

PART 604 - FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD MEETINGS

Authority: Secs. 5.9, 5.17 of the Farm Credit Act; 12 U.S.C. 2243, 2252.

§ 604.400 Definitions.

For purposes of this part:

(a) Agency means the Farm Credit Administration.

(b) Board means the Farm Credit Administration Board.

(c) Exempt meeting and exempt portion of a meeting mean, respectively, a meeting or that part of a meeting designated as provided in § 604.430 of this part as closed to the public by reason of one or more of the exemptive provisions listed in § 604.420 of this part.

(d) Meeting means the deliberations of at least two (quorum) members of the Board where such deliberations determine or result in joint conduct or disposition of official Farm Credit Administration business.

(e) Member means any one of the members of the Board.

(f) Open meeting means a meeting or portion of a meeting which is not an exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting.

(g) Public observation means the right of any member of the public to attend and observe, but not participate or interfere in any way in, an open meeting of the Board, within the limits of reasonable and comfortable accommodations made available for such purpose by the Farm Credit Administration.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.405 Notice of public observation.

(a) A member of the public is not required to give advance notice to the Farm Credit Administration of an intention to exercise the right of public observation of an open meeting of the Board. However, in order to permit the Farm Credit Administration to determine the amount of space and number of seats which must be made available to accommodate individuals who desire to exercise the right of public observation, such individuals are requested to give notice to the Farm Credit Administration at least two business days before the start of the open meeting of the intention to exercise such right.

(b) Notice of intention to exercise the right of public observation may be given in writing, in person, or by telephone to the official designated in § 604.440 of this part.

(c) Individuals who have not given advance notice of intention to exercise the right of public observation will not be permitted to attend and observe the open meeting of the Board if the available space and seating are necessary to accommodate individuals who gave advance notice of such intention to the Farm Credit Administration.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.410 Scope of application.

The provisions of this part apply to meetings of the Board, and do not apply to conferences or other gatherings of employees of the Farm Credit Administration who meet or join with others, except at meetings of the Board, to deliberate official agency business.

[51 FR 41942, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.415 Open meetings.

Every meeting and portion of a meeting of the Board shall be open to public observation unless the Board determines that such meeting or portion of a meeting will involve the discussion of matters which are within one or more of the exemptive provisions listed in § 604.420 of this part, and that the public interest is not served by the discussion of such matters in an open meeting.

[51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.420 Exemptive provisions.

Except in a case where the Board determines that the public interest requires otherwise, a meeting or portion of a meeting may be closed to public observation where the Board determines that the meeting or portion of the meeting is likely to:

- (a) Disclose matters that are:
 - (1) Specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interests of national defense or foreign policy, and
 - (2) In fact properly classified pursuant to such Executive order;
- (b) Relate solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of the Farm Credit Administration;
- (c) Disclose matters specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 U.S.C. 552): *Provided*, That such statute:
 - (1) Requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on the issue, or
 - (2) Establishes particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (d) Disclose trade secrets and privileged or confidential commercial or financial information obtained from a person;
- (e) Involve accusing any person of a crime, or formally censuring any person;
- (f) Disclose information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (g) Disclose investigator records compiled for law enforcement purposes, or information which if written would be contained in such records, but only to the extent that the production of such records or information would:
 - (1) Interfere with enforcement proceedings;
 - (2) Deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;
 - (3) Constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
 - (4) Disclose the identity of a confidential source and, in the case of a record compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, confidential information furnished only by the confidential source;
 - (5) Disclose investigative techniques and procedures; or
 - (6) Endanger the life or physical safety of law enforcement personnel;
- (h) Disclose information contained in or related to examination, supervision, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of the Farm Credit Administration;
- (i) Disclose information the premature disclosure of which would:
 - (1) Significantly endanger the stability of any Farm Credit System institution, including banks, associations, service organizations, the Funding Corporation, the Farm

Credit System Assistance Board, or the Farm Credit System Financial Assistance Corporation; or

(2) Be likely to significantly frustrate implementation of a proposed action of the Farm Credit Administration: *Provided*, said Administration has not already disclosed to the public the content or nature of its proposed action, or is not required by law to make such disclosure on its own initiative prior to taking final action on such proposal; or

(j) Specifically concern participation by the Farm Credit Administration in a civil action or proceeding otherwise involving a determination on the record before an opportunity for a hearing.

[51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986, as amended at 56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991]

§ 604.425 Announcement of meetings.

(a) The Board meets in the offices of the Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090, on the second Thursday of each month, unless the Board fixes a different time and/or place for a meeting and follows the requirements of paragraph (b) of this section.

(b)(1) The Farm Credit Administration shall make available for public inspection the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting, and whether it is to be open or closed, by posting notice on its public notice board or on its public Web site except to the extent that such information is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of § 604.420 of this part. The public announcement must be made at least 1 week before the meeting, unless a majority of the FCA Board determines by a recorded vote that agency business requires that a meeting be called on lesser notice, in which case the announcement shall be made at the earliest practicable time.

(2) Once a meeting has been announced, the time, place, and subject matter of the meeting and whether it is open or closed to the public may be changed following the requirements of the Government in the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b.

[74 FR 44727, Aug. 31, 2009]

§ 604.430 Closure of meetings.

(a) A majority of the meetings or portions of a majority of the meetings of the board are exempt by reason of § 604.420(d), (h), (i)(1), or (j) of this part. An exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting shall be closed to the public when at least two members of the Board vote by a recorded vote of the Board at the beginning of the exempt meeting or exempt portion of a meeting to close such meeting or such exempt portion, and the General Counsel, Farm Credit Administration, publicly certifies that, in his or her opinion, the meeting or portion of the meeting may be closed to the public stating each relevant exemptive provision listed in § 604.420 of this part.

(b) A copy of the vote of the Board to close a meeting or an exempt portion thereof reflecting the vote of each member on the question, and a copy of the certification of General Counsel, shall be made available for public inspection in the offices of the Farm Credit Administration, or pursuant to telephonic or written requests.

(c) A copy of the certification of the General Counsel, together with a statement from the presiding officer of the meeting setting forth the time and place of an exempt meeting or an exempt portion of a meeting which was closed and the persons present, shall be retained by the Farm Credit Administration for a period of at least 2 years after the date of

such closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986]

§ 604.435 Record of closed meetings or closed portion of a meeting.

(a) The Farm Credit Administration shall maintain a complete transcript or electronic recording adequate to record fully the proceedings of each closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting, except that in the case of a meeting or portion of a meeting closed to the public pursuant to § 604.420(d), (h), (i)(1), or (j) of this part, the Farm Credit Administration shall maintain either such transcript, recording, or a set of minutes.

(b) Any minutes so maintained shall fully and clearly describe all matters discussed and shall provide a full and accurate summary of any actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of each of the views expressed on any item and the record of any roll call vote. All documents considered in connection with any action shall be identified in the minutes.

(c) The Farm Credit Administration shall promptly make available to the public, in its offices, the transcript, electronic recording, or minutes, of the discussion of any item on the agenda of a closed meeting, or closed portion of a meeting, except for such item or items of discussion which the Farm Credit Administration determines to contain information which may be withheld under § 604.420 of this part. Copies of such transcript or minutes, or a transcription of such recording disclosing the identity of each speaker, shall be furnished to any person at the actual cost of duplication or transcription.

(d) The Farm Credit Administration shall maintain a complete verbatim copy of the transcript, a complete copy of the minutes, or a complete electronic recording of each closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting for a period of 2 years after the date of such closed meeting or closed portion of a meeting.

(e) All actions required or permitted by this section to be undertaken by the Farm Credit Administration shall be by or under the authority of the Secretary to the Board.

[42 FR 12161, Mar. 3, 1977. Redesignated and amended at 51 FR 41943, Nov. 20, 1986; 56 FR 2673, Jan. 24, 1991; 70 FR 69645, Nov. 17, 2005]

§ 604.440 Requests for information.

Requests to the Farm Credit Administration for information about the time, place, and subject matter of a meeting, whether it or any portion thereof is closed to the public, and any requests for copies of the transcript or minutes, or of a transcript of an electronic recording of a closed meeting, or closed portion of a meeting, to the extent not exempt from disclosure by the provisions of § 604.420 of this part, shall be addressed to the Secretary to the Board, Farm Credit Administration, McLean, Virginia 22102-5090.

[51 FR 41944, Nov. 20, 1986; 59 FR 21642, Apr. 26, 1994]