

**MINUTES**  
**Friends of Agriculture**  
**November 6, 2023**

**Quorum:** Pam Blakeney, Sue Cuzzort, Jeff Hawkins, David Jackson, Glenn Robinson, Laura Robinson, Janet Tiney

Welcome

Minutes – Approved April 10, 2023, Minutes (emailed to Board on November 2)

**FUNDRAISING STATUS:**

Glenn provided a summary of the outstanding grant applications. We have received no feedback on any of the three below:

- Outstanding Grant Applications (2023)
  - AGCO Agriculture Foundation Community Mission Fund (June 8)
  - Ball Foundation (Aug 27)
  - BASF (June 10)

Glenn reported that we have requested an invitation to apply for the following grants:

- Requests of Invitation to Apply for Grants:
  - Georgia Power (Jan 5) – No response at this time.
  - AgGeorgia Grant Request (June 8) – No response at this time.
  - ***Paul White, Atrium Polk-Floyd Foundation (June 8)*** - We have been working with Paul White of Atrium who reported that the foundation was still in the formation stage and expected to put out the application in early 2024. They have over \$180 million that must be spent in Polk and Floyd County. Their plan is to spend 1% in 2024, 2% in 2025 and hopefully 3% per year after that.

There was a concern that Atrium may require an agreement that will forbid us from seeking funds from other hospital foundations which may limit our fundraising opportunities.

- ***Appalachian Regional Commission (Oct 8)*** – Stated that they cannot fund Agriculture facilities.
- Georgia Association of Conservation Districts – Coosa River (June 10) – No response at this time.

We discussed future fundraising opportunities including Alex Brandford, Georgia Farm Bureau, and Will Bentley. We are also working to meet with representatives from the offices of Senators Ossoff and Warnock as well as Jason Avantarte and Trey Kelly to receive Congressional Direct funding. We have not been able to get a point of contact for Rep. Margorie Taylor Greene.

- **Tripp Foundation Update – George Mundy** (Glenn) – Glenn and Laura met with Mr. Mundy to provide him with an update of our progress to date. He said that we needed to find funds (at least \$3,000,000) before they would be willing to release their contribution to ensure that the project will be completed as planned. He also wanted us to get the county involved in the project. He let us know that we can come back to the Foundation if needed once we are closer to completion.
  
- **Other Ideas:**
  - Horse Boarding on Sardis Property (Laura) – Laura introduced the idea to raise funds by boarding horses. In order to do that we will need to set up temporary fencing to section off the pasture and have water available. We also discussed putting up some small storage buildings under the open pole building to allow renters to securely store tack and feed.
  
  - **Proposal:** Laura presented an agreement, offered by she and Glenn, to set aside \$100,000 as a Privately Funded Line of Credit No Interest Loan to allow release of Request for Proposal for Architectural Drawings. The board was asked to vote and sign the agreement. All present **VOTED to accept & SIGNED. Notarized by Sue Cuzzort.**

## GENERAL

- **Request for Proposal:** We discussed the RFP for Detailed Architectural Drawings. Glenn will have it reviewed by a lawyer for final review with hopes to release for bids by December 1, 2023.
  
- Glenn and Laura met with Kate Harmon RE: Rome Agriculture Center (Aug 29). They are clearing land now and are on track to build their \$10,000,000 facility. The Rome Agriculture Facility will focus on horses and plan to have a restaurant and bar.

## OPEN DISCUSSION

Treasurers Report – Janet T - \$50,000.

Closing Remarks

Adjourned

---

Approved