

Council for Burley Tobacco Minutes
October 11, 2016

Board Members Present: David Chappell, Greg Harris, Hampton Henton, Bob James, Donald Mitchell, Al Pedigo, Scott Travis, Eddie Warren, and Shane Wiseman.

President Greg Harris called the meeting to order.

Bob James welcomed the board and visitors to his farm.

Scott Travis gave the invocation.

Harris presented the minutes from the July 12, 2016 board meeting. Motion was made by Shane Wiseman and seconded by Scott Travis to approve minutes. Motion passed without dissent.

Treasurer Donald Mitchell gave the Council's Financial Update. Motion was made by Mitchell and seconded by Shane Wiseman to accept the financial update as presented. Financial Update is on file. Motion passed without dissent.

The board discussed the drop in the check-off funds from the previous season. Motion was made by Eddie Warren and seconded by Al Pedigo to have Hampton Henton attend the next Kentucky Board of Agriculture meeting and update the KBA on the issues with collecting check-off funds and ask them to partner with the Council to follow-up. Motion passed without dissent.

Harris gave an update on crop insurance issues and the board discussed ongoing issues with the crop insurance program. The board recommended that an upcoming e-news article focus on crop insurance.

Harris updated the board on the RMA proposed dual deadline for the final harvest date of tobacco. Motion was made by Henton and seconded by David Chappell that the Council opposes a dual date system and recommends an October 10 deadline harvest date for all burley tobacco. Motion passed without dissent.

Harris updated the board on the FDA Tour that took place on September 23 at the Harris and Mitchell farms. Harris thanked all involved for helping with the tour and coming out to meet the FDA representatives. It was noted that the Burley Coop hosted a tour group in central Kentucky in August and the flue-cured tobacco chose not to host an FDA tour and went to DC to visit the FDA instead.

Harris asked Al Pedigo to give an update on GAP Connections. Pedigo explained that pilot certification is underway with GAP, with 175 farms in the pilot. He explained that over 1000 assessments have been completed this season in both burley and flue. He also noted that up to 100 have said no to a GAP assessment and those names have been reported back to the companies.

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Motion was made by Henton and seconded by Mitchell to pass a resolution that states, "We recommend that GAP Compliance must contribute to a tobacco growers improved financial sustainability." Motion passed without dissent.

Motion was made by Henton and seconded by Scott Travis that the GAP Compliance resolution be distributed to all board members before the end of the week so that it can be distributed to all major tobacco organizations including KYFB, TFB, NCTG, and more. Motion passed without dissent.

Harris told the board on the 2016-2017 Check-off letters had been mailed out by KDA. The letter has also been posted on the website.

Harris asked the board their pleasure for the 2017 grant funding cycle. The board discussed diminishing funds available each year for grants. Harris asked the grant committee from the previous year to meet again this year regarding grants.

Motion was made by Shane Wiseman and seconded by Al Pedigo that the Council accept applications for the grant cycle instead of gifting a set amount of funds to a University. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion was made by Shane Wiseman and seconded by Scott Travis that the Council commit up to \$40,000 in funds for grants in the 2017 grant funding cycle. Motion passed with one dissent.

Harris began discussion on the 2017 annual meeting. The board asked Kara Keeton to identify alternative options to the annual meeting luncheon due to diminishing funds. It was agreed that final luncheon decisions will be made via decision memo.

Harris introduced a request by the Burley Tobacco Cooperative Association for the Council to pay half the membership of TMA and the member registration for the 2017 Tobacco Expo.

Motion was made by Henton and seconded by Travis that the Council continue to pay half of the TMA membership. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion was made by Scott Travis and seconded by David Chappell to pay the member registration at the 2017 Tobacco Expo. Motion passed with one dissent

Harris asked Pat Raines and Steve Pratt with the Burley Growers Cooperative Association to give an update on the ITGA meeting in India in September. They presented the Strategy Proposal developed by the participants at the meeting (copy attached). They noted that Daniel Green was elected ITGA President.

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The board discussed the role of the Council in respect to the ITGA. The discussion expanded to the role of the Council for the growers and the 40% of check-off funds allocated to the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association.

Motion was made by Al Pedigo and seconded by Scott Travis. Motion passed without dissent.

Guests: Steve Pratt, Burley Coop; Pat Raines, Burley Coop; and Bob Pearce, UK.

Approved January 20, 2017