ms. Atkins requested funding from the board to attend the 2020 Tobacco Workers Conference in Louisville, KY and funds for the 2019 State Fair of Virginia, \$2000.00 and \$1500.00 respectively.

**VI. Minutes – Virginia Tobacco Board Meeting, March 6, 2018.**

*The minutes from the March 6, 2018 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Shell.*

**VII. Consideration of Projects for Funding by Board**

After review of the financial status of the board and discussion of the funding requests, the following motions were adopted:

- ☛ *Set aside ten percent of available funds in the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund (\$15,000.00) in reserve for future funding needs. The motion was made by Mr. Bledsoe and seconded by Mr. Crowder – unanimous approval.*
- ☛ *Allocate \$1,500.00 from the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund and \$500.00 from the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund for the Virginia Tobacco Board Secretary's attendance at and travel to the 2020 Tobacco Workers Conference in Louisville, KY. The motion was made by Mr. Hite and seconded by Mr. Crowder – unanimous approval.*
- ☛ *Allocate \$500.00 from the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund and \$1000.00 from the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund to Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agriculture and Extension Center for the 2020 Virginia Flue-Cured Tobacco Production Guide. The motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mrs. Jones – unanimous approval.*

- ☛ *Allocate \$750.00 from the Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom. The motion was made by Mr. Jackson and seconded by Mr. Shell – unanimous approval.*
- ☛ *Allocate \$450.00 from the Dark-Fired Promotion Fund for participation in the 2019 State Fair of Virginia. The motion was made by Mr. Bledsoe and seconded by Mr. Hite – unanimous approval.*
- ☛ *From the remaining Bright Flue-Cured Promotion Fund balance, allocate forty percent (\$55,000) to Tobacco Associates, Inc. for flue-cured tobacco promotion and marketing, and allocate sixty percent (\$82,500) to Virginia Tech Southern Piedmont Agricultural Research and Extension Center for research project proposals during the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The motion was made by Mr. Hite and seconded by Mr. Crowder – unanimous approval.*
- The total amount requested by SPAREC for research projects was \$93,300 for: Tobacco Disease Management (\$18,300), Evaluation of Management Strategies for De-Lugging Flue-Cured Tobacco (\$10,000), Harvest Management for Flue-Cured Tobacco (\$14,000), Agronomic Studies of Low-Nicotine Flue-Cured Tobacco (\$25,000), and Evaluation of Reduced Application Rates of MH (\$26,000). The board informed Dr. T. David Reed that they will not be funding Evaluation of Management Strategies for De-Lugging Flue-Cured Tobacco (\$10,000). The amount allocated to SPAREC is to be put toward the other remaining submitted projects.

#### **VIII. Other Business**

There was no other business to be discussed.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

The Chairman opened up the floor for any public comments. There were no public comments.

#### **X. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 12:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Jennifer Atkins, Secretary

