

**Draft Minutes**  
**Virginia Sheep Industry Board**  
**August 25, 2018 - 9:45 AM**  
**McCormick Farm/Shenandoah Valley Agriculture Research &**  
**Extension Center - Raphine, VA**

**Presiding:** Rosalea Potter, VSIB Chairman

**Roll Call:**

Rosalea Potter welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:45 am. A sign up sheet was passed around.

**Members Present**

Rosalea Potter  
Mandy Fletcher  
Larry Weeks  
Clinton Bell  
Alvin Thomas  
Mac Swortzel  
Pete Martens III  
Dan Hadacek  
James Hilleary

**Members Absent**

Matthew Miller  
Lawson Roberts  
Sue Platts

**Staff Present**

Willie Morris, VDACS, Harrisonburg  
Mike Carpenter, VDACS, Richmond

**Others Presents**

Jessica Myers	John Sponaugle
Amy Myers	Seth Mackay-Smith
Lyndsey Keagly	Sarah Mackay-Smith
Laura Begoon	

This meeting was held in conjunction with the Virginia Sheep Producers Association Ram Test Sale at Steels Tavern Research Center.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the Jan. 12, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

**Financial Report**

Rosalea Potter reviewed the FY 17-18 report which showed an ending balance of \$47,737.36, up \$7,000 from last year. Income for the FY 17-18 was \$11,515.59 down \$504.91 from the FY 16-17. Total expenditures for the FY 17-18 were \$5,142.28.

## **Virginia FFA Foundation**

Jessica Myers, recipient of the 2018 Virginia FFA Sheep Prophecy Award given at State FFA Convention in June 2018 was present at the meeting. Jessica Myers, along with her family, raise a flock of Dorset sheep in Shenandoah County, VA. VSIB helps sponsor this Prophecy Award with \$550.

## **Web Site**

Laura Begoon, member of Virginia Sheep Producers Association (VSPA), maintains the VSPA web site. One page of the VSPA website includes VSIB information, displaying board member info and meeting minutes. Rosalea Potter encouraged board members to send information pertaining the VSIB to Laura Begoon to publish. The VSIB paid the VSPA \$500 to help maintain the website.

## **Review Budget**

The Budget Worksheet was discussed which showed FY2017-2018 actual expenditures, FY2018-2019 budget and spending requests.

An increase in meeting expenses to \$2,000 was agreed upon to help cover travel cost as well as the planning of a second meeting in the FY 18-19 held in conjunction with the Steels Tavern Ram Test Sale.

\$1,000 was budgeted for lamb board promotional items to allow for the purchase of more items promoting lamb. Matthew Sponaule orders items that are put on display, handed out at the Sheep Symposium as well as given out as prizes for events, and as advertisement at promotional events.

The \$500 for the Sheep Website is budgeted. The VSIB discussed the importance of the VSPA having a current web site. Currently the VSPA does have a website that contains a page for the VSIB.

\$1,000 was budgeted for the VA State Fair Lamb Carcass Contest to help pay premiums paid to participants based on carcass merit. Board members expressed appreciation for the information that the contest provided to the showers and producers alike as well as the value of 19 years of data trends.

\$7,500 was budgeted for USDA Wildlife Services in FY18-19. The board retained the FY17-18 year increase to help insure that their services continue.

The board discussed both line items: 'Lamb Marketing' & 'Festival Promotions' in hopes of clarifying their purposes. The board designates up to \$1,000 for each line item, to be used throughout the year (FY 18-19). 'Lamb Marketing' is to make funds available for lamb marketing promotional tools and workshops if needed. 'Festival Promotions' is to be used as sponsorship for upcoming festivals around the state that plan to promote lamb and lamb products. To request funds, a proper request form needs to be submitted. After submission, the VSIB program manager, along with the current president or vice president will review the items, deciding on funding amounts. A maximum of \$250 will be granted to any one group seeking funds from these line items. The Bedford County fair was awarded a \$250 amount under the lamb marketing/promotion line item for the FY 17-18 to help promote a 'lamb day' at their county fair.

The board agreed to grant the Virginia FFA Foundation \$550 to help recognize the Virginia Sheep Proficiency Awards. Rosalea Potter explained that the Virginia FFA offers two sheep proficiency awards each year that include Entrepreneurship where the recipient has ownership in the enterprise and a placement award that recognizes individuals that work within or for someone in the industry that incorporates best management practices.

The board decided to increase the budget amount for the Sheep Symposium to \$1,000 for the FY 18-19. Traditionally, the board has budgeted \$500 (\$750 in FY17-18) and the money has been used to purchase the lamb served during the Symposium. Board members expressed that the extra funds available could be used to help cover other expenses of the symposium such as advertisement or program speakers.

The 2018 Make It With Wool (MIWW) contest will once again be held in September at the Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival. The MIWW was allocated \$500 in FY 17-18 to use as they saw fit in putting on the contest. The board decided to allocate \$1,000 for the FY 18-19 to the MIWW contest to specifically help assist in the cost of sending the youth winner to the National ASI Convention in January 2019.

This past year (November 2017), the Virginia State 4-H Livestock Judging team competed in the national contest in Louisville, KY. The board agreed to provide \$500 annually for the Virginia State 4-H livestock judging team's expenses, as well as an additional \$500 for international travel when the team wins the national contest. The state FFA judging teams were included in the discussion, deciding the VSIB should also provide \$500 for international travel, if they were to win the national FFA livestock judging contest. The Virginia 4-H Livestock Judging team is expected to travel to Louisville, KY for the national contest again in November 2018.

VSIB decided to budget money towards a line item, titled 'Carcass Evaluation Support'. At the January 2018 meeting, Corey Childs, a northern Virginia Extension agent, explained that many livestock shows in the state have historically held carcass contest to accompany their youth livestock shows. Unfortunately, an increase in cost have caused many to decrease. The Augusta MAS contest was brought up as a successful contest the past two years. After much discussion, the VSIB allocated \$500 in FY 17-18 and \$1,500 in FY 18-19. Formal written request for this money must be made to the board by the January 2019 meeting explaining the details of the contest. The board will then determine how to and where to grant funds under this line item. For contest occurring before January 2019, a formal written request to Rosalea Potter, VSIB President, or Matthew Sponaugle, VSIB Program Manager must be made and Rosalea Potter and Matthew Miller will review and decide on funding. Request will be reviewed on a first come first serve basis.

### **Action on Spending Requests**

A motion was made by Dan Hadacek, seconded by Mac Swortzel, to approve the FY2018-2019 Budget with the following project spending requests.

FY 2018-2019

Meeting Expense	\$2,000.00
Agency Service Charge	\$ 175.00
Lamb Board Promotional Items	\$ 1,000.00
Sheep Website	\$ 500.00
State Fair Lamb Carcass Contest	\$1,000.00

USDA Wildlife Services	\$7,500.00
Festival Promotion	\$1,000.00
Lamb Marketing/Promotion	\$1,000.00
Virginia FFA Foundation	\$ 550.00
Shepherd's Symposium	\$ 1,000.00
Make It With Wool Contest (MIWW)	\$ 1,000.00
VA 4-H Judging team (annual)	\$ 500.00
VA 4-H Judging team (international travel)	\$ 00.00
VA FFA Judging team (international travel)	\$ 00.00
Carcass Educational Support	\$1,500.00

The motion passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

**Public Comment**

**Future Meeting Date**

The next meeting was set for January 11 in Blacksburg, VA in conjunction with the Virginia/North Carolina Shepherds Symposium.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.  
Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Sponaugle, Secretary & Willie Morris, VDACS Livestock Marketing