

## **7. DISCUSSION OF VACANT EXTENSION POSITIONS**

As briefly discussed at your recent retreat, Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) has determined that our vacancies are among the most critical in the Commonwealth and the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Tech, Alan Grant, has authorized the District staff to move forward in filling them.

Mr. Lonnie Johnson, District Director for the Southeast District, has advised me that he intends to immediately re-advertise the vacant Agriculture/Natural Resources (ANR) position, specifically looking for expertise in crop and soil sciences.

In addition, Mr. Johnson has offered us an opportunity to partner with Isle of Wight County in sharing a 4-H agent. He is proposing that the full-time position be funded 1/3 by Isle of Wight, 1/3 by Southampton and 1/3 by the Commonwealth. Office space is available in both counties and the agent will maintain a physical presence in both as the needs dictate. The Commonwealth will provide operating support to cover the agent's travel, training, communication and printing/postage expense.

Mr. Caskey will present this to the Isle of Wight Board on April 7 and anticipates their full support.

This opportunity is perhaps best described by the old adage: "Half a loaf is better than none." While we'd both like to have our own full-time 4-H agent, the likelihood of state funding for both is limited in the foreseeable future.

### **MOTION REQUIRED:**

If the Board is so inclined, a motion is required authorizing me to communicate our support of VCE's proposal to share a 4-H agent with Isle of Wight County.