MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING Graves Mountain Lodge Syria, Virginia 22701 October 6, 2020

DIRECTORS PRESENT:Lynn Graves, Madison County
Philip Morris, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Brad Jarvis, Madison County, Virginia Cooperative Extension,
Associate Director
Bob Williamson, Culpeper County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Warren Lee, Orange County, Associate Director Robert Brame, Orange County Steve Hill, Madison County Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County Steve Morris, Greene County, Director-At Large

STAFF PRESENT: Greg Wichelns, District Manager JoAnn Neal, Administrative Secretary

<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>: Debbie Cross, CDC, DCR Jack Kauffmann, Virginia Department of Forestry Jim Gehlsen, Prince William SWCD Director, Area II Chair

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

L. Graves welcomed everyone to Madison County. Following a moment of silence, Lynn Graves led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were four handouts: DCR Monthly Report, District Technical Committee Report Addendum, VASWCD Legislative Agenda for 2020 General Assembly, and the Annual Clean Water Farm Award (5 Counties) and Basin Award nominations.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the September 1, 2020 Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. T. O'Halloran moved to approve the minutes. M. Sands seconded the motion. (T. O'Halloran, M Sands, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. G. Wichelns requested the Operations Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.1 and Technical Committee Report be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. M. Sands moved to approve the Agenda as amended. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (M. Sands, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda approved as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT RMP/TRC COMMITTEE REPORT TREASURER'S REPORT

NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS -

Culpeper -	36 Acres – CSP-NIPF Classic Brush Mgt. to improve wildlife, Herbaceous weed treatment to create plant communities consistent with the ecological site, maintaining and improving forest soil quality, increase on-site carbon storage.
	1,495.8 Acres – EQIP-Crop cover, Residue & tillage Mgt. –No Till, Nutrient Mgt., Critical Area Planting, Grassed Waterway Pasture and Hay Planting, Conservation Cover.
	4.5 Acres - EQIP-Wildlife Brush Mgt., Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Tree/Shrub Establishment
	13.6 Acres - CREP Re-enrollment Forest stand improvement, upland wildlife habitat mgt.
	191 Acres - EQIP-Livestock Access Control, Fence, Forage & Biomass Planting, Heavy Use Area Protection, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Livestock pipeline, nutrient mgt., prescribed grazing, pumping plant, stream crossings, water well, watering facilities
Greene -	10 Acres- Herbaceous weed treatment, conservation cover, brush mgt., forest stand improvement.
Madison-	7.3 Acres- CREP Re-enrollment Forest Stand improvement, upland wildlife habitat mgt.
	56.9 Acres- CRP – Grassland Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Prescribed Grazing, Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt.
Orange	10.1 Acres- CRP Re-enrollment Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Conservation Cover, Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgt., Access Control
	 30.5 Acres- EQIP – Livestock Water Well, Pumping Plant, Herbaceous Weed Treatment, Livestock Pipeline, Watering Facilities (3), Forage and Biomass Planting, Fence, Access Control, Prescribed Grazing
Rappahannock -	3.9 Acres- CREP – Re-enrollment Forest stand improvement, upland wildlife habitat mgt.

5.1) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT -

G. Wichelns reported on options for extending the existing Strategic Plan for a year. In the agency report from our CDC – Debbie Cross, a district may extend their current strategic plan by 1 year so long as formal board

action is taken and recorded in the minutes. T. O'Halloran moved for the Culpeper's Strategic Plan to be extended to 12/31/2021. P Morris seconded the motion. (O'Halloran, P. Morris, unanimous)

Discussion followed on the Clean Water Farm Award (CWFA) nominations for the 5 counties of Culpeper SWCD and the CWFA River Basin nominations. CWFA signs will not be provided by DCR this year, however the District may order the signs at a cost of \$36 per sign, which includes shipping. R. Bradford moved for the District to purchase the 5 signs needed. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (Bradford, O'Halloran, unanimous)

The following list is for the CWFA awards and District awards:

Forestry Award-Bonnie Beers-Culpeper

Wildlife Award-John Taylor and Jeanette Walls-Orange

Educator of the Year Award- Kathryn Thomas-William Monroe Middle School-Greene

Culpeper CWFA -FMO LLC (The Haught Family)

Greene – McLean Family Trust/Swift Run and James River Basin Nominee

Madison CWFA- The Goodall Family and Rappahannock Basin Nominee

Orange CWFA- Lakeland Farm (Steve Sedwick) and York River Basin Nominee

Rappahannock CWFA– F. T. Valley Farm at Mont Medi (Algis Penkiunas)

Conservationist of the Year - TBA.

R. Bradford move to approve the CWFA and District award nominees. M. Sands seconded the motion. (Bradford, Sands, unanimous).

T. O'Halloran moved to approve the Operations Committee Report. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (O'Halloran, Bradford, unanimous)

5.2) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT-

Items in italics were added at the October 6, 2020 Board Meeting in Syria, Virginia

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Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Cred	<u>it</u>
SL-8B	2021 VACS	Alexander Miller	07-21-0083	418931	Madison	\$ 10,550.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Alexander Miller	07-21-0083	418930	Madison	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-10	2021 VACS	Miller Angus	07-21-0036	398972	Madison	\$ 750.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-10	2021 VACS	George S. Webb	07-21-0060	410460	Madison	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-6W	2021 VACS	George S. Webb	07-21-0058	410417	Madison	\$ 10,172.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8B	2021 VACS	Jett Farms Inc.	07-21-0078	418919	Madison	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Jett Farms Inc.	07-21-0078	418918	Madison	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8B	2021 VACS	Jean M. Coates	07-21-0080	418922	Madison	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8B	2021 VACS	Mike Coates	07-21-0079	418920	Madison	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Mike Coates	07-21-0079	418921	Madison	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Yowell Farm Ent.	07-21-0077	416382	Madison	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-1	2021 VACS	Brooke Farms	07-21-0082	418927	Orange	\$ 12,372.50	\$ 0.0)0
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Edgewood Miller Farm LLC	07-21-0081	418924	Orange	\$ 27,732.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-1	2021 VACS	Ben Smith	07-21-0093	419671	Culpeper	\$ 16,312.50	\$ 0.0)0
<i>SL-7</i>	2021 VACS	Eugene Triplett	07-21-0095	419893	Culpeper	\$ 1,080.00	\$ 270.0)0
<i>SL-8B</i>	2021 VACS	Roy Boldridge	07-21-0087	419451	Culpeper	\$ 3,120.00	\$ 0.0)0
<i>SL-8B</i>	2021 VACS	Kenneth Smith	07-21-0088	419453	Culpeper	\$ 21,900.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Ashland Farms Inc.	07-21-0090	419606	Culpeper	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 0.0)0
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Meadow Grove Farm LLC	07-21-0091	419608	Rappahannock	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.0)0
CCI-SL6W	2021 VACS	Mary Harp	07-21-0092	420165	Greene	\$ 3,890.00	\$ 0.0)0

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.

2) The following BMP participant has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Credit
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Larry Swetnam	07-20-0244	380254	Orange	\$ 30,004.13	\$ 0.00
NM-5N	2020 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	07-20-0108	381802	Culpeper	\$ 1,483.12	\$ 0.00
NM-5P	2020 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	07-20-0108	373988	Culpeper	\$ 2,056.00	\$ 0.00
NM-5N	2020 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP*	07-20-0106	373985	Culpeper	\$ 6,983.76	\$ 0.00
NM-5P	2020 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP	07-20-0106	373986	Culpeper	\$ 3,318.32	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Quaker Barn LLC**	07-20-0443	387719	Rappahannock	\$ 46,028.57	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2020 VACS	Thomas Taylor	07-20-0359	375133	Rappahannock	\$ 7,265.85	\$ 605.48
SL-6W	Upper Hazel	Thomas Taylor***	07-20-0360	384887	Rappahannock	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Thomas Taylor***	07-20-0360	384887	Rappahannock	\$ 10,745.80	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	David Dyer	07-20-0358	384161	Madison	\$ 13,279.48	\$ 0.00
<i>SL-7</i>	2021 VACS	Jonathan Boone	07-21-0016	396655	Madison	\$ 7,363.27	\$ 1,840.81
CCI-SL6W	2021 VACS	Mary Harp	07-21-0092	420165	Greene	\$ 3,890.00	\$ 0.00

*Increase for additional acreage. **Increase for buffer acres. ***Increase in stream exclusion fence and pipeline footage.

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	<u>County</u>	Amount
RB-1	DEQ16546	Marion E. Sharp	07-21-0086	419060	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16546	Marion E. Sharp	07-21-0086	419061	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16546	Patrick Brumfield	07-21-0099	420145	Culpeper	\$ 1,300.00

4) The following Upper Rapidan River Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount
RB-1	DEQ16678	Jeffrey Colvin	07-21-0085	418943	Greene	\$ 175.00
RB-4P	DEQ16678	Jeffrey Graham	07-21-0076	414995	Greene	\$ 6,000.00
<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16678	Ricky Colvin	07-21-0098	420144	Orange	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16678	Anthony Schienschang	07-21-0101	420147	Orange	\$ 1,600.00

5) The following Robinson River Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	<u>County</u>	Amount
RB-1	DEQ16679	Gregory Weepie	07-21-0084	418951	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	Linda Boughton	07-21-0100	420146	Madison	\$ 1,600.00

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	<u>Contract</u>	Instance	<u>County</u>	Amount
RB-3R	DEQ16679	Rose Park United Methodist Church	07-20-0470	389308	Madison	\$ 162.50
<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16679	Fay Utz	07-21-0048	403459	Madison	\$ 175.00

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

Practice	Fund	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	Amount
<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16678	Jeannine Utz	07-20-0440	388916	Madison	\$ 211.25
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Dean Schultz	07-20-0372	386292	Greene	\$ 175.00
<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16678	Paul Utz	07-20-0441	388922	Madison	\$ 178.75

<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16678	Sharon Tinder	07-20-0427	388110	Orange	\$ 162.50
<i>RB-1</i>	DEQ16678	Sharon Tinder	07-20-0427	388112	Orange	\$ 162.50

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

Practice	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<i>Instance</i>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3R	DEQ16547	Lloyd Nicholson	07-20-0482	389854	Orange	\$ 175.00

9) The following Residential applicant has been cancelled by the Technical Committee:

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	<u>County</u>	Amount
RB-3R	DEQ16678	Jeffrey Graham	07-20-0048	389096	Greene	\$ 2,000.00

10) The following Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) practices have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

Practice	Participant	County	Amount
Conservation Landscaping Mulch Bed (CL-2)	J. Bryan Nicol	Orange	\$ 200.00
Vegetative Stormwater Conveyance Dry Swale (VSC-1)	Michael Popik	Culpeper	\$ 9,786.61

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

Practice	Participant	<u>County</u>	Amount
Rain Garden (RG)	William Harnage	Culpeper	\$ 3,500.00

12) The Technical Committee reviewed and signed Conservation Plans submitted by NRCS.

- 13) The District Manager gave an update on the dams and needed maintenance items. The Committee discussed the items which were of the highest priority and are waiting for funding from DCR.
- 14) The District Manager gave an update on TMDL grants. Currently proposals for both the Upper Hazel and the Upper Rapidan have been submitted but not yet reviewed by DEQ. Both proposals requested funding for Ag & Septic programs, as well as staff time.
- 15) The Technical Committee reviewed nominations for the Clean Water Farm Awards and Grand Basin Award Nominations and made selections for Culpeper, Greene, Madison & Orange Counties. Rappahannock County Clean Water Farm Award selection and Conservationist of the Year have not been decided yet.
- 16) The Technical Committee recommends that the Board approve for the District to purchase signs for the Clean Water Farm Award recipients since DCR will not be providing the signs this year.
- 17) The District Manager presented a grant proposal for the Chesapeake Bay License Plate Grant funded by the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund. The proposal will request funding for two portable shade structures that will be loaned to producers for trial periods & used for demonstration purposes. The Technical Committee supported the submission of the grant proposal.
- 18) The Technical Committee discussed three complaints that were received. Two were about cattle in buffers, and one about weed growth. At this time, the Committee determined that no further action is needed.
- 19) The Technical Committee continues to delegate the authority to the District Manager to sign BMP contracts on behalf of the Board of Directors on an as needed basis.
- R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report. M. Sands seconded the motion. (Bradford, Sands, unanimous)

5) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

R. Runkle moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:15 A.M. as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A) (1) to discuss personnel issues. The Associate Directors and the District Manager were invited to attend. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (Runkle, O'Halloran unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 10:35 A.M. (unanimous). Pursuant to the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-.3712. (D), "I move that the Board certify that to the best of the Board's knowledge only matters lawfully exempted and as identified in the motion by which the Closed Session was convened were heard or discussed by this Board". R. Bradford seconded the motion. (Runkle, Bradford, unanimous)

R. Bradford moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

6) DIRECTORS REPORT-

- B. Jarvis reported that he will be giving a pesticide recertification class in the show barn at the Madison County Fair Grounds on December 9, 2020. B. Jarvis reported for Sarah Sharpe; Fall Pasture Walk October 20 4-6:30 pm at the Adams Farm 855 Jones Store Rod, Red Oak, Virginia. Central Virginia Beginning Farmer Virtual Networking Sessions via Zoom: October 20, 2020 Goats; November 17, Forestry Farming; December 15, How to Start a Vegetable Farm; January 19, Identifying a Market; March 16 Introduction to Tree Fruit Production and April 20, Pasture Management.
- B. Williamson reported Farm Bureau is expressing concern about the current composition of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board and is supporting VASWCD Legislative Agenda #5 which is proposing to clarify the language in the Virginia Code which defines the composition of the Board and the nomination process. VASWCD intends on moving this forward to the 2021 Virginia General Assembly. Area II is currently not represented. Discussion followed.
- L. Graves reported he was unavailable for the Quarterly meeting for VASWCD.
- L. Graves reported Graves Mountain Lodge Apple Harvest Festival this past weekend was limited to 1,000. Must register ahead of time.

7) STAFF

Greg reported the District is still waiting for feedback on the TMDL Grants that were submitted. Greg also reported working with Richard and Stephanie to submit 3 Chesapeake Bay License Plate Grant proposals; one for portable shade structures for pastures, a second one for developing school yard teaching habitat and a third for gravel road renovation with BMP's added for stream protection.

Mountain Run in Culpeper County had a TMDL written for surface water bacteria violations in 2000/2001 and never had an implementation plan written. The next watershed north which is Muddy Run had a bacteria bacterial TMDL written and in 2005 also never had an implementation plan written. October 28th, at 6:30 p.m. DEQ will be hosting a public meeting on Mountain Run, Muddy Run and the lower Hazel River on the process of writing an implementation plan for all 3 watershed areas together. This is a public meeting and you must register for the Zoom meeting.

8) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR –D. Cross reported FY21 1st Quarter Attachment E and QuickBooks Reports are due on or before Thursday, October 15th. Extension Agent Director Appointment – a copy of the board meeting minutes and DCR Form 199-014 Nomination for Appointment must be submitted to Blair Gordon no later than October 15, 2020. Area II will meet November 10 at 9:00 am – must be registered to participate (Zoom). Area II Officer Elections (Chair and Vice Chair needed) during the virtual meeting. VASWCD Training Blitz: FOIA training on December 15, 2020 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm (you must register). VA Agricultural Cost-Share (VACS) Program – 2020 Random Verifications: District staff are in the process of contacting participants to make sure repairs are completed. BMP Verifications: SWCD staff are beginning to field verify structural BMP's coming out of lifespan 12/31/20 & 12/31/821 to continue to receive nutrient reduction credits in the Chesapeake Bay model. Clean Water Farm Awards (CWFA) cost of signs are \$36 per sign.

DCR Staff Update: Stuart Blankenship joined the Division of Soil and Water as the new Nonpoint Source Data Manager on Aug. 10, 2020 started in the position previously held by Roland Owens. Status of VA General Assembly Special Session – no decisions yet to report.

Dates to Remember:

Oct	6	Training Blitz – Grazing Plan Development
Oct	7	Training Blitz – Personnel Mgt. Training
Oct	13	Training Blitz – Ed & Outreach During COVID
Oct	20	Training Blitz – Ed & Outreach Water Cons. & Literature
Oct	21	TAC Subcommittee Animal Waste Webinar
Oct	27	Training Blitz – VACS 101 for Directors – registration required
Oct	29	Training Blitz – Legacy Planning for Farm/Forest Owners – registration required
Nov	1	CWFA local and Basin nominations due to DCR
Dec	7	VASWCD Virtual Board Meeting 9 am – noon Need directors to attend.
Dec	7	VASWCD Virtual Business Meeting 2-4 Need directors to attend
Dec	31	4-yr. Long Range Plan/Strategic Plan Due for Culpeper, Northern Virginia, Price William and
		Thomas Jefferson SWCD's.

Poultry Litter Application: \$7.50 per ton to receive in the counties of Culpeper, Madison, Orange and Greene Counties. Litter is coming from Page and Rockingham Counties. D. Cross will send out information on the application.

FORESTRY – J. Kauffman reported Joe Rosetti will be out until the beginning of November. M. Downey is filling in a vacancy at Louisa. Chesapeake Bay Forestry Specialist Anne Ligush will be doing the CREP reenrollments and any riparian buffer plans. She is working out of Charlottesville. DOF nursery sales have begun- now is the time to order. October 15th to the end of November is Fall Fire Season; it is later this year.

9) PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Gehlsen, Prince William Conservation District Director, Area II Chair spoke to the Board on the outlined process for nominations to the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board to be forwarded from the VASWCD to the Governor. The concern is that the VASWCD should forward two nominations per the process outlined in the Code of Virginia, without recommendation for either. That did not occur this past year. Reportedly VASWCD recommended one candidate over the other. Mr. Gehlsen requested the District Board's support of policy development/clarification to prevent any potential discrimination in the process. J. Gehlsen hopes to have a basic framework for policy ready for the next meeting. Discussion followed. T. O'Halloran motioned to support in concept J. Gehlsen's policy. M. Sands seconded the motion. (O'Halloran, Sands, unanimous)

PLAN FOR OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in CULPEPER at the CULPEPER OFFICE)

Committees will meet on Tuesday, October 20, 2020. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00, with a RMP/TRC immediately following Tech and Educational meeting will be held October 20, 2020 via telephone 4 pm. BOARD MEETING FOR NOVEMBER WILL TENTATIVELY BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 IN MADISON COUNTY AT GRAVES MOUNTAIN LODGE.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the October 6, 2020 Board meeting at 11:50.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Graves, Chairman

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JoAnn M. Neal Administrative Secretary

Date Approved _____10-6-2020