

Council for Burley Tobacco Minutes
March 20, 2017

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

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

Harris presented the minutes from the January 20, 2017 board meeting. Motion was made by David Chappell and seconded by Scott Travis to approve minutes. Motion passed without dissent.

Harris presented the Council's Financial Update. Motion was made by Hampton Henton and seconded by David Chappell to accept the financial update as presented. Financial Update is on file. Motion passed without dissent.

Harris introduced new board member Darrell Varner, elected at the 2017 Annual Membership meeting on January 20.

Harris opened the floor for nominations for Treasurer to fill the vacancy left when Donald Mitchell stepped down from the board. A motion was made by Scott Travis and seconded by David Chappell to elect Hampton Henton to fill the position of Treasurer. Motion passed without dissent.

Eddie Warren gave an update from Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association. Warren noted that the Association will be awarding a few contracts this year for young and beginning farmers.

Scott Travis and Joe Cain gave an update from Kentucky Farm Bureau. Cain gave an update on federal and state issues that will impact the agriculture industry and farmers.

Travis gave an update from the Kentucky Tobacco Research and Development Center Board. Travis noted that the board had funded research projects at the last meeting. It was announced that Andy Bailey, a UK Research Development Specialist, was appointed to serve on the FDA Tobacco Products Scientific Advisory Committee.

The board discussed the FDA Comment Period for Proposed Tobacco Product Standard. A motion was made by Rod Kuegel and seconded by Scott Travis to have the administrator draft a response comment for the board members to submit to the FDA. Motion passed without dissent.

Bob Pearce, University of Kentucky, gave an update on 2017 research from the University of Kentucky.

Will Snell, University of Kentucky, gave an update on the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program and noted that he had met with Zackery Paulson the new Director of Corporate Affairs for PMI.

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Rick Alexander, Agricultural Workers Management Association, gave an update on the demand for H2A employees and the continuing challenges procuring for seasonal workers due to immigration issues.

Harris introduced David Knopf, Director of Kentucky USDA NASS. Knopf gave a general update on NASS and the reports and data updates the organization provides for the agricultural industry. He noted the Census of Agriculture would take place in 2017 and asked the Council to help promote the program.

Harris introduced guests Paul Hornback, Kentucky State Senator; Lee Wicker, North Carolina Growers Association; Graham Boyd, Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina; and Leon Sequeria. The group engaged in a discussion on the future of the industry and what voice farmers have as the industry continues to change.

Al Pedigo gave an update from the recent Risk Management Association meeting. Pedigo and 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.

Motion was made by Hoppy Henton and seconded by Eddie Warren to adjourn. 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.