

Council for Burley Tobacco Minutes
January 20, 2017

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

President Greg Harris called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

Harris presented the minutes from the October 11, 2016 board meeting. Motion was made by Shane Wiseman and seconded by David Chappell to approve minutes. Motion passed without dissent.

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

Harris presented the list of grant applications for the 2017. He explained the committee would be meeting to vote on the applications and requested guidance from the Board. A motion was made by Al Pedigo and seconded by Rod Kuegel to allow the committee to make the decision on the grants and invest up to \$40,000 in the 2017 grant application period. Motion passed without dissent.

Al Pedigo gave an update from GAP Connections. He noted that several were going to the Southern Farm show to meet with flue-cured on GAP and several issues. He noted that things are moving fast toward certification. He stated his concerns with the burley groups diminishing and where the industry will be in five years. The board discussed the possibility of providing a service to growers to help with GAP requirements or at least providing information for growers.

The board discussed ongoing issues with the crop insurance program. Scott noted that the American Farm Bureau passed a two tiered system and in the state they set a (1:00). The board also discussed working with other tobacco to go to McConnell and the RMA to seek changes. A motion was made by Hampton Henton and seconded by Scott Travis to change the Council's Policy on crop insurance to support a two tiered crops insurance program for tobacco based on rates being available for all tobacco with the second tier buyout level for any tobacco being growing under contract from a GAP member in good standing. Supporting the American Farm Bureau position on this issue so that we are speaking with one voice as growers. Motion passes with one dissent.

The board asked Greg to begin engagement with the companies to open the lines of communication to plan future meetings in 2017 with company representatives.

The board discussed what is the message to take to the companies and how best to approach the companies. Motion was made by Hampton Henton and seconded by Rod Kuegel for the Council to investigate the possibility of hiring a firm to represent the grower issues at stockholder meetings.

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The board agreed to tentatively schedule the March 2017 meeting for the third Monday, March 20. Final date will be confirmed once company representatives confirm attendance.

Henton stated that there has yet to be a meeting of the Kentucky Agriculture Board. KDA has agreed to put the Council on the agenda for the next meeting once it is scheduled.

The board discussed the importance of telling neighbors that tobacco is being grown and certain chemical cannot be sprayed near tobacco. The concern is that potential lawsuits that may come down the road with dicamba and other chemical drift issues. Motion was made by Scott Travis and seconded by Hampton Henton to prepare a template letter so growers can use to send to neighbors on the spray drift issue. Motion passes without dissent.

Donald Mitchell noted his term is up and he will step down, but plans to remain an active grower member.

Motion was made by Scott Travis and seconded by David Chappell. Motion passed without dissent.

Guests: Dale Seay, Grower; Mark Turner, Grower; George Marks, BSC; Loyd Horton, BSC; Daniel Green, BSC; Orlando Chambers, UK; Will Snell, UK; Darrell Varner, Grower; Steve Pratt, Burley Coop; Pat Raines, Burley Coop; and Bob Pearce, UK.