

MINUTES

CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING Graves Mountain Lodge Syria, Virginia 22701 January 5, 2021

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

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:
Steve Hill, Madison County
Warren Lee, Orange County, Associate Director
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Steve Morris, Greene County, Director-At Large
Bob Williamson, Culpeper County, Associate Director

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

OTHERS PRESENT : Debbie Cross, CDC, DCR, Via Telephone

- 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 five handouts: Staff Reports, NRCS Report, DCR Monthly Report, a Forage Nutrient Management presentation, and a Soil Sample Sheet from Brad Jarvis.
- 2) **DRAFT MINUTES**
L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the December 1, 2020 Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. M. Sands moved to approve the minutes as presented. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (M. Sands, T. O'Halloran, 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. R. Brame moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (R. Brame, R. Bradford, unanimous)

4) **CONSENT AGENDA**
 Consent Agenda adopted as modified.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
 TREASURER'S REPORT

5) **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

5.1a) **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT-** Technical Committee reporting was split into two sessions, with R. Bradford recusing himself from the first portion. R. Bradford left the meeting while discussion was made regarding approvals as presented.

Items in italics were added at the January 5, 2021 Board Meeting in Syria, 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-8H	2021 VACS	Payne Hay and Straw	07-21-0199	422154	Culpeper	\$ 2,040.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2021 VACS	Dale Welch	07-21-0192	421707	Rappahannock	\$ 8,450.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Yowell Farm Ent.	07-21-0077	416382	Madison	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Yowell Farm Ent.	07-21-0077	422318	Madison	\$ 480.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2021 VACS	Yowell Farm Ent.	07-21-0077	422319	Madison	\$ 380.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Edward Carpenter	07-21-0204	388411	Madison	\$ 80,795.78	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Debra Speyer	07-21-0183	418799	Madison	\$ 18,753.53	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2021 VACS	Debra Speyer	07-21-0183	418822	Madison	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,418.89
WP-2W	2021 VACS	Chris Parrish	07-21-0193	422343	Rappahannock	\$ 7,440.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2021 VACS	George S. Webb	07-21-0060	410459	Greene	\$ 1,275.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL6W	2021 VACS	George S. Webb	07-21-0059	410458	Greene	\$ 3,625.00	\$ 0.00
WP-2W	2021 VACS	Robert Bradford	07-21-0206	422349	Orange	\$ 2,788.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Ronald Taylor	07-21-0205	422342	Orange	\$ 14,008.00	\$ 618.00
SL-6N	2021 VACS	Tim Neale	07-21-0200	422201	Orange	\$ 23,091.25	\$ 3,108.44
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Rive Enterprises	07-21-0201	422202	Madison	\$ 29,932.50	\$ 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>
WP-2W	2021 VACS	River Jordan Farm LLC	07-21-0096	420535	Rappahannock	\$ 11,241.20	\$ 677.57
SL-1	2021 VACS	Ben Smith	07-21-0093	419671	Culpeper	\$ 19,687.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Meredith Bolton	07-20-0386	387113	Rappahannock	\$ 22,526.84	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL6W	2021 VACS	George S. Webb	07-21-0059	410458	Greene	\$ 3,625.00	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2020 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc.*	07-20-0287	381339	Madison	\$ 1,834.40	\$ 0.00
<i>SL-10T</i>	<i>Upper York</i>	<i>Custom Harvesters</i>	<i>07-19-0495</i>	<i>333748</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 13,113.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-6W</i>	<i>2021 VACS</i>	<i>Liberty Hall Plantation LLC**</i>	<i>07-21-0169</i>	<i>419047</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 10,089.10</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-6N</i>	<i>2021 VACS</i>	<i>Liberty Hall Plantation LLC</i>	<i>07-21-0169</i>	<i>419064</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 5,769.38</i>	<i>\$ 480.78</i>
<i>SL-1</i>	<i>2020 VACS</i>	<i>Mike Coates</i>	<i>07-21-0103</i>	<i>420155</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 15,455.53</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-1</i>	<i>2020 VACS</i>	<i>Jean Coates</i>	<i>07-21-0102</i>	<i>420153</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 8,279.69</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>

*Increase in acreage for this practice.

**Increase due to additional fencing and pipeline.

3) The following Upper Hazel 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	DEQ16546	Rachel L. Bynum	07-21-0136	422152	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-3	DEQ16546	Brian M. Czech	07-21-0163	422314	Rappahannock	\$ 2,500.00

4) 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-1	DEQ16678	Aaron Storm	07-21-0209	422441	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16678	James Allen	07-21-0195	421974	Orange	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ16678	Anthony Ferrara, Jr.	07-21-0211	422534	Madison	\$ 1,000.00

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-3M	DEQ16679	Francis Newton	07-21-0045	422126	Madison	\$ 2,200.00

6) The following Upper York 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-3M	DEQ16547	Ryane Wharton	07-21-0202	422213	Orange	\$ 1,000.00

7) 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-3M	DEQ16679	Jerry Butler	07-21-0073	413609	Madison	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	Craig Beauchamp	07-21-0064	411287	Madison	\$ 1,287.50
RB-1	DEQ16679	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	410946	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	410982	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411038	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411066	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-4	DEQ16679	Tyler Perkins	07-21-0047	402637	Madison	\$ 3,834.88

8) The following Upper Rapidan 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	DEQ16678	Catherine Silman	07-20-0318	382994	Greene	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411132	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411134	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411137	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411186	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-1	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411192	Orange	\$ 150.00
RB-3M	DEQ16678	WCH Rentals LLC	07-21-0062	411197	Orange	\$ 150.00

9) The following Hazel 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	DEQ16546	William L. Bynum	07-21-0139	420670	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16546	Rachel L. Bynum	07-21-0136	420665	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16546	Rachel L. Bynum	07-21-0136	422152	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00

RB-1	DEQ16546	Kenneth D. Reid	07-21-0134	420658	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-3	DEQ16546	Matthew R. Mills	07-21-0135	420663	Rappahannock	\$ 2,500.00
RB-1	DEQ 16546	Gregory K. Dixon	07-21-0203	42217	Culpeper	\$ 175.00

10) The following Upper York 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-3M	DEQ16547	Ryane Wharton	07-21-0202	422213	Orange	\$ 237.50

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-5	DEQ 16546	Ronald K Frasier	07-20-0087	367448	Culpeper	\$ 12,000.00
RB-1	DEQ 16546	Brian M. Czech	07-21-0163	421259	Rappahannock	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	Francis Newton	07-21-0045	402606	Madison	\$ 1,100.00
RB-3M	DEQ16678	Donald Rogers	07-21-0072	413222	Madison	\$ 1,000.00

12) Contract 07-21-0062 was changed from Willian Hill to WCH Rentals LLC.

13) Transfer of Responsibility – Donald Dyer has transferred responsibility for his Upper York/WQIF RB-4 contract # 07-20-0472 instance # 384414 to Alan Krueger.

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

- a. Several small dam repair projects were recently awarded to the Culpeper District.
 - i. Two additional Beautiful Run watershed dams will be funded for slip lining the primary spillway. Two have already been funded.
 - ii. A wave berm for Beautiful Run #2A was funded for construction. Design previously completed.
 - iii. A graded filter drain design for Beautiful Run #4. This was much needed.
 - iv. Mountain Run #8A and Beautiful Run #11 will received remote monitoring equipment.
- b. Engineering reviews were recently conducted by DCR engineers on Beautiful Run #1B, 2A, 5 and Mountain Run #8A. All were successful.

15) The District Manager reported that both the Upper Hazel River and Upper Rapidan River TMDL projects were awarded funding for three years. There will be both agricultural and septic cost share funds available under the projects.

16) The Technical Committee discussed the Small Herd Initiative and will begin to inform producers of this new opportunity which will begin July 1, 2021. This initiative focuses on herds of 20-35 bovines and is limited to stream exclusion practices. A separate fund will be used to administer this program in the Chesapeake Bay watershed from rollover funds remaining from the previous year. Successful applicants are guaranteed 100 percent reimbursement on total eligible costs.

17) The Technical Committee discussed the Mobilization Payment Pilot Project (MPPP). The Committee felt that this wasn't a good fit for the Culpeper District and that the producer's needs would be better served under the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (loan fund), an existing program administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The Committee suggested that DCR communicate to DEQ the need to streamline and simplify as best possible, the loan fund.

18) The Technical Committee discussed and reviewed the WQ-1 (Grass Filter Strip) practice. District Staff were tasked with suggesting edits to the practice to encourage producer's to consider adopting this practice, mainly increased payment rates to make the practice an attractive, affordable option. Filter strips have been identified as being a major practice to reduce nitrogen runoff from cropland into the Chesapeake Bay. These suggestions will be sent to DCR for review.

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.

20) The Technical Committee Chairman requested authority from the Board to approve any payments with associated tax credits before the end of the calendar year.

R. Brame moved to approve the Technical Committee Report for BMP payments and funding. M. Sands seconded the motion. (Brame, Sands, unanimous) R. Bradford had recused himself.

5.1b.) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE continued as R. Bradford was called to return to the meeting.

R. Bradford initiated discussion about the Mobilization Payment Pilot Project. The proposal was sent to five different districts and as reported, Culpeper SWCD has determined that it will recommend we not participate, due to many reasons mentioned at the Technical Committee meeting.

Greg Wichelns presented a draft email to Dave Bryan as a proposed response and this was distributed to Board members. Significant additional administrative burden on staff and producers was cited as the main deterrent to accepting the pilot project.

R. Bradford moved that Culpeper not participate in the pilot program and that a letter be sent to Dave Bryan and all members of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board. M. Sands seconded the motion. (Bradford, Sands, unanimous)

D. Cross suggested that Darryl Glover should be copied on the email.

R. Bradford recommended that the District should move forward to solicit dam work bids.

G. Wichelns reported that funding has been approved for primary spillway pipe lining on two Beautiful Run dams in Madison County and that funding for the same had already been committed on two other dams in Madison County. He further reported that the wave berm for Beautiful Run 2A in Madison County was funded for construction and also a graded filter drain design for Beautiful Run #4. Mountain Run #8A and Beautiful Run # 11 will receive remote monitoring equipment. R. Bradford moved to proceed with obtaining bids for these projects. M. Sands seconded the motion. (Bradford, Sands, unanimous)

G. Wichelns requested that R. Bradford discuss the WQ1 cropland practice; water quality filters available from the VACS program. Currently this practice is not market competitive and existing rates are unattractive. District staff had reviewed the specifications and drafted proposed edits. R. Bradford moved to take this subject to the state Technical Advisory Committee with the WQ1 edit suggestions; adding the \$80 per acre per year “rent” payment, changing to a ten-year lifespan and increasing to 95% cost share and a \$250 per acre cap. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, R. Runkle, unanimous)

6) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL

R. Runkle moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:50 a.m., as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A) (1), to discuss personnel performance issues. The Associate Directors and the District Manager were invited to attend. R. Brame seconded the motion. (Runkle, Brame unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 11:15 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. Brame seconded the motion. (Runkle, Brame, unanimous)

R. Bradford moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. R. Brame seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, R. Brame, unanimous)

7) DIRECTORS REPORT

- S. Sharpe reported there will be a “Women in Agriculture” Zoom meeting this evening at 7:30 pm. She also reported other upcoming opportunities: Central Virginia Beginning Farmer Virtual Education and Networking webinars: January 19, Identifying a Market; March 16, Introduction to Tree Fruit Production; and April 20, Pasture Management. All sessions held via Zoom from 7-8 p.m.
- Brad Jarvis stated that he would be presenting an information session about Nutrient Management at the Educational Session after the Board Meeting.
- L. Graves stated that there is a Virtual Training Blitz On January 6th at 10-11:30 am on Partner Agency Panel Updates and Q&A. Also, a reminder regarding Legislative Training on January 7, Thursday at 10 – 11:30 a.m. via Zoom.

8) STAFF

G. Wichelns reminded the Board of last month's discussions on the perennial stream identification and updated them that the procedure was approved by the Soil and Water Conservation Board, and there was no provision for ground truthing. Discussion did occur on the potential impact of climate change. He also informed the Board that new three-year grants would be approved for Upper Hazel and Upper Rapidan.

9) AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS – Written Report.

DCR - D. Cross, who was present via telephone due to current DCR COVID restrictions, reported Quarterly Reports are due on January 15th, 2021. She also pointed out that the IRS mileage rate decreased on January 1, 2021 from 57.5 cents to 56 cents per mile.

D. Cross and S. Sharpe discussed Sarah's appointment and oath; Sarah asked if there was a deadline for her to take said oath; D. Cross responded that she should do it as soon as possible.

Debbie pointed out the Governor's budget proposal included \$35 million for ag BMP cost share in FY22; \$4.55 million in SWCD tech assistance, \$500k for CREP, \$500k for VCAP, \$1 million for poultry litter transport, Resource Management Plans and Nutrient Management plans, as well as \$250k for a DSWC/VSU two year outreach project to inform disadvantaged farmers about DSWC agricultural programs and encourage them to work with their local SWCDs.

D. Cross also highlighted the fact that the DCR and the TAC will propose adding to the legislatively mandated WP-2P Portable Fencing specification an increase of the annual participant cap to \$150,000; loosening of VACS eligibility requirements (i.e. 5 years to 3 years of farming on the land offered in the application); expansion of the SL-7 Extension of Watering Systems practice; and expanded cover crop planting dates. As a result, the VACS Program will have more options and more flexibility for conservation-minded farmers than ever before, putting them in a better position to succeed in meeting water quality goals. This would add two weeks to their planting dates, which is extremely important.

Other points highlighted by D. Cross:

- Upcoming training: (Pre-registration is required to participate in any of these)
 - January 6, 2021: Partner Agency Panel Updates and Q&A 10-11:30 a.m.
 - January 7: Legislative Training: Understanding the Legislative Process, the Work of your VASWCD & the SWCD Role and Impact. 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 - January 8: Chesapeake Bay Best Management Practices (BMP) Survey Effort. 10:00-11:30 a.m.
 - January 20: DEQ Ag BMP Loan Program 101. 1:00-2:00 p.m.
 - February 3: Cover Crop Training. Registration and Session Details TBA
 - March 3: Nutrient Management & Precision Ag Training. Registration and Session Details TBA

10) PLAN FOR JANUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (in CULPEPER at the CULPEPER OFFICE)

Committees will meet on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00 and Educational meeting will be held January 19, 2021 via Zoom or by telephone at 4 pm. **BOARD MEETING FOR FEBRUARY WILL TENTATIVELY BE HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021 IN MADISON COUNTY AT GRAVES MOUNTAIN LODGE.**

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn the January 5, 2021 Board meeting at 12:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Graves, Chairman

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Graves".

JoAnn M. Neal
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved 2/2/2021