

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**VIRGINIA SEED POTATO BOARD**  
P. O. Box 26  
Onley, VA 23418  
Eastern Shore Agricultural Experiment Station  
December 9, 2003

I. Attendance:

<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Va. Dept. of Agriculture &amp; Consumer Services</u>
E. Phillip Hickman	J.W. Nottingham, Program Director
David Scott	Doug Gillespie
Fred Holland	Tom Smith
Bill Floyd	I.T Wilson
Wayne Heath	Walter Buchanan

Members Absent:  
John H. Duer, III  
Joseph C. Black

II. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman Fred Holland. The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved, following a motion made by Phil Hickman and seconded by David Scott.

III. The chairman asked Butch Nottingham to assume the chair for the purpose of conducting the election of a chairman for 2003-2004. Phil Hickman nominated Fred Holland to serve as Chairman and Joe Black as Vice-Chairman. The nominations were seconded by Mr. Floyd. Mr. Hickman moved that the nominations be closed and the nominees be elected by acclamation. The motion carried and Mr. Holland assumed the Chair.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Doug Gillespie, Tom Smith, and I.T Wilson. Federal-State Inspection Service, Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, gave a brief recap of the 2002-2003 seed season.

B. The question of the Board's policy in handling of problem loads was discussed.

Members of the Board present felt that the procedure as defined in the minutes of the Board meeting held on Oct. 29, 1991 was working well and should continue for the 2003/04 seed season. This understanding

included the handling of Ared tag@ loads, requests for releases under Astop sale@ orders, etc. The issue of the interaction between growers and the inspectors, especially in Northampton County, was discussed . Since last year's letter seemed to improve the situation it was decided that the Chairman would again send a letter to growers, explaining the benefits of the seed law to them and asking for their cooperation.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The Board's rules and regulations were reviewed. The members present expressed that there had been no comments received from the industry indicating any problems and there should be no action by the Board to begin the rule changing process for the year 2004.
- B. Tom Smith and Doug Gillespie reported that the Seed Program would be conducted in 2003/04 just as it had in 2002/03, ie., on a no fee basis. I.T. Wilson, Jerry Miles, and Walter Buchanan will be handling the seed inspections
- C. There was a general discussion of problems dealing with fusarium tuber rot. It was decided that the Board would continue with this problem as in the past. A REQUEST FOR RELEASE FORM for dealing with problem loads was distributed.
- D. The Board discussed the need for a wrap-up meeting. It was decided that a meeting would not be scheduled for May unless needed.
- E. The price and availability of seed for 2003/2004 was discussed.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Holland  
Chairman

J. W. Nottingham  
Program Director