

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX**

**MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTAL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
(AFDAC)**

DATE: Thursday, September 30, 2021

TIME: 4:40 PM – 5:02 PM

LOCATION: Electronic Meeting via Microsoft Teams

AFDAC Member Attendance

Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)	Name	Present (P)/ Absent (A)
Stanley Franklin, Chairman	P	Eric David Cox	P
Jay Doshi	P	Kenneth Strafer, Ph. D.	A
Mariette Hiu Newcomb	P	Charles Nichols	A
Andrew Painter	P	Jeff Parnes	A
Gifford Hampshire	P	John Foust	A

Staff Support in Attendance

Tony Obuekwe DPD
Joe Gorney DPD
Jim McGlone VDOF
Wille Woode NVSWCD

Community Members in Attendance

Frank Castro
Nila Castro
David Sanders

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:40 p.m.
Roll Call by the Chairman (Mr. Franklin)

Announcements

Covid-19 Pandemic Special Motions

Mr. Franklin established the nature of the emergency that compelled these emergency procedures, the fact that the committee was meeting electronically, the type of electronic communication that was being used, and how public access to this meeting was arranged. Stanley Franklin moved that the Emergency Declaration caused by the COVID-19 pandemic makes it unsafe for the committee to physically assemble and unsafe for the public to physically attend any such meeting and that as such, the Freedom of Information Act's (FOIAs) usual procedures, which require the physical assembly of the committee and the physical presence of the public, cannot be implemented safely or practically. He further determined that the committee may conduct this meeting electronically through a dedicated audio-conferencing line.

The public could access the meeting by calling 1-571-429-5982 and entering the code: 816 646 43.

Given that each member of the Agricultural and Forestal District Committee was participating in the meeting from a separate location and in order to verify that a quorum of members was participating and that each member's voice was clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all of the other members, Mr. Franklin performed a roll call of members and asked each committee member participating in the meeting to state their name and the location from which they were participating.

Old Business

Mr. Franklin moved to accept the Meeting Minutes from July 27th, 2021, Mr. Painter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items

Mr. Franklin asked who would present the informational items. Mr. Obuekwe stated that staff has accepted an application for renewal of the Potomac Vegetable Farm with a tentative AFDAC meeting on November 18, 2021. Mr. Obuekwe also stated the upcoming expiration of the_Knipling AR. Mr. Obuekwe reported that contact had been initiated twice through certified mail with no response.

New Business

Mr. Franklin asked whether there was any new business. Mr. Obuekwe stated that there were two cases: Castro AR 96-S-002-03 and Sanders AR 2005-SU-002-02.

AR 96-S-002-03 (Castro) Local A&F District Application to renew a local district

Mr. Obuekwe presented staff's recommendation regarding the Castro renewal application to the AFDAC committee. Mr. Franklin asked Mr. Hampshire for comments. Mr. Hampshire stated that he had known Mrs. Castro all his life and went to high school with Felix Castro. He continued that he has known the property since he grew up in that neighborhood until today and can attest that the property has been well maintained and preserved. Mr. Hampshire stated that he is supportive of the renewal. Mr. Franklin asked for a motion to approve; Mr. Hampshire moved the motion; it was seconded by Mr. Painter. The motion passed unanimously.

AR 2005-SU-002-02 (Sanders) Local A&F District Application to renew a local district

Mr. Obuekwe presented staff's recommendation regarding the Sanders renewal application. Mr. Franklin asked Mr. Sanders for comment. Mr. Sanders stated that he wished the board would approve his application for the next eight years. Mr. Sanders stated that having this program allows his family to keep the farm. Mr. Sanders also stated how grateful he is that Fairfax County has this program available and wished he had looked into it sooner. Mr. Franklin asked if anyone had any more comments. According to the report, Ms. Newcomb stated that some outstanding items needed to be addressed within the district's first year and whether there was a way to assess them when they were completed. Ms. Newcomb stated concerns related to erosion and finding a new source of water. Mr. Sanders asked Mr. Woode to speak to the

recommendations. Mr. Woode, who authored the report, explained that the water options are a concern and that Mr. Sanders also wondered what his options would be if the quarry stream that flows through his property ceases. Mr. Woode stated that Mr. Sanders was concerned because the perennial stream is one of the drinking waters sources for his horses. Mr. Sanders requested considerations for a reliable alternate watering source. Mr. Woode stated that his general research on the potential continuation of water flow did not yield any reliable prediction about the water source not drying up. Mr. Woode stated that his recommendation regarding alternative water for the animals included investigating the possible installation of a watering system with troughs. Mr. Woode explained the troughs would be connected with underground pipes and a new well dug on-site if necessary. Mr. Woode also recommended installing a stabilized area across the drainage, assuming the stream keeps flowing. As part of this recommendation, Mr. Woode suggested the construction of a permanent fence to direct the animals through the stabilized area across the drainage. He explained that this would ensure stream protection and erosion prevention. Mrs. Newcomb thanked Mr. Woode.

Ms. Newcomb moved for the committee to endorse the staff recommendation and recommend approval of the AR 2005-SU-002-02 Sanders Local A&F district to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Painter seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Franklin, using the Chairman's prerogative, postponed the vote on the 2018-2020 Annual Report, By-laws for AFDAC, and Policy for Remote Participation in Meetings by Communication to the next meeting in October.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Mr. Franklin motioned to close the meeting, and Mr. Hampshire seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.