

**9. DISCUSSION REGARDING VACANT COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION POSITION**

Attached for your reference, please find copied emailed correspondence with Lonnie Johnson, Southeast District Director for Virginia Cooperative Extension. Wes Alexander's last official day of work is February 28, 2009 and I asked Mr. Johnson what their plans were for filling the position. His response is attached.

As background information, there may be 2 types of employees working in a County Cooperative Extension Office - employees of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) or employees of the county assigned to VCE. VCE employees are those employed directly by Virginia Cooperative Extension and their salaries and benefits may be funded 100 percent by VCE, funded 100 percent by one or more localities or funded jointly by VCE and one or more localities. These employees are employed through the procedures prescribed by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Virginia Tech EEO/Affirmative Action Program. Local government input is sought on the selection of VCE personnel and on their annual performance evaluation.

County employees are those employed directly by the locality and assigned to Virginia Cooperative Extension. They are employed and managed in accordance with the local government's established policy and procedures.

As you know, Mr. Alexander was an employee of VCE and his salary was jointly funded by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Southampton County – the county paid 33 1/3 % of his salary and the full cost of benefits on the local salary share. In FY 2009, Southampton County's share of Mr. Alexander's salary and benefits was slightly more than \$29,000.

Mr. Johnson advises me that, like other state agencies, VCE has experienced budget cuts from the Commonwealth resulting in a temporary hiring freeze. Accordingly, they have no plans to immediately fill the position upon Mr. Alexander's departure. He suggests that if filling the position is a local priority, we consider funding it with local dollars. Given our own budget constraints, that may not be a reasonable alternative, but I wanted to make you aware of the situation.

I am open to your direction in this regard.

DIRECTION REQUIRED**I am open to your direction as we begin work on
the FY 2010 annual budget.**