

Augusta County Agriculture Industry Board Minutes

Thursday January 25, 2024 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Augusta County Extension Office

Members in Attendance: *Cole Heizer, Kevin Phillips, Sonny Balsley, Andrew Crummett, Doug Horn, John Benner*

Members Absent: *Jeremy Shiflett, Keith Phillips*

Sonny Balsley opened the meeting at 6:02 pm.

Old Business:

Augusta Ag Appreciation event. John stated that the Ag Appreciation committee should have a meeting on Friday. Tickets should be available in the near future. Tickets for Ag appreciation gala for Ag Industry Board members should be available at the door. The board will get 6 tickets with a sponsorship.

USDA Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. John stated that this program has been delayed to the fall of 2024 due to the workload for the drought. Sonny Balsley asked about the drought relief program. John stated the drought relief program will be in effect until January 30.

Board Membership:

The board discussed some possibilities for the board member for Pastures District.

Budget Action – The board reviewed the budget action from last meeting. \$4,000 for the Market Animal Show, \$750 for recordbook, \$500 for drone seeding demonstration breakfast, \$500 for Virginia Legislature steak fry, \$1000 for ag appreciation gala.

New Business:

Budget Fiscal Year 2025 – John shared the FY 2025 budget proposal. Sonny asked the board members to review what items they wanted to support for 2024-2025 and state other ideas that we may be able to support. Sonny reviewed areas of budget that typically receive support: Market Animal Show, Youth Development/Activity Fund (for successful 4-H/FFA teams to travel to national competitions), producer educational event, and legislative steak fry.

Andrew Crummett: It would be good to have the Ag Industry Board have some support of local agriculture and small-scale producers. John Benner: Yes, will add language to that effect.

Sonny Balsley: Would the Augusta County Fair be an event to support?

John Benner: I think the fair would be receptive.

After further discussion, the board finalized the budget. With no further discussion or business, the board adjourned the meeting at 6:45 pm.