

Board Members Present:

Jason Hodges, Chairman	Michael Griffin, Vice Chairman
James Babb, III	David Long
Robert Rogers	Clayton Lowe
Jared Webb	

Board Members Absent:

Joey Doyle

Guests/Staff:

Scott Banks, Board Secretary
Melissa Ball, VDACS
Jennifer Atkins, VDACS
Jim Davis, Southern Cotton Growers
Mollie Cromley, National Cotton Council
Daniel Radford, The Cotton Board
Tony Banks, Virginia Farm Bureau + Virginia Cotton Growers Association
Danielle Bappert, Virginia Farm Bureau + Virginia Cotton Growers Association
Christy Murphy, Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom
Dr. Tim Bryant, TAREC
Dr. Hunter Frame, TAREC
Dr. David Langston, TAREC

I. Call to Order – 9:32 AM

II. Minutes – Virginia Cotton Board Meeting, February 26, 2025

The minutes from the February 26, 2025, meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Webb.

III. Financial Statement – Review

The Chairman requested that the Secretary review the financial statement for the Cotton Promotion Fund (Fund) for the fiscal year 2025-2026, which reflected activity from July

1, 2025, to March 2, 2026. The financial statement was provided to the Board prior to the meeting for review.

Mr. Rogers expressed his desire to not pursue reappointment to the Board upon expiration of his current term in September 2026. Mr. Webb wishes to seek reappointment this year.

IV. Reports

Tidewater Agricultural Research and Extension Center

- 🗣️ **Dr. Tim Bryant, Assistant Professor & Extension Specialist**
- 🗣️ **Dr. David Langston, Professor & Extension Plant Pathologist**
- 🗣️ **Dr. Hunter Frame, Associate Professor**

The Chairman recognized Dr. Tim Bryant, who reviewed the status and results of the cotton entomology research project that the Board funded in 2025. Dr. Bryant also presented his proposal for 2026. Dr. Bryant entertained questions from the Board regarding his presentation and proposal.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Langston, who presented a progress report regarding his 2025 research project and one proposal for 2026 cotton pathology research. Dr. Langston entertained questions from the Board regarding his proposal.

The Chairman recognized Dr. Frame, who presented a progress report and his proposal for 2026 cotton agronomy research. Dr. Frame entertained questions from the Board regarding his proposal.

Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom – Christy Murphy

The Chairman recognized Ms. Murphy for a report on Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC). Ms. Murphy provided an overview of AITC's activities and programs in 2025 and presented AITC's 2026 proposal. Ms. Murphy entertained questions from the Board.

Virginia Cotton Growers Association – Tony Banks

The Chairman recognized Mr. Tony Banks for a report on the Virginia Cotton Growers Association (VCGA). Mr. Tony Banks provided an overview of VCGA's activities and programs. And presented VCGA's 2026 proposal. Mr. Tony Banks entertained questions from the board

National Cotton Council – Mollie Cromley

Ms. Cromley updated the Board on National Cotton Council's 2025 activities.

Southern Cotton Growers – Jim Davis

Mr. Davis updated the Board on the Southern Cotton Growers 2025 activities and future plans

The Cotton Board + Cotton Inc. – Daniel Radford

Mr. Radford updated the Board on the national Cotton Board's activities as well as ongoing and future plans from Cotton Inc.

V. Consideration of Projects for Funding by the Board

After review of the financial status of the Board and discussion of the funding requests, the following items were funded:

- 🗨️ *The following funding requests were reviewed and voted on by the board. All votes for the following requests were passed unanimously.*
 - *Allocate \$4,000.00 for the program manager's travel expenses. Motion was made by Mr. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Long.*
 - *Allocate \$60,044.00 for research projects (indicated below) during the period July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. Motion was made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Lowe.*
 - *Thrips Insecticide Efficacy and Resistance Monitoring in Cotton (\$19,728.00), Dr. Bryant*
 - *Management of Cotton Foliar Diseases with Fungicides (\$14,768.00), Dr. Langston*
 - *Strategies to Improve Cotton Production in Virginia (\$25,548.00), Dr. Frame*
 - *Allocate \$7,000.00 to Virginia Agriculture in the Classroom for education projects. An additional \$4,000.00 is to be allocated for classroom materials. Motion was made by Mr. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Babb.*
 - *Allocate \$5,000.00 to the Virginia Cotton Growers Association for education events. Motion was made by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Long. There were six votes for, none opposed, and one abstention. (Chairman Hodges abstained as a member of the Virginia Cotton Growers Association Board of Directors)*
- 🗨️ *Allocate \$95,103.25 to National Cotton Council for education, advertising, publicity, sales promotion, and research for the purpose of increasing the demand for and*

consumption of cotton. The motion was made by Vice Chairman Griffin and seconded by Mr. Rogers; the vote was unanimously in favor.

- ☉ *Allocate \$17,291.50 to Southern Cotton Growers, Inc. for education, advertising, publicity, sales promotion, and research for the purpose of increasing the demand for and consumption of cotton. The motion was made by Mr. Rogers and seconded by Mr. Webb. There were six votes in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (Chairman Hodges abstained as a member of Southern Cotton Growers Board of Directors).*

VI. Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

VII. Public Comment

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

VIII. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairman. Chairman Hodges was nominated by Mr. Lowe for re-election to position of Chairman. Mr. Long seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor; therefore, Chairman Hodges was re-elected Chairman.

Chairman Hodges opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Griffin was nominated by Mr. Lowe for re-election to the position of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Long seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor; therefore, Vice-Chairman Griffin was re-elected Vice-chairman.

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Scott Banks, Secretary