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**VIRGINIA TOBACCO INDEMNIFICATION AND COMMUNITY
REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Agribusiness Committee Meeting
Monday, January 7, 2013
1:00 p.m.

Hilton Garden Inn - Downtown
Richmond, Virginia

1 **APPEARANCES**

2

3 The Honorable Joseph P. Johnson, Jr., Chairman

4 Mr. Robert Spiers, Vice Chairman

5 Mr. Kenney F. Barnard

6 Ms. Gayle F. Barts

7 Mr. David R. Cundiff

8 Mr. Travis Hill

9 The Honorable Donald Merricks

10 Mr. H. Ronnie Montgomery

11 Mr. Kenneth O. Reynolds

12 Mr. John M. Stallard

13 The Honorable William M. Stanley, Jr.

14 The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

15

16 **COMMISSION STAFF**

17 Mr. Neal Noyes, Executive Director

18 Mr. Ned Stephenson, Deputy Executive Director

19 Mr. Timothy J. Pfohl, Grants Program Director

20 Ms. Sarah Capps, Grants Program Administrator,

21 Southside, Virginia

22 Sara Williams, Grants Program Administrator,

23 Southwest, Virginia

24 Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant, Southwest Virginia

25 Mr. Benjamin Dawson, Grants Assistant, Southside Virginia

1 January 7, 2013

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4 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Good morning, I want
5 to welcome everybody here. We had a hearing at Roanoke on
6 December 11th and we didn't have a quorum present because
7 members of the Agribusiness Committee that were present
8 agreed with their constituents that we would adopt the staff
9 recommendations in all and I believe there was one, Glade
10 Springs and a motion was made that it be tabled and I ruled
11 that since we didn't have a quorum, that it would not be in
12 order. I'm led to believe that a motion will be made at 2609
13 Town of Glade Springs that a motion will be made to table
14 that. Other than that, at the time the motion is made we
15 would adopt the staff recommendation and we did that in
16 Roanoke and there was a consensus on that. Those that have
17 no disagreement with the report, have no need to speak.
18 Those that are not happy with it, we'll give you an opportunity
19 to speak.

20 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, I'd ask
21 that grant number 2629 be removed from the block.

22 DELEGATE JOHNSON: 2629 will be removed
23 from the block. I'm just welcoming everybody and telling you
24 what the process would be and after you've been welcomed,
25 we'll call the meeting to order and have a roll call.

1 MR. NOYES: Mr. Barnard?
2 MR. BARNARD: Here.
3 MR. NOYES: Ms. Barts?
4 MS. BARTS: Here.
5 MR. NOYES: Mr. Cundiff?
6 MR. CUNDIFF: Here.
7 MR. NOYES: Secretary Haymore?
8 MR. HAYMORE: (No response)
9 MR. NOYES: Secretary Hill.
10 SECRETARY HILL: Here.
11 MR. NOYES: Delegate Johnson.
12 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Here.
13 MR. NOYES: Delegate Merricks?
14 DELEGATE MERRICKS: Here.
15 MR. NOYES: Mr. Montgomery
16 MR. MONTGOMERY: Present.
17 MR. NOYES: Mr. Reynolds?
18 MR. REYNOLDS: Here.
19 MR. NOYES: Mr. Spiers?
20 MR. SPIERS: Here.
21 MR. NOYES: Mr. Stallard?
22 MR. STALLARD: Here.
23 MR. NOYES: Senator Stanley?
24 SENATOR STANLEY: Here.
25 MR. NOYES: Delegate Wright?

1 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

2 MR. NOYES: Mr. Chairman we have a
3 quorum.

4 DELEGATE JOHNSON: We have a quorum.
5 This committee is duly constituted 7th day of January 2013 at
6 11:00 a.m. and ready to conduct the business.

7 The next order of business would be approval
8 of the minutes from 12/6/11. We didn't take action on these
9 minutes; approval of the minutes in Roanoke because we
10 didn't have a quorum so we couldn't approve the minutes and
11 we couldn't legally do. Is there a motion that we approve the
12 minutes of December 6, 2011? All right, we have a motion
13 and a second. Any discussion? Hearing no discussion, all in
14 favor let it be known by saying aye. (Ayes). Opposed. (No
15 response).

16 Before we get into the presentation, let's go
17 around the table and introduce everyone.

18 MS. CAPPS: Sarah Capps, I'm with the
19 Southside Grants Program.

20 MR. STEPHENSON: Ned Stephenson with the
21 Tobacco Commission.

22 MR. BERNARD: Kenny Bernard.

23 MS. BARTS: Gayle Barts.

24 MR. REYNOLDS: Kenneth Reynolds.

25 MR. CUNDIFF: David Cundiff.

1 MR. HILL: Travis Hill for Secretary Haymore.

2 MR. STANLEY: William Stanley, Franklin
3 County.

4 MR. SPIERS: Robert Spiers, Dinwiddie
5 County.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Joe Johnson.

7 MR. NOYES: Neal Noyes.

8 MR. MERRICKS: Don Merricks, Pittsylvania
9 County.

10 MR. WRIGHT: Tommy Wright, House of
11 Delegates representing the 61st district.

12 MR. MONTGOMERY: Ronnie Montgomery, Lee
13 County.

14 MR. STALLARD: John Stallard, Scott County.

15 MR. PFOHL: Tim Pfohl, Grants Director for the
16 Commission.

17 MR. REDWINE: David Redwine, Scott County.

18 MR. JOHNSON: Let's go to our summary and
19 staff recommendations now. As I said, at the Roanoke meeting
20 we didn't have a quorum and while we didn't have that
21 quorum, we heard people speak and it was decided by
22 consensus that the committee would recommend to the full
23 commission, we'd recommend the staff's recommendations
24 other than 2629 which would be out of the block. To begin
25 with, we have a motion, 2609, the Town of Glade Springs be

1 tabled.

2 MR. NOYES: Removed from the block and
3 tabled is two separate issues.

4 DELEGATE JOHNSON: We have a motion, do
5 we have a second? Any discussion? All in favor let it be
6 known by saying aye. (Ayes). Opposed no. (No response). We
7 removed 2629 from the block; 2622 the staff recommends
8 \$400,000; 2608 the staff recommends \$553,011; the staff
9 recommends for 2606, \$52,195; 2616 the staff recommends
10 \$49,402; 2612 the staff recommends \$250,000; 2609 is tabled
11 and 2629 is removed from the block, 2621 the staff
12 recommends \$29,410; 2613 is tabled; 2613 is tabled; 2615 is
13 tabled, 2617 is \$163,003 and 2614 is \$185,000.

14 MR. STALLARD: I'd like to move 2615 from
15 the block. There are some people here from Scott County that
16 would like to speak.

17 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Twenty-six fifteen out
18 of the block and we'll hear from them, 2629 is out of the block,
19 2609 is tabled and that's what we voted on. Any discussion?
20 We have a motion that it be approved; so moved and seconded.
21 All in favor let it be known by saying aye (Ayes). Opposed no.
22 The ayes have it. Now we'll go back to 2629, Lunenburg
23 County.

24 DELEGATE WRIGHT: The reason I asked that
25 to be removed from the block because of a possible conflict of

1 interest. It says the application sites in Lunenburg are
2 considered facilities. I have a vacant store building that may
3 or may not be considered so I'm going to abstain on this vote
4 to be tabled.

5 DELEGATE JOHNSON: You're abstaining?

6 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Yes.

7 MR. NOYES: A vote to table and let the record
8 note that Delegate Wright is abstaining.

9 DELEGATE JOHNSON: We have a motion that
10 2629, all in favor of tabling 2629 let it be known by saying aye.
11 (Ayes). Opposed no. The ayes have it.

12 MR. NOYES: Let the record note that Delegate
13 Wright has abstained.

14 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Now we have 2615
15 and that's removed from the block.

16 MR. LARRY PARKS: Mr. Chairman and
17 members of the Committee, thank you for giving us this
18 opportunity to speak. I'm Larry Parks, manager of Scott Farm
19 Co-ops in Gate City. I happen to be the manager of Scott
20 Farm Co-op in Gate City, Virginia. We have applied for three
21 different grant requests, bulk feed and that is a continuation
22 of one that was given back in 2010 and that was \$250,000
23 and we ran into difficulty with the Town of Gate City because
24 we could not get building permits and that went on and on
25 and caused delays. That's why it has not been done.

1 We're requesting an additional \$148,217 to go
2 in in conjunction with the initial building grant. We'll move
3 that building or facility down to our old location in the center
4 of town in that commercial zone. We were allowed to build our
5 current new building residential property and they will not let
6 us expand. There's two things that we ask for this time that's
7 very important. The bulk feed certainly is and the reason why
8 and our farmers, we have 3,800 tobacco barns and all that's
9 gone away and they have converted themselves to cattle and
10 sheep and goats. That's what a lot of communities have done.
11 In doing so, there's been a greater demand for bulk feed and
12 no one in the area has that capacity to get the bulk feed.
13 What has happened is that our farmers are going to Tennessee
14 over in Jonesboro and they're hauling tractor trailer loads of
15 bulk feed in. The reason they're a little ahead of us, these
16 farmers. Now, there's customers that have these feed silos on
17 the farm and in the last couple of years he's been selling
18 around 200 so the farming population and folks like me are
19 getting older and they can't handle the sacks and things like
20 that and the new generation already wanted it that way and
21 used the bulk feed. The bulk feed is something that is so
22 necessary that today in a cattle and livestock operation. We
23 had about 40,000 head of livestock altogether in Scott County.
24 This would allow us then to offer from our
25 location all those folks and connecting our county and we also

1 have our own customers over in Tennessee we can serve as
2 well and protecting our customers. So those farm dollars that
3 are going out of Virginia into Tennessee and it's very important
4 that we try to keep those dollars in our own state and not be
5 dependent on those folks out of state.

6 The bulk fertilizer would be about \$35 or \$40 a
7 ton, we're paying Southern States to mix it and I can cut that
8 out but the bulk fertilizer can be located in the very same old
9 store location and we can serve each one of those with the
10 Hammer mill which is there and were used. The bulk fertilizer
11 is put there for 6 new fertilizers. If we're not able to get the
12 bulk fertilizers or 6 buggies which amount to about sixty some
13 thousand dollars is very important because currently the ones
14 that the farmers are using that we have were purchased in
15 about 1989 and the frames have deteriorated and they're
16 almost gone but we try to keep them patched up. In 2011 we
17 sold \$532,000 worth of fertilizer products. We can save
18 customers or our farmers money if we were to have bulk
19 fertilizer facility. Then with the fertilizer trucks which are also,
20 when we spread lime, those would give us the ability to spread
21 lime on the farms and fertilizer. It would be a good thing to
22 help our farmers down in that area. The bulk feed we
23 desperately need. If there's any questions, I'll be happy to try
24 to answer them.

25 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Are there any

1 questions? If you look on page 22 of our book, it's got a figure
2 of \$70,765 advance was issued on that previous grant which
3 the staff has asked to provide a full accounting for a portion
4 was used to pay a construction vendor and it appears some
5 may have been used for general operating expenses.

6 MR. PARKS: I have researched that and
7 basically I've been an accounting person for 30 years. I went
8 in there and looked. We reported back to Mr. Pfohl and we
9 had items that were spent in relationship to the feed mill. So
10 probably we're not, we found out the information or attorney
11 fees that we had and when we were trying to get our building
12 permit for the mill, we wanted to get a building permit to build
13 a feed mill and there's about 17,000 in attorney fees and
14 25,000 was spent on things.

15 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Twenty-five thousand
16 for attorney fees, that's almost a year's salary.

17 MR. PARKS: This was over a 2 ½ year period
18 of time. I went back and did the research and we were trying
19 to get the mill right there beside the new store, perfect level
20 location. We had neighbors that went to the town council and
21 they wouldn't do it although the Virginia law says that we
22 should have been allowed to expand since we were on
23 residential property. It was decided that we were not allowed
24 to expand it. Anyhow, we also spent \$7,000 of that money
25 went to that involved sanitation on for the mill; \$6,000 went

1 for the feed trucks to deliver the grain and the mixture. So
2 there was around \$25,165 went for the mill purpose, not
3 including the attorney fees. That came to \$44,267.
4 Unfortunately the people in charge and working on our end at
5 that time didn't touch base as it appears to me and say here
6 are our bills and why the Commission gave us \$70,765 all at
7 one time I don't know. Maybe that was to start the project.
8 There really wasn't any definite thing there at the time that it
9 appears the money was just out there and the project was
10 started and it was going forward until we couldn't get the
11 building permit.

12 We're working with the USDA gentleman by
13 the name of Craig Barborow and we're trying to work up some
14 long term financing for the co-op. We're not asking that you
15 just throw out money. We're asking for any consideration that
16 you can give us.

17 DELEGATE JOHNSON: At the long term
18 financing sir, what's the status of that?

19 MR. PARKS: We're working with a guy from
20 USDA; Craig Barborow is coming tomorrow to meet with John
21 Kilgore at the agency there in Gate City. He's going to look at
22 all of our facilities at that time.

23 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Sir, do you feel like
24 you've got some work to do, I think the Commission has been
25 very kind to you in saving this rather than zeroing it out and

1 you have an opportunity to come up to answer some of these
2 questions. I think the Commission's been very kind to you in
3 tabling this rather than, as I said, zeroing it out.

4 MR. PARKS: I'm not familiar with what tabling
5 means.

6 DELEGATE JOHNSON: That means you've got
7 to provide more information to satisfy the staff that you've got
8 a good proposal. We've got two things here that to me, it's
9 quite significant that's not been complied with.

10 MR. STALLARD: Mr. Chairman, let me help
11 him out a little bit. This Scott County Co-op has been in
12 business since the 1940s and they have an excellent facility
13 down there now and they're under new management and a
14 new management team. These guys drove a long way to try to
15 get a little help and to help over 2,000 customers that they
16 have. I can't stand to see that feed being hauled up out of
17 Tennessee losing business in Virginia. I think their request is
18 sincere and I'd like to show good faith and confidence in their
19 ability to manage this co-op in a different manner and help
20 them out with some bulk feed.

21 DELEGATE JOHNSON: I see that they have
22 not wisely used those funds that have been given to them in
23 years gone by.

24 MR. STALLARD: They used it as wisely as they
25 could and the conflict with the town, that was an unforeseen

1 thing. I think their request is legitimate and there is a balance
2 leftover and I'd like to help these guys if possible. I'll make it
3 in the form of a motion if you want to vote on it.

4 MR. NOYES: Tim, the undisbursed balance in
5 that award.

6 MR. PFOHL: The \$250,000 that was made by
7 the Committee three years ago.

8 MR. NOYES: The balance between \$70,000
9 disbursed and not yet fully accounted for is available as soon
10 as we get the accounting and as soon as there is evidence of
11 long term financing, is that correct?

12 MR. PFOHL: Yes.

13 MR. NOYES: There may not be urgency for
14 any money or new money if it's tabled and can always deal
15 with the request perhaps with a revised budget at a later time.

16 DELEGATE JOHNSON: What is your response
17 to that?

18 MR. PARKS: We would welcome any
19 consideration. The revenue stream that would come from the
20 feed, the additional feed mill in any long term lending, the
21 lender is going to look at that as a positive. We can stay in
22 business without –

23 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Sir, I don't want to be
24 rude or anything like that and please forgive me, but what I'm
25 having trouble understanding, if you've got money that's not

1 been spent and you can't account for it, how do you expect the
2 Committee to put more money in something that you're not
3 accounting for what the money that's already been put in.
4 We've got a certain obligation; we just can't dole money out.

5 MR. PARKS: I understand and I might have
6 been under the wrong impression. My understanding was you
7 had to have the money in place at least lined up to do the
8 project before you launch into it. Even with the \$70,000 that
9 we would need, the additional \$148,000 is required to move
10 down to the new store. In that time period, some things have
11 gone up. The total cost of the feed mill is \$398,000 x number
12 of dollars. It's requiring an additional 148 along with 70 that
13 we're all talking about to do the project. I thought all those
14 funds had to be lined up before you launched into the project.

15 DELEGATE JOHNSON: What happens with
16 what you've got now?

17 MR. PARKS: I can't answer that. I only came
18 there, let me just say that we've had several managers and one
19 before I came got cancer and several months passed away and
20 there were a number of things that weren't stable in the
21 management area. That's all I can tell and I've spent a lot of
22 years doing other things. I know good management when I see
23 it. I really can't tell you all of the things that happened during
24 the years that I wasn't there.

25 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Sir, you're doing a

1 great job but in good conscious when you can't account for
2 this money, we have an obligation.

3 MR. PARKS: I can account legitimately to say
4 that \$30,000 of that money were legitimate expenditures and
5 into the mill.

6 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, the staff
7 recommended tabling this request and gave specific reasons
8 for doing so. I'd like to ask the staff has there been anything
9 that changed since they made that recommendation.

10 MR. PFOHL: Nothing has changed, we've been
11 in continuing dialogue with the Scott County people and the
12 operative and the leadership that's here today and they have
13 been very cooperative. They've got an old building and they
14 got stuff they have to dig out from their previous management
15 and we need to resolve how the Commission's \$70,000 was
16 used before staff is willing to recommend additional money be
17 put towards the project. Staff would suggest if additional
18 money is put into the project as the cooperative suggested,
19 bulk feeding, then that's probably an element of the three part
20 request that we suggest you focus on. I would remind the
21 committee that per Commission policy that we can only take
22 90 percent of project expenses and they'll have to identify at
23 least a 10 percent match by the cooperative if there is
24 additional funding provided.

25 MR. NOYES: As a procedural matter because

1 the full 70 that was advanced has not yet been accounted for,
2 the staff is not able to make a second disbursement on the
3 original grant and it may not be enough to accomplish all you
4 need but until such time as that amount is accounted for
5 satisfactory to the staff and the Commission. If the Committee
6 wishes to add more funds on some type of contingency basis
7 and we're not going to disburse that 70,000 until its fully
8 accounted for either. We have to be very careful.

9 MR. PARKS: I was only asking on a
10 contingency basis that if we had everything accounted for –

11 MR. NOYES: - What is the new amount that
12 you believe you need?

13 MR. STALLARD: Mr. Chairman, if I can help
14 you, I think you worded that well. If it's contingent on
15 showing you where the money went, I'd like to make a motion
16 that we give them an additional \$148,836 that they have left
17 over contingent on them being able to settle the first question
18 you asked about the first grant. They've driven a long ways
19 and I think the Committee is here to help farmers that are
20 really trying. These five guys that came up here today are
21 trying to help over 2,000 farmers. In the form of a motion, the
22 bulk feed would give them \$148,836 contingent on the
23 question you had initially. If you'd vote on it, I'd appreciate it.

24 MR. CUNDIFF: I'd like to ask a question. If
25 the \$70,000, everything works out on that, what is the

1 quickest timeframe they can come back to the Commission?

2 MR. NOYES: In May.

3 MR. CUNDIFF: Is May too long?

4 MR. PARKS: No, sir. It's not something that
5 would be fixed immediately and we're into the feed season
6 right now and we'll soon be well into the middle of it and
7 therefore, we couldn't complete the project but it would give us
8 time to get completely ready to grow next fall for the next time.

9 MR. STALLARD: I'd like to give them the
10 \$148,836 as a show of good face and we are here to help
11 farmers and they've struggled but they are under new
12 management. All this is contingent on the first grant. I think
13 that would answer any questions you might have. You have
14 faith in us; I'm going to put my faith in you all. I would
15 appreciate if the Committee would vote on it.

16 DELEGATE JOHNSON: What is your motion?

17 MR. STALLARD: I make a motion that we give
18 them \$148,836 for bulk feed contingent on any questions the
19 staff has on the first grant being settled.

20 DELEGATE JOHNSON: I have a motion.

21 MR. MONTGOMERY: I'll second it.

22 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Any discussion?

23 MR. SPIERS: I'd like a clarification; 250,000
24 original grant; only seventy some thousand has been
25 disbursed, so that part of the initial grant would be also plus

1 the \$148,000 –

2 MR. NOYES: - The motion is that \$148,836 be
3 approved for grant number 2615 bulk feed. That is the motion
4 and that motion has been seconded.

5 DELEGATE JOHNSON: What would be the
6 total amount?

7 MR. PFOHL: Mr. Chairman, the bulk feed
8 component is about a \$400,000 project and we've already
9 committed \$250,000 towards it and they're asking us for the
10 balance nearly 150 to get to that 400 or so, give or take a
11 couple of thousand.

12 MR. SPIERS: All of that would be contingent
13 upon reconciling the initial disbursement plus the long term
14 financing?

15 MR. NOYES: Disbursement.

16 MR. SPIERS: Nothing is disbursed until you're
17 satisfied?

18 MR. NOYES: Nothing beyond 70 and change
19 that has already been disbursed.

20 DELEGATE JOHNSON: I'm concerned about
21 the lose handling of our money and that bothers me. What
22 assurance do we have that you're doing or you're making sure
23 that it's done as it's supposed to be done?

24 MR. NOYES: A disbursement request until
25 staff advises me that they're satisfied that the advance has

1 been properly documented, other than that, no disbursement.

2 DELEGATE WRIGHT: It concerns me that the
3 staff made a recommendation and their stated reasons for the
4 recommendation. It appears there's been no effort to answer
5 those questions or come to any conclusion on it. Money is
6 available if they would account for what they've already got. I
7 think if you're going to do this, then the contingency on every
8 application, there's ones that have been tabled today, all
9 you're going to have to do is say a contingency. I just think
10 the questions need to be answered first.

11 DELEGATE JOHNSON: If it's not tabled then
12 are we voting to disburse funds?

13 MR. NOYES: To approve the funds Mr.
14 Chairman.

15 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Then it's not tabled.

16 DELEGATE WRIGHT: I don't understand, I'm
17 not in favor of it.

18 DELEGATE JOHNSON: We have a motion and
19 a second. Anymore discussion? All those in favor please raise
20 your hand? Opposed? All right, call the roll please.

21 MR. NOYES: Mr. Barnard?

22 MR. BARNARD: Yes.

23 MR. NOYES: Ms. Barts?

24 MS. BARTS: Yes.

25 MR. NOYES: Mr. Cundiff?

1 MR. CUNDIFF: Yes.

2 MR. NOYES: Secretary Hill?

3 SECRETARY HILL: No.

4 MR. NOYES: Delegate Johnson.

5 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Pass.

6 MR. NOYES: Delegate Merricks?

7 DELEGATE MERRICKS: No.

8 MR. NOYES: Mr. Montgomery

9 MR. MONTGOMERY: Yes, aye.

10 MR. NOYES: Mr. Reynolds?

11 MR. REYNOLDS: I still didn't quite
12 understand what we're doing.

13 MR. NOYES: The motion is to approve
14 \$148,836 in relation to grant number 2615 for bulk feed;
15 money in addition to their previous grant.

16 MR. REYNOLDS: This is to help the bulk
17 fertilizer, feed?

18 MR. NOYES: Bulk feed is what the motion
19 entails.

20 MR. REYNOLDS: Yes.

21 MR. NOYES: Mr. Spiers?

22 MR. SPIERS: Yes.

23 MR. NOYES: Mr. Stallard?

24 MR. STALLARD: Yes.

25 MR. NOYES: Senator Stanley?

1 SENATOR STANLEY: No.

2 MR. NOYES: Delegate Wright?

3 DELEGATE WRIGHT: No.

4 MR. NOYES: The motion is 6 in favor and 6
5 opposed so the motion would fail.

6 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Well, I'll vote in favor.

7 MR. NOYES: The motion succeeds and the
8 record will show that Chairman Johnson changed his vote to
9 the affirmative, \$148,836 for grant number 2615 for bulk feed.

10 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, are you
11 going to have latitude to table the other motion as well, 2629,
12 the County Administrator is here.

13 MR. NOYES; 2629 has been tabled, 2609 is
14 tabled, 2615 is now approved, you're asking for a difference?

15 DELEGATE WRIGHT: I'd like 2629 to have a
16 chance to be heard.

17 MR. NOYES: Revisiting 2629, that's at the
18 pleasure of the Chairman to revisit 2629.

19 MS. HAWTHORNE: Good morning, I'm Beverly
20 Hawthorne and I am the economic development director for
21 Lunenburg County and our IDA put this grant in and I wanted
22 to give you all and update on what we've done so far. I'd like
23 to appreciate your tabling the project rather than zeroing it out
24 because we are in the process of doing things like a business
25 plan and trying to get other funds from other sources as well.

1 I appreciate you all taking that motion and considering that so
2 we can bring it up again in May.

3 I want to comment I think it's very important
4 for this particular business to be able to get started quickly.
5 In the staff recommendation a consideration for a regional food
6 processing facility may be considering and this would be one
7 of the elements of that. I would like you all to consider that if
8 we get this going quickly, the Lunenburg County IDA will be
9 the owner of the equipment until such time as these people
10 have paid for the equipment. Therefore it would be available
11 to go to the regional facility and having it in place and being
12 able to operate that would give them experience necessary to
13 help run the regional facility. Does anyone have any
14 questions?

15 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Are there any
16 questions?

17 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Will the business plan
18 be in place to make this application complete by May, do you
19 think by May you'll be able to do that?

20 MS. HAWTHORNE: I think the business plan
21 will be complete in the next two or three weeks and she's
22 looking for other funding and we should have all that in place
23 before May. Thank you all.

24 DELEGATE JOHNSON: We have 2462
25 recommended zero. Is anyone here to speak on that? No

1 one's here, any questions? Any public comment?

2 MR. MOORE: My name is Derrick Moore and I
3 am the Chairman of the Planning Commission for Glade
4 Springs. I come before you right now to say a big word of
5 thank you to you all for the investment you made in our
6 community. I know this committee has a lot of concern about
7 the return on the investment you make. I want you to know
8 that the \$276,000 that you committed to our community a
9 couple of years ago has helped us develop a business
10 incubator in the community that's really paying off. We have 7
11 or 8 businesses underway or planning to be developed over the
12 next year. We're very excited about that. We're very excited
13 about all the things associated with the tobacco region. We
14 hope we can count on your support in the future because we
15 have other projects in line. Also representing 24 farmers, we
16 have the Glade Springs Farmers Market, we've very interested
17 in the farmers that will make contributions toward the farmers
18 market. We just want to say thank you for your support that
19 you've given us. We want to acknowledge that we're trying our
20 best to be good citizens and we want to acknowledge what you
21 have done for us and the investment you made for us.

23 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Thank you sir. I'd like
24 the committee to know I visited there and they've done a
25 wonderful job with the money that we've given them and

1 they're doing great work and they wisely use their money. It's
2 a real joy to go and see the changes they have made.

3 MR. MOORE: We'd love you to come and we'd
4 love to have you all come and we can show you a difference in
5 a real tangible way and what you've made possible.

6 DELEGATE JOHNSON: Remember, we only
7 make recommendations to the full Commission so it's up to
8 the full Commission tomorrow to either approve or disprove
9 what we've done today. If you're winners, you're in good
10 shape.

11 MR. NOYES: Members of the Commission
12 financial disclosure for non-legislative members they have to
13 be done online and a reminder has been sent. Please do that
14 by the 15th, complete that work by that time. If you can't
15 figure out how to do it online, don't call me but help is
16 available. Education Committee will meet back in this room at
17 1:00 p.m.

18 DELEGATE JOHNSON: I'd like to commend
19 the staff for the great work you do down there. I have great
20 faith and confidence in our staff. I have the utmost confidence
21 in them. They have an awesome responsibility.

22 MR. PARKS: Just one thing Mr. Chairman, we
23 appreciate your consideration and I will do everything I
24 personally can to get things the way they should be.

25 DELEGATE JOHNSON: I do apologize for

1 being so mean but we have a job to do.

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3 PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED

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