

MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING **Department of Public Works** **Orange, Virginia 22960** **September 3rd, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 9:35 A.M.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Lynn Graves, Madison County
Philip Morris, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Brame, Orange County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Steve Hill, Madison County
Monira Rifaat, Rappahannock County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Warren Lee, Orange County, Associate Director

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jim Byrne, Madison County Associate Director
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension,
Associate Director
Andrew Campbell, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County, Director-At Large

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Wichelns, District Manager
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Education Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Cross, CDC, DCR
Rex Rexrode, NRCS District Conservationist
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County Resident

1) CALL TO ORDER, MOMENT OF SILENCE, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

L. Graves welcomed everyone to Orange County. Following a moment of silence, Richard Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were four handouts: Technical Committee Report Addendum, Outcome of Area II Legislative Conference Call, Draft VASWCD Legislative Agenda and the DCR Monthly Report.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the August 6th, 2019 Draft Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. T. O'Halloran moved to approve as presented. P. Morris seconded the motion. (T. O'Halloran, P. Morris, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. Greg Wichelns requested the Operations Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.1. S. Hill requested the Legislative Committee Report be added to the Agenda as 5.2. G. Wichelns requested to delete Education Committee Report from the Consent Agenda and the RMP/TRC Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.3. Rex Rexrode requested the NRCS Conservation Plans be added to the Consent Agenda. T. O’Halloran moved to approve the Agenda as amended. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (T, O’Halloran, R. Runkle, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda approved as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TECHNICAL

Items in italics were added at the September 3, 2019 Board Meeting in Orange, Virginia

1) The following BMP applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding. All applications were thoroughly screened for compliance with Priority Recruitment Guidelines. All met at least two of the priority criteria.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
WP-4	2020 VACS	Heavenly Acres Farm	07-20-0036	348871	Greene	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2020 VACS	Greene Valley Stables LLC	07-20-0073	363494	Greene	\$ 11,461.50	\$ 955.12
FR-1	2020 VACS	Roland Sherrod	07-20-0074	363496	Madison	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2020 VACS	Meadow Grove Farm LLC	07-20-0049	353214	Rappahannock	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Jeffrey Herren	07-20-0064	360903	Culpeper	\$ 39,662.88	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2020 VACS	Jeffrey Herren	07-20-0064	360904	Culpeper	\$ 660.00	\$ 0.00
SL-15A	2020 VACS	Ben Southard	07-20-0050	353588	Orange	\$ 4,830.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Ben Southard	07-20-0050	353589	Orange	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2020 VACS	Kyle Sprouse	07-20-0057	397940	Madison	\$ 11,326.25	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Ronald Taylor	07-20-0066	363193	Orange	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Irene Carnes	07-20-0001	337718	Culpeper	\$ 3,765.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SE-1	2020 VACS	Irene Carnes	07-20-0001	358641	Culpeper	\$ 147.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Richard Girten	07-20-0035	348850	Orange	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Fay Utz	07-20-0072	363493	Madison	\$ 6,215.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2020 VACS	Brian Gibson	07-20-0067	363195	Orange	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2020 VACS	Samuel Higginbotham II	07-20-0068	363197	Orange	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Chadwick Lohr	07-20-0065	363172	Madison	\$ 41,655.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Alexander Miller	07-20-0070	363208	Madison	\$ 9,400.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Brooke Farms	07-20-0069	363203	Orange	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2020 VACS	Brooke Farms	07-20-0069	363200	Orange	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2020 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms, LLC	07-20-0061	359024	Culpeper	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.00
NM-1A	2020 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms, LLC	07-20-0058	358885	Culpeper	\$ 800.00	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2020 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms, LLC	07-20-0059	358886	Culpeper	\$ 1,360.00	\$ 0.00
NM-4	2020 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms, LLC	07-20-0060	358907	Culpeper	\$ 1,060.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2020 VACS	Douglas Coleman Farms, LLC	07-20-0056	356117	Culpeper	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2020 VACS	Knight Cattle Corp	07-20-0051	353590	Orange	\$ 16,312.50	\$ 0.00
SL-15A	2020 VACS	Knight Cattle Corp	07-20-0051	353591	Orange	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Dale Welch	07-20-0028	346286	Rappahannock	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-CNT	2020 VACS	Dale Welch	07-20-0028	359095	Rappahannock	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2020 VACS	Payne Hay and Straw	07-20-0048	364453	Culpeper	\$ 18,125.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Connie Ballenger	07-20-0077	365627	Culpeper	\$ 19,797.50	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2020 VACS	Joseph Gray	07-20-0075	364393	Culpeper	\$ 18,014.88	\$ 0.00

2) The following BMP participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
LE-1T	Upper Hazel	Sanmar *	07-19-0538	334859	Culpeper	\$ 4,564.08	\$ 201.36
CCI-SL6N	2020 VACS	Carolton Farms LLC	07-20-0009	340558	Orange	\$ 1,632.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL6W	2020 VACS	Carolton Farms LLC	07-20-0009	340556	Orange	\$ 3,793.75	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Irene Carnes	07-20-0001	337718	Culpeper	\$ 3,765.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SE-1	2020 VACS	Irene Carnes	07-20-0001	358641	Culpeper	\$ 147.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Richard Girten	07-20-0035	348850	Orange	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10T	Upper Hazel	Manor Farm	07-19-0501	333785	Rappahannock	\$ 12,225.00	\$ 0.00

*Increase for additional fence and pipeline.

3) The following Upper Hazel Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3	DEQ16546	Thomas Connelly	07-20-0032	363229	Culpeper	\$ 2,500.00
RB-3R	DEQ16546	Allison Hampton	07-20-0071	363409	Rappahannock	\$ 1,000.00
RB-1	DEQ16546	Susannah McNear	07-20-0085	367326	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16546	Susannah McNear	07-20-0085	367327	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-3R	DEQ16546	Susannah McNear	07-20-0085	367328	Rappahannock	\$ 2,000.00

4) The following Rapidan River Residential applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQ16678	Kelly Clay	07-20-0086	367421	Greene	\$ 150.00

5) The following Upper York Residential applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-4	DEQ16547	Robert L. Bell	07-20-0081	366368	Orange	\$ 6,400.00

6) The following WQIF Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQNPSWQIF	Wallace Dabney Jr.	07-19-0513	334269	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-4P	DEQNPSWQIF	Michael Corbin	07-20-0039	350178	Culpeper	\$ 6,000.00
RB-3	DEQNPSWQIF	Jeff Hunnicutt	07-19-0457	333365	Culpeper	\$ 2,500.00

7) The following Upper Hazel Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3	DEQ16546	Thomas Connelly	07-20-0032	363229	Culpeper	\$ 518.35
RB-1	DEQ16546	Kristen Zuro	07-20-0042	351305	Culpeper	\$ 263.00
RB-3R	DEQ16546	Daniel McMahon	07-19-0518	334391	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-4	DEQ16546	William Smith	07-19-0548	335124	Culpeper	\$ 6,400.00

8) The following Robinson River Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQ16679	Grayland Williams	07-19-0471	333503	Madison	\$ 180.00
RB-3	DEQ16679	Warren Jenkins	07-19-0387	332138	Madison	\$ 4,000.00
RB-1	DEQ 16679	Gail Wyatt	07-19-0388	332141	Madison	\$ 150.00

9) The following Upper Rapidan Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Anne Stelter	07-19-0315	331803	Orange	\$ 325.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	Tanya Givens	07-19-0459	333377	Greene	\$ 225.00
RB-4	DEQ16678	Rockwood 1 LLC	07-19-0399	332165	Orange	\$ 6,400.00

10) The following Upper York River Residential participant has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-4	DEQ16547	James May Jr.	07-19-0577	336274	Orange	\$ 6,400.00

11) The following Residential applicants have been cancelled by the Technical Committee:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3	DEQNPSWQIF	Stephanie McDonald	7-19-0429	332402	Culpeper	\$ 2,500.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	Margaret Ward	07-19-0395	332150	Madison	\$ 150.00
RB-3R	DEQNPSWQIF	Cynthia Hoeffler	07-19-0482	333654	Greene	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3R	DEQNPSWQIF	Piper Gilbert	07-19-0311	331799	Greene	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3	DEQ16678	Kelly Clay	07-19-0485	333685	Greene	\$ 2,500.00
RB-1	DEQ16547R	Kim Martin	07-19-0090	333253	Orange	\$ 150.00

12) The following Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) practice has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dry Swale	Marty Steffensmeier	Orange	\$ 10,000.00

13) The District Manager gave an update on the dams:

- a. All the dam mowings, with the exception of Beautiful Run #11 have been mowed. This will be mowed later in the fall.
- b. Rebecca Evans with NRCS will be remapping the dams for the District in late August.
- c. Three wave berm designs are pending review this month.
- d. The District Manager reported on funding requests for primary spillway linings on six dams; full package engineering/construction has been submitted. Senator Hanger will be contacted later this fall.

TREASURER'S REPORT

NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS –

Greene County – 4.5 acres, EQIP, Weed Treatment, Pollinator Planting, Shrub Planting.

5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

5.1) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT-

L. Graves reported that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with NRCS was sent directly to the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts office instead of being sent to each individual district office. T. O'Halloran stated each District Director should have a final say on whether there is any decision made on the MOA with NRCS. R. Brame agreed with T. O'Halloran. M. Rifaat questioned whether the VASWCD should bring it before the business meeting at the Annual Meeting. L. Graves reported the VASWCD has a meeting next Thursday September 12, 2019 to discuss it. Discussion followed. L. Graves stated it should have been sent to each district (47). S. Hill wanted to know what NRCS had to say.

R. Rexrode, NRCS District Conservationist, reported Mr. Bricker's principal aim was to reduce the amount of work the state office has to do for the MOA's.

R. Brame moved to send this to the Operations Committee for further evaluation and act on behalf of the Board. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (Brame, O'Halloran, unanimous)

The Operations Committee will meet Friday, September 6th, 2019 at 9 a.m. in Madison at the Madison Extension Office to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement with NRCS.

G. Wichelns reported the Allocation Sub-Committee meeting was established by the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to review and make recommendations on a new policy and formula for distribution of cost-share program technical assistance funding to accompany a base \$35 million cost share program. Three different scenarios drafted by DCR for initial discussions. One was \$75,000 for each district as a base and then there would be add-ons. Lower amounts per district base were also discussed. Each district is different. This is being looked at by other Districts. The District Manager voiced his concerns that the total amount of TA used for the policy is too small. He also questioned why any TA would go to districts that have no ag work load. Discussion followed. There are three more meetings before the Soil and Water Board meets in December. The Manager will report to the District Operations Committee after each meeting.

G. Wichelns reported that the district dam repair funding topic on the Area 2 Legislative Agenda has been removed by VASWCD because DCR is trying to establish a \$50 million dam rehabilitation program in Virginia with the General Assembly. The VASWCD has no intent on supporting district dam repair funds beyond that which is reportedly in the agency base budget. On a related matter, if and when district operating funding policy is overhauled, it would hopefully include additional technical assistance funds for dam work.

G. Wichelns reported on the request by Madden Farm in Culpeper County for the District to co-hold an agricultural land easement (ALE Program-NRCS) with the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC). The District does "co-hold" one such ALE easement (since 2016) for the same purpose. Committee recommends approving the co-holding. Unanimous.

5.2) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT –

S. Hill reported on the Draft VASWCD Legislative Agenda outline for 2020 session which was used to start the Legislative Committee discussion on August 19, 2019. S. Hill reported all seven items were discussed. The Area 2 agenda was also reviewed.

S. DeNicola reported on #7. This is to fund two positions at the State level to do Environmental Education programming. S. Hill stated such funding should be targeted at the district level not at the state level. This approach was supported by Area 2. This was a conference call. The next meeting will be September 12th at the VASWCD Board meeting. There will be a new updated draft.

S. Hill stated there are not 47 inputs (districts) involved in the Legislative Agenda. Culpeper is one of a handful of the Districts that is always participating.

5.3) RMP/TCR COMMITTEE REPORT -

G. Wichelns is requesting Board approval of the draft comments from the District RMP TRC to submit on the regulatory review of the Resource Management Plan Program. This has been through staff comments and he asking for Board Approval of the proposed changes. This would be submitted via email for comments. Unanimous.

6) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- W. Lee reported R. Jacobs has been getting accolades for his work at Lake of the Woods.
- S. Hill participated on the conference call for the VASWCD Legislative Agenda on August 19.
- S. Sharpe reported there will be a Cover Crop and Soil Health clinic on September 26th 5-7 p.m. at Bellair Farm. October 10th, Hands on High Tunnel Production clinic from 5 – 7 pm at Hill farm in Louisa County and October 29, 6-8:30 pm at the Guisepe Center in Stanardsville there will be a Beef Producers Meeting.

- R. Bradford reported attending a Pasture Walk in Louisa County for warm season pastures, cool season pasture – It was very well attended by 80 people
- R. Brame also attended the Pasture Walk in Louisa.
- L. Graves attended the Virginia Association of District Employees training at Graves Mountain Lodge. He thanked S. Yager for the Nature Walk that he presented.

7) STAFF REPORTS

- R. Jacobs reported a VCAP project (Dry Swale) being completed in Lake of the Woods. He will be attending the Virginia Erosion and Sediment and Stormwater Advisory meeting on October 29th. He reported on hearing of possible development of their own Stormwater Programs in Orange and Culpeper Counties
- S. Yager attended the program given by Adam Downing the Madison Extension Office Forestry on saving hemlocks. H complemented Mr. Downing on his effort.
- A. McCullen attended the Virginia Association of District Employees training at Graves Mountain Lodge.
- D. Massie reported attending the Second Farm Safety Day held on August 29th from 4 to 8 p.m. in Madison at David McMullen’s farm, with dinner.
- S. DeNicola reported the Annual Awards Banquet will be held on November 7th at Peppers. The Annual Report is being edited. November 23 there will be Envirothon Training at Graves Mountain Lodge. The Woods and Wildlife Conference will be held on February 29th, 2020, mark your calendars.
- Greg reported on his work developing new grant proposals for septic grants. New grants are under development for Upper York and Upper Hazel beginning January 1, 2020. He is also exploring new funding sources for septic projects.

8) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR – D. Cross reminded everyone of the NEW mandatory COIA training requires every local elected official to complete training on the Conflict of Interest Act within two months of assuming office and at least every two years after the initial training is completed. All sitting directors that are seeking election must take the course online by December 31, 2019. There will be COIA training at the Annual Meeting in Norfolk, in December. The local county clerks of the court are responsible for tracking and maintaining the records related to this requirement.

Clean Water Farm Awards : Local award nominations and Grand Basin nominations are due to DCR’s assigned CDC to the appropriate River Basin no later than 10/1/2019.

Ag Cost-Share – VACS programmatic reviews: Due to the record amount of cost share and technical assistance funding appropriated by the Virginia General Assembly in FY20 for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); these reviews will be conducted in September- October 2019. Ten SWCDs have been selected for review – Culpeper being one of them.

Random BMP Verifications/Spot Checks: Culpeper (12) Madison/Greene complete; 9/3-Orange; TBD Culpeper.

Nutrient Management practices-confusion with split side dress applications.

NM-3C is for corn only.

NM-4 is used for the late winter split application on small grains.

NM-5 is available for row crops, small grains and highly managed hayland, Per B.2.iv

FY2020 Grant Deliverable Reminders:

FY19 Annual Report (due to CDC 6/30).

Dates to Remember:

Sept 6	Deadline for comments regarding RMP regulatory review
Sept 12	VASWCD Quarterly Board Meeting- ODEC conference room, Glen Allen
Sept 25	VA Soil and Water Conservation Board Meeting
Sept 25	Chesapeake Bay License Plate grant applications due
Sept 30	FY19 Annual Report due to CDC
Oct 1	CWFA Local and Basin nominations due to CDC
Oct 3 & 4	Perennial Stream Identification, VIMS Gloucester Point
Oct 8	Ag BMP TAC, 9:30 am Goochland
Nov 20	Ag BMP TAC, 9:30 am Augusta
Dec 8-10	VASWCD Annual Meeting, Norfolk Sheraton
Dec 11	VA Soil & Water Conservation Board Meeting

- 9) **PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in CULPEPER at the Culpeper Office)**
Committees will meet on Tuesday, September 17th, 2019, Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, and Technical 10:00. The Educational Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th, 2019 in Madison at the Madison Extension Office at 4 p.m. **BOARD MEETING FOR OCTOBER WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST, 2019 IN RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY AT THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

11) **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn the September 2019 Board meeting at 11:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Graves, Chairman



JoAnn M. Neal
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved _____