

**14. MISCELLANEOUS****A. GENERAL ENGINEERING PROPOSALS**

The committee reviewing general engineering proposals has met twice and developed a short-list for interviews. We received 12 proposals and the committee has scheduled interviews with 2 of them on September 4 and 3 others on September 6. They hope to have a recommendation for you at your September meeting.

**B. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PEANUT DOCUMENTARY**

Attached for your reference, please find a copy of the letter you directed me to write last month in support of the grant application for a peanut documentary.

**C. STREAMLINED AGRICULTURAL DISASTER DESIGNATION**

Attached for your reference please find a copy of a recent news release from USDA regarding a streamlined disaster designation process. They will no longer require resolutions of request from the local governing bodies or the respective Governor's offices – this is expected to result in a 40% reduction in processing time for agricultural disaster designations.

**D. NOTICES**

Attached for your reference please find copies of various notices.

**E. INCOMING CORRESPONDENCE**

Please find various items of incoming correspondence attached.

**F. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

Please find various items of outgoing correspondence attached.

**G. ARTICLES OF INTEREST**

Please find copies of various newspaper articles attached for your reference.

8/9/2012

# Goochland pulls out of counties organizations

BY KRISTEN GREEN  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The Goochland County Board of Supervisors has ended its membership in the Virginia Association of Counties, citing differences in some legislative positions and insufficient value for its \$4,700 annual dues.

Goochland, which has four new supervisors on its five-member board after last year's election, is the only one of Virginia's 95 counties that is not a member.

The Richmond Tea Party touted Tuesday's unanimous decision in an email. Goochland Supervisor Susan F. Lascolette, who has served on the board of directors of the Richmond Tea Party and also founded the Goochland Tea Party, said the county's VACo decision was "absolutely not anything to do with a tea party initiative."

"It was an organization that we felt really didn't represent us or our views and we were spending money on it,"

**GOOCHLAND, Page A6**

## Goochland

From Page A1

Lascolette said.

The four other supervisors — Robert H. Minnick, Manuel Alvarez Jr., Ned S. Creasey and Ken Peterson — said they were not affiliated with the tea party and said they had not been lobbied to end the relationship with VACo. "This is something the board just decided was the right thing to do," Peterson said.

The Richmond Tea Party did not return several calls for comment.

James Campbell, executive director of VACo, which supports county officials and lobbies on behalf of Virginia counties, said he was "profoundly disappointed" that Goochland ended its membership. Former Goochland Supervisor Malvern R. "Rudy" Butler served as president of VACo in 2006, he said.

"We have enjoyed 100 percent participation for 20 years now from all the counties in Virginia, and it's made us a stronger organization," Campbell said.

Campbell said the tea party's email "suggests to me that ... maybe they had some influence" in Goochland's decision. He declined to speculate on whether the tea party is asking other localities to withdraw from VACo. "Until something materializes, we don't get too excited about it," he said.

◆ ◆ ◆

In July, Ralph Carter, an organizer of a tea party group called Chester Patriots, told the Chesterfield Board of Supervisors that he is concerned about the county's membership in VACo, which he said "lobbies and opposes some of the things we hold dear," such as personal property rights.

"For me it's just one citizen asking the county why are we spending \$70,000 on an organization that lobbies against what we stand for. I didn't go up there as a tea party initiative," he said.

The Goochland board also decided to withdraw its membership from the National Association of Counties.

The Goochland resolution, approved in a 5-0 vote Tuesday, said that VACo takes legislative positions that are "not reflective of the interests of Goochland County nor its citizens." The resolution cited VACo's position on eminent-domain legislation.

In November, voters will get to decide whether to more narrowly define the use of eminent domain, which is the taking of private property for public use, in a proposed amendment to Virginia's constitution.

Goochland supervisors support the narrower version, which would not allow use of eminent do-

---

main for economic development. VACo expressed concern about putting the issue on the ballot, but Campbell said VACo is not actively opposing the ballot measure now.

Goochland's resolution also said that because VACo dues are calculated on the basis of county population, "smaller, rural counties such as Goochland County are not adequately or appropriately represented nor promoted."



**Campbell said** "probably our biggest disappointment" was that Goochland supervisors said VACo didn't represent its interests. He said while the board expressed concerns about its position on a couple of issues, he believes that VACo represented Goochland in more than a dozen other legislative positions.

"We certainly represented their interest in November, but maybe not when the new board took over in January," he said. "We're now in the process of developing our next position, which may all be consistent with their philosophies."

He said Lascolette and Minnick had been appointed to VACo steering committees, which will begin meeting this month to devise legislative positions for the new legislative session.

Minnick said Goochland's Board of Supervisors is equipped to manage and make decisions for itself.

Alvarez, another new board member, said he initially supported maintaining the VACo membership because he felt that the county had an opportunity to make changes, but ultimately decided that was unlikely. When the VACo membership decides on the legislative priorities for the year, Goochland gets one vote while Fairfax County gets 22.

"We feel like we can send a better message by resigning than by staying in and trying to change something I'm not sure we can change," Alvarez said.

But rural counties can create change by bonding together, Campbell said. He met with the new board early this year and said VACo recognizes that there can be changes in boards' philosophies and responds to that. But the meeting with Campbell did little for Creasey, the board's only incumbent to be re-elected.

"He didn't convince me in any way that they were going to do anything different," Creasey said.

Campbell said he hopes Goochland will change its mind. "We're going to work hard to regain their confidence," he said.

kgreen@timesdispatch.com  
(804) 649-6839  
Staff writer Jeremy Slayton  
contributed to this report.