

Capital Project for Planning Phase One of the Relocation of Agriculture Programs

JOINT FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE AND BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

March 2, 2009

In order to achieve a long-term sustainable land-use scenario for agricultural land uses and in light of development pressures east of the Route 460 Bypass, a multi-phase relocation of agriculture research and teaching facilities is proposed. The proposed relocation is a key component of an integrated land use plan for agricultural activities which defines the highest and best use of existing open land areas including land contiguous to and immediately west of the main campus, the Heth Farm, the Moore Farm, the Kentland Farm, the Prices Fork Research Center, and the Turkey (Poultry) Research Center.

Dairy science operations include three major components, the relocation of which may be phased. These are non-lactating herd operations, lactating herd operations, and bovine palpation. Based on findings of the recent land use plan, the primary dairy operations (lactating and non-lactating herds) are a good fit at the Kentland Farm in terms of land capacity and operational efficiencies. Because of a need for ready access for teaching purposes, the bovine palpation operation is proposed to be accommodated in the Plantation Road/Heth Farm vicinity.

The relocation of the non-lactating herd operations is the highest priority from a timing perspective because these operations will be directly impacted by the imminent pressures on university land east of the Route 460 Bypass, which are expected to initiate within the next 12 months. Thus, this relocation is proposed as the initial phase of the plan to reposition agricultural programs on university property. The relocation of the non-lactating herd facilities from campus to the Kentland Farm is envisioned to include approximately 39,000 gross square feet of primary herd housing and research space and about 27,000 gross square feet of program support space.

An order of magnitude estimated total cost of this first phase of the relocation is in the range of \$3 million to \$6 million. This request is for a \$500,000 planning authorization to move forward with the planning and design of the necessary facility accommodations to relocate the non-lactating herd operations. The budget will be supported by one-time nongeneral fund revenues. The University will bring forward a subsequent request to move forward with the full project when a complete program, scope, cost estimate, and schedule are validated by the planning efforts.

Under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the University, the Board of Visitors has the authority to approve the budget, size, scope, debt issuance, and overall funding of nongeneral fund capital outlay projects. This request is for a project and funding authorization to plan the relocation of the non-lactating herd operations at a cost of \$500,000.

RESOLUTION ON CAPITAL PROJECT FOR PLANNING PHASE ONE OF THE RELOCATION OF AGRICULTURE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences is a critical component of the university's instructional and land-grant missions with outstanding faculty, students, and staff; and,

WHEREAS, the highly productive and successful programs of the College require long-term sustainable land-use strategies to ensure their on-going success and contributions to the university, the Commonwealth, and the nation; and,

WHEREAS, the current land-use arrangements that depend on land east of the Route 460 Bypass may not adequately support the programs for the long term and the land is targeted for other strategic development in the near future; and,

WHEREAS, the University has determined that a relocation of agricultural programs is the best solution to addressing the needs of the college as well as future land development; and,

WHEREAS, relocation of the non-lactating herd operations is the highest priority from a timing perspective because these operations are the first to be directly impacted by the imminent development pressures on the land east of the Route 460 Bypass; and,

WHEREAS, the university has identified the Kentland Farm as the optimal relocation area for the non-lactating herd; and,

WHEREAS, this request is for a \$500,000 planning authorization supported by one-time nongeneral fund resources to move forward with planning and design of the envisioned relocation of the non-lactating herd operations; and,

WHEREAS, the university will bring forward a subsequent request to move forward with the full relocation project when a complete program, scope, cost estimate, and schedule are validated by the planning efforts; and,

WHEREAS, under the 2006 Management Agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and the University, the Board of Visitors has authority to approve the budget, size, scope, debt issuances, and overall funding of nongeneral funded major capital outlay projects; and,

WHEREAS, the University may address minor cost variances provided sufficient funds are available to support the full project costs;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the University be authorized to move forward with planning and design work of the necessary facilities to relocate the non-lactating herd operations at a cost not to exceed \$500,000.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above resolution authorizing Virginia Tech to plan phase one of relocating Agriculture programs be approved.

March 23, 2009