

# MINUTES

## CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **BOARD MEETING Pepper's Restaurant Culpeper, Virginia 22701 March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 9:30 A.M.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Lynn Graves, Madison County  
Philip Morris, Greene County  
Robert Bradford, Orange County  
Robert Runkle, Greene County  
Steve Hill, Madison County  
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County  
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County  
Bob Williamson, Culpeper County, Associate Director  
Robert Brame, Orange County  
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County  
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County  
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County  
Steve Morris, Greene County, Director-At Large

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Warren Lee, Orange County, Associate Director  
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension,  
Associate Director

**STAFF PRESENT:** Greg Wichelns, District Manager  
JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary  
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist  
David Massie, Conservation Specialist  
Amanda McCullen, 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  
Nick Yakish, DCR Urban Nutrient Management Program Coordinator

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

L. Graves welcomed everyone to Culpeper County. Following a moment of silence, Richard Jacobs led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were four handouts: District Technical Committee Report Addendum, NRCS Conservation Plans for Board approval, Updated RMP/TRC Committee Report and the DCR Monthly Report. L. Graves welcomed Nick Yakish, DCR Urban Nutrient Management Program Coordinator, today's guest speaker.

#### **2) DRAFT MINUTES**

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. R. Brame moved to approve as presented. P. Morris seconded the motion. (R. Brame, P. Morris, unanimous)

**3) AGENDA APPROVAL**

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. R. Bradford requested the Technical Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.1. S. Hill requested the Legislative Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. T. O'Halloran moved to approve the Agenda as amended. P. Morris seconded the motion. (T. O'Halloran, P. Morris, unanimous)

**4) CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda approved as modified.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Resource Management Plan Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Report  
2-20-2020**

Present: Robert Bradford- TRC Chairman, Lynn Graves – TRC Vice Chairman, Robert Runkle, Greg Wichelns, David Massie, Spencer Yager, Amanda McCullen, Kendall Dellinger

Staff reported on 3 RMP plans that were presented to them for implementation certification inspections, and 1 RMP plan for plan approval implementation inspection. Inspections had been conducted. Two are recommended for certification and one is not at this time. The latter still has some outstanding issues to resolve. The RMP plan for plan approval is recommended for implementation.

Recommended for plan approval:

07-20-0016 Madison County 412.08 pasture and hay

Recommended for plan implementation certification:

07-15-0065 Orange County 56 acres pasture and hay

07-18-0001 Culpeper County 298.42 acres of pasture

Not recommended at this time:

07-18-0002 Culpeper County 105.7 acres pasture

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS –**

Culpeper - 40.2 acres – CSP-GCI Grassland Conservation Initiative.

Rappahannock - 36.9 acres – CSP-GCI Grassland Conservation Initiative.

**5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT-**

*\*Items in italics were added at the March 3, 2020 Board Meeting in Culpeper, 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>
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Charles Woolfrey Con. Inc.	07-20-0355	383190	Orange	\$ 75,120.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Jacquelyn Graves	07-20-0362	384397	Madison	\$ 51,150.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Rodney Jackson	07-20-0348	383832	Orange	\$ 21,260.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Thomas Taylor	07-20-0360	384887	Rappahannock	\$ 30,387.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Robert Wilbanks	07-20-0346	383779	Orange	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Robert Cockrill	07-20-0363	384404	Orange	\$ 6,750.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Lee Durrer	07-20-0345	383749	Greene	\$ 11,750.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Lonnie McWilliams	07-20-0331	383428	Orange	\$ 18,838.75	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Scott Johnson	07-20-0344	383745	Orange	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2020 VACS	Timothy Falls	07-20-0361	384352	Rappahannock	\$ 16,809.00	\$ 2,801.50
SL-6N	2020 VACS	Thomas Taylor	07-20-0359	375133	Rappahannock	\$ 10,359.38	\$ 863.28
SL-1	2020 VACS	Tatum Farm LLC	07-20-0142	375309	Madison	\$ 8,671.88	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2020 VACS	Crystallis LLC	07-20-0349	383834	Madison	\$ 24,797.50	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2020 VACS	Scott Johnson	07-20-0343	383741	Orange	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2020 VACS	Mildred Seale	07-20-0357	384160	Madison	\$ 9,631.25	\$ 0.00
WP-2A	2020 VACS	W.J. Davis	07-20-0353	383947	Madison	\$ 97,066.80	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	<i>Whindale's USA Inc.**</i>	07-20-0373	386407	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$100,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
SL-6W	2020 VACS	<i>David L. Cox</i>	07-20-0370	383362	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 51,301.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>

*\*\*This contract was formally approved for Torben Hansen (07-20-0268) and transferred to Whindale's USA Inc. (07-20-0373) prior to reimbursement. The contract for Hansen was cancelled.*

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>
CCI-SL-6W	2020 VACS	Ann Gravett*	07-20-0312	382242	Madison	\$ 25,125.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2020 VACS	Lee Durrer**	07-20-0238	380175	Greene	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Hill-Walker LLC***	07-20-0097	372783	Madison	\$ 97,318.20	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	<i>Tucker Berry Farm****</i>	<i>07-20-0101</i>	<i>373660</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 18,670.06</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
SL-6W	2020 VACS	<i>Whindale's USA Inc.</i>	<i>07-20-0373</i>	<i>386407</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$100,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
SL-6	CB RCPP	<i>Robin R. Estes-Frye</i>	<i>07-19-0357</i>	<i>331919</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 6,695.23</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
SL-6	2017 Earmark	<i>Gary Dulin</i>	<i>07-15-0289</i>	<i>206021</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,733.49</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>

\*Increase for additional trough

\*\*Increase in acreage.

\*\*\*Increase for additional fencing.

\*\*\*\* Increase from amount previously listed in the January 21, 2020 Technical Committee Minutes due to pipeline increase needed.

3) The following BMP 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>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL-6	2019 VACS	Hannah Salazar	07-19-0069	313538	Culpeper	\$ 30,272.80	\$ 767.63
SL-10	2020 VACS	Richard Durrer	07-20-0239	380176	Greene	\$ 1,136.25	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	<i>Torben Hansen</i>	<i>07-20-0268</i>	<i>380591</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 87,352.50</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>

4) The following Upper Hazel 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-3	DEQ16546	Charles Howell	07-20-0259	384354	Rappahannock	\$ 2,500.00

5) The following Robinson 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	DEQ16679	Neil Hughes	07-20-0161	384713	Madison	\$ 263.00

6) The following Upper York River 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-1	DEQ16547	Deanna Lambertus	07-20-0364	384682	Orange	\$ 175.00
RB-3R	DEQ16547	Maryellen Gilley	07-20-0365	384688	Orange	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3R	DEQ16547	Maryellen Gilley	07-20-0365	384711	Orange	\$ 2,000.00

7) The following Upper Rapidan 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-3R	DEQ16678	Harrison Lohr	07-20-0369	386252	Madison	\$ 2,000.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	Earl Estes III	07-20-0371	386285	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	Earl Estes III	07-20-0371	386289	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Dean Schultz	07-20-0372	386292	Greene	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Howard Robinson	07-20-0375	386459	Madison	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Laverne Twyman	07-20-0376	386462	Madison	\$ 2,400.00
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Amantha Carpenter	07-20-0377	386464	Madison	\$ 2,000.00
RB-4	DEQ16678	Doug Hill	07-20-0341	386494	Madison	\$ 4,000.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	Owen Henshaw	07-20-0378	386466	Madison	\$ 228.00

8) The following Robinson 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-3R	DEQ16679	Gary Roberts	07-20-0205	378213	Madison	\$ 425.00
RB-4	DEQ16679	Stephen Lohr	07-20-0246	380263	Madison	\$ 3,912.50
RB-4P	DEQ16679	Celene Pumphrey	07-20-0021	376355	Madison	\$ 4935.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	Neil Hughes	07-20-0161	384713	Madison	\$ 263.00

9) The following residential applicants have been cancelled:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3R	DEQ16546	Charles Howell	07-20-0259	380307	Rappahannock	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3R	DEQ16679	Neil Hughes	07-20-0161	376203	Madison	\$ 2,000.00

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

- a. The District has signed a contract with Schnabel Engineering for designs for the lining on the six Madison County dams that currently have corrugated metal primary spillways.
- b. Annual dam inspections dates are scheduled for April 1, 2020 (Madison) & April 2, 2020 (Culpeper).
- c. Charles Wilson, DCR District Dam Safety Engineer will send the District design and installation information for the remote monitoring equipment that will be installed on all three high hazard dams. The District will need to hire a contractor to install the equipment upon arrival.

11) The Technical Committee received a request from the family of a recently deceased participant in the BMP program. The family requested that they be released from the BMP contract (07-19-0472, CCI-SE1 – Continuing Conservation Initiative Stream Exclusion, cost share amount \$4,907.00). The land is not being farmed by the heirs at this time and has been divided. The Committee voted to approve this request.

R. Bradford moved to accept the request from Clarence C. Campbell Jr. to release the BMP contract (09-19-0472), CCI-SE1 from the contract. S. Hill seconded the motion. (Bradford, Hill, unanimous)

D. Cross stated the request for the release of a BMP contract is only done when there is a death in the family.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report as amended with the additions at the Board Meeting. S. Hill seconded the motion. (Bradford, Hill, unanimous)

## 5.2) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

S. Hill reported that state budgets are currently being considered at the Virginia General Assembly committees and it does matter if you write or send emails to your Senator or Representative. Under consideration is moving Ag BMP Technical Assistant funding from the Water Quality Improvement Fund to the General Fund. This would help stabilize the funding from year to year. What is proposed is moving \$4.5 million from Cost Share to a line item in the base budget. This will be good news for Districts if this is passed. T. O'Halloran questioned how the Soil and Water Board calculated Technical Assistance. The policy change is based on using the budget template submissions from districts for FY21 rather than a ratio share based on the proportion of cost share received.

Mr. Hill further reported on:

**HB1422 and SB704**— related to mandatory nutrient management plans and mandated stream exclusion fencing were amended. Substitute bills appear to be moving forward. There will be no mandates at this time.

**HB216** requiring party affiliation by district director candidates failed.

**SB979** removing the financial disclosure exemption for district directors passed; \$1,000 minimum expense on campaign required to activate the requirement.

**HB1652** adding additional tax credits for Ag BMP's within RMP's apparently failed.

S. Hill moved to accept the Legislative Committee Report. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (Hill, Biniek, unanimous)

## 6) DIRECTORS REPORTS

- S. Sharpe reported on the Farm Safety Seminar September 17<sup>th</sup> at Evan Bowman's Farm. Next Thursday, March 12 is the Virginia Berry School from 8 to 4 p.m. at the VSU Randolph Farm Pavilion in Petersburg.
- B. Williamson reported Rappahannock Point to Point Races in Boston, Virginia this Saturday will showcase a mature CREP project on the farm.
- T. O'Halloran reported that on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there will be a meeting of VASWCD Area Chairs and May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there will be a meeting of the Rappahannock River Basin Commission in Fredericksburg.
- D. Veroff reported on his trip to Southeast Asia.
- S. Hill reported on attending the Wetsel Middle School dedication of the MWEE site map and photo in the atrium. He attended the Farm Safety Dinner at Graves Mountain Lodge. This past weekend he attended the Woods and Wildlife conference.
- L. Graves reported on the National Association of Conservation District's National Meeting in Las Vegas. Rainbarrels are illegal in some states. Conservation in Arizona helps Colorado and New Mexico because the winds effect the runoff water that comes into these states. There was a VASWCD conference call last Wednesday about the budget and VCAP. There will be another VASWCD conference call the 8<sup>th</sup> of March.

## 7) STAFF REPORTS

- R. Jacobs reported next Wednesday, March 11, 2020 he will be on a panel for Lake of the Woods Garden Club. Lawns and protecting water quality. VCAP will be mentioned. He stated there was a good turnout for the Woods and Wildlife Conference. He attended the Bee Keeping session.
- S. DeNicola reported 215 people attended the Woods and Wildlife conference. Trees are still available for pickup on March 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. MWEE is starting up on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and

April 29<sup>th</sup> will be the Area II Envirothon at Graves Mountain Lodge. Scholarships are due at the end of March.

- D. Massie attended the Woods and Wildlife Conference. David was on a panel talking about trees and water quality. Joe Rosetti, Virginia Department of Forestry, Bryan Hoffman, Friends of the Rappahannock and Courtney Pooton from the NRCS office were on the panel also.
- H. Calloway attended a VCAP training at the Luck Stone Quarry in Manakin, Virginia.
- G. Wichelns reported Culpeper SWCD moved forward with the engineering firm for 6 spillway designs. Background studies are underway on the 6 projects. The district working with the DCR Consulting Engineer recertified five dams – one in Culpeper and four in Madison. This process happens once every six years. TMDL Implementation Plans and Grants – sometime in the next three to six months - Mountain Run and Muddy Run watershed in Culpeper County are going to be packaged together for implementation plan development.

## 8) AGENCY REPORTS

**NRCS** – R. Rexrode reported NRCS’s State Conservationist in Richmond, Jack Bricker, will be retiring at the end April 2020. EQIP sign-up had ended February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There are 52 applications for funding this year that need to be ranked and processed. New planning and new ranking software is going make the job more difficult. It will be a cloud based environment. Applications have closed for Nancy’s position and for the new engineer position.

**DCR** – D. Cross reported Quarterly Reports will be due April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Budget preparations for FY 21 are underway. Review of Operations/Administration grant deliverables at least twice annually is recommended. Desktop Procedures for District Fiscal Operations must be reviewed annually.

Ag Cost Share – VA BMP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has finished its work for this year and their recommendations for FY21 will go to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board on March 26<sup>th</sup> for consideration and discussion. FY20 Base Technical Assistance (TA) Funding – Great news – the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board authorized for FY20 new Base T/A amounts based on FY21 approved T/A Policy. This will ensure that an swcd will at least have enough to hire one additional full-time technical employee.

Conservation Planner Certification Courses Coming up: June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Farmville – USDA Service Center, June 3<sup>rd</sup> – Charlottesville – DOF Headquarters, June 9<sup>th</sup> – Prince George – Prince George County Library, June 11<sup>th</sup> – Wytheville – Wytheville Community College.

New Director Reminders: Phase I – Director Orientation is required for all new directors within the first six months of taking the Oath of Office. Phase I is provided by your CDC and Phase II is offered regionally. Phase II – offered at four regional locations in April. Register with your CDC April 6 – Farmville, USDA Service Center, April 16, Suffolk, Tidewater AREC, April 20 – Charlottesville DOF Headquarters, April 29 - Abington, DEQ Southwest Regional Office.

Dates to remember:

March 26	VSWCB Meeting DOF, Charlottesville
April 6	New Director Orientation Phase 2 – Farmville
April 14	VASWCD Board Meeting
April 20	New Director Orientation Phase 2 - Charlottesville
April 22	Area I Spring Meeting hosted by Shenandoah Valley SWCD
April 28	New Director Orientation Phase 2 – Abingdon
April 30	VSWCB Meeting Claytor Lake State Park
May 12	Area II Spring Meeting, Middleburg Community Center, Hosted by Loudoun SWCD
May 20	VSWCB Meeting, Pocahontas State Park

June 2 FY21 VACS Updates, Farmville, USDA Service Center  
June 3&4 FY21 VASWCD Admin/Operations Training Charlottesville area  
June 9 FY21 VACS Updates, Prince George County Library  
June 11 FY21 VACS Updates, Wytheville Community College  
June 30 Secondary Considerations due to DCR, David Bryan

**9) PLAN FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in CULPEPER at the CULPEPER OFFICE)**

Committees will meet on Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00, and RMP/TRC if necessary after Technical Committee. Educational meeting will be held March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4 P. M. in Madison at the Madison Extension Office. **BOARD MEETING FOR APRIL WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 IN RAPPAHANNOCK AT THE WASHINGTON FIRE STATION, IN WASHINGTON, VIRGINIA.**

**10) ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made to adjourn the February 2020 Board meeting at 10:30.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Graves, Chairman



JoAnn M. Neal  
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved 3/3/2020