

MINUTES

**CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Madison Extension Office
Madison, Virginia 22727
February 1, 2022**

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:05 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lynn Graves, Madison County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Philip Morris, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Brame, Orange County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County
Bob Williamson, Associate Director, Culpeper County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County
Stephen Hill, Madison County
Brad Jarvis, Associate Director, Madison County
Jim Byrne, Associate Director, Madison County
Warren Lee, Associate Director, Orange County

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Wichelns, District Manager
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Davis Lamb, Greene County Board of Supervisors
Debbie Cross, DCR
Ed Furlow, VDOF

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Following a moment of silence, L. Graves led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were nine handouts: District Technical Committee Report Addendum, Draft Pilot Whole Farm Approach, Acronym List, NRCS Report, DCR Report, and four staff work reports.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the January 4, 2022, 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. The Technical Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.1. T. O’Halloran moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. S. Morris seconded the motion. (T. O’Halloran, S. Morris, unanimous)

4) **CONSENT AGENDA**

Consent Agenda adopted as modified.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
OPERATIONS REPORT
TREASURER’S REPORT

5) **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

5.1) **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

R. Bradford announced that the winner of the Rappahannock River Grand Basin Farm Award was the McDaniel family, owners and operators of Heavenly Acres Farm in Greene County, and commended their achievements.

R. Bradford introduced the *Whole Farm Approach Grazing Pilot* to the Board which was created by G. Wichelns and A. McCullen with the help of District staff. G. Wichelns told the Board that the idea originated from a conversation with D. Bryan, DCR, about Culpeper District’s likelihood of being approached for the already existing Whole Farm Crop Land Pilot. After thinking about this and discussing it at the District Technical Committee, it was determined to not be a good fit for the District. That is when the idea of a Whole Farm Approach for Grazing Land was suggested. The Draft Whole Farm Approach for Grazing is proposed as a financial incentive to encourage producers to sign up for all stream exclusion, pasture management, and nutrient management on the entire farm all at once, although actual implementation would occur over several years. The first draft of the Pilot has been completed and is ready to bring to Directors at DCR for consideration. R. Brame moved to approve the Pilot as presented. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (R. Brame, R. Bradford, unanimous)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS:

January 18, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Philip Morris, Greene; Tom O’Halloran, Culpeper; Greg Wichelns, District Manager; Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist; David Massie, Conservation Specialist; Brandy Harris, Conservation Specialist

Items in italics were added at the February 1, 2022 Board Meeting in Madison County, 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	2022 VACS	Dean Schultz	07-22-0254	469536	Greene	\$ 47,325.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	David B. Kay Family Trust	07-22-0261	469680	Orange	\$ 134,130.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Thornhill Farms LLC	07-22-0252	469531	Rappahannock	\$ 60,115.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Christopher Summers	07-22-0192	468035	Madison	\$ 30,972.08	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2022 VACS	Christopher Summers	07-22-0258	469606	Madison	\$ 3,416.00	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2022 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP	07-22-0253	469533	Culpeper	\$ 9,616.00	\$ 0.00

SL-7	2022 VACS	10 Gables Farm LLC	07-22-0259	469640	Madison	\$ 7,140.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Glebe Farm LLC	07-22-0255	469554	Culpeper	\$ 953.60	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Roger Gough	07-22-0256	469585	Madison	\$ 684.20	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Battlepark Farm	07-22-0250	469514	Culpeper	\$ 12,211.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Battlepark Farm	07-22-0250	469513	Culpeper	\$ 6,412.80	\$ 0.00
NM-4	2022 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP	07-22-0267	470002	Culpeper	\$ 1,206.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm Holdings LLC	07-22-0270	470153	Orange	\$ 32,802.70	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm Holdings LLC	07-22-0270	470161	Orange	\$ 15,671.80	\$ 0.00
WQ-4	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm Holdings LLC	07-22-0271	470162	Orange	\$ 18,844.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm LLC	07-22-0272	470163	Orange	\$ 18,072.50	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm LLC	07-22-0272	470174	Orange	\$ 2,913.00	\$ 0.00
WQ-4	2022 VACS	Glenmary Farm LLC	07-22-0273	470176	Orange	\$ 7,887.00	\$ 0.00
WQ-4	2022 VACS	Tom Nixon	07-22-0274	470177	Orange	\$ 6,677.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Nixon Farms LLC	07-22-0275	470179	Orange	\$ 3,904.20	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Nixon Farms LLC	07-22-0275	470180	Orange	\$ 375.60	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Western View LLC	07-22-0276	470182	Orange	\$ 5,233.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Western View LLC	07-22-0276	470183	Orange	\$ 954.00	\$ 0.00
WQ-4	2022 VACS	Western View LLC	07-22-0277	470184	Orange	\$ 15,202.20	\$ 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>
SL-10	2022 VACS	Bobby Pace	07-22-0123	464894	Orange	\$ 8,106.75	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2022 VACS	Bobby Pace	07-22-0123	464909	Orange	\$ 2,598.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2022 VACS	Bobby Pace	07-22-0123	464910	Orange	\$ 1,575.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Tim Neale*	07-22-0036	443054	Orange	\$ 93,456.25	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2022 VACS	Andrew J. Haley	07-22-0038	440325	Rappahannock	\$ 7,307.32	\$ 885.67
FR-1	2022 VACS	Andrew J. Haley	07-22-0038	440328	Rappahannock	\$ 8,280.80	\$ 1,779.80
FR-1	2022 VACS	Philip L. Kennicott	07-22-0028	440506	Rappahannock	\$ 2,894.06	\$ 173.67

*Increase due to buffer width change from 35' to 50' and added stream fence on land that was purchased since original application was taken.

3) The following Robinson 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-3M	DEQ16679	Richard Hyde	07-22-0248	469450	Madison	\$ 2,400.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	Daniel Barrale	07-22-0260	469644	Madison	\$ 1,600.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	Jennifer Hansen	07-22-0257	469591	Madison	\$ 193.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	William Nicholson	07-22-0249	469509	Madison	\$ 1,000.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	William Nicholson	07-22-0249	470073	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	Dana Hicks	07-22-0048	469996	Madison	\$ 175.00

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-3M	PO17083	Anthony Schienschang	07-22-0268	470071	Orange	\$ 1,500.00

5) 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-4	PO16974	Norma Perry	07-22-0269	470131	Orange	\$ 4,400.00

6) The following Upper York 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	PO16974	Jerry Shire	07-22-0246	469164	Orange	\$ 1,500.00
RB-3M	PO16974	John Peterson	07-22-0133	465407	Orange	\$ 1,050.00

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-1	DEQ16679	Norris John	07-22-0190	468033	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	William Craig	07-22-0227	428760	Madison	\$ 175.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ16679</i>	<i>Dana Hicks</i>	<i>07-22-0048</i>	<i>469996</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 175.00</i>

8) *The following Residential participant has been canceled 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>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ16679</i>	<i>Dana Hicks</i>	<i>07-22-0048</i>	<i>446260</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>

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

- a. Schnabel Engineering has completed the “as-built” documentation for the slip lining of the primary spillways.
- b. Tentative dates for the spring dam inspections will be April 12th and 13th, 2022.

10) 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.

11) The Technical Committee had a conference call concerning the Whole Farm Approach Pilot Project for Cropland. Amy Walker, acting Eastern Area Manager for DCR, explained how the Pilot Project worked in other soil and water districts. Both district staff and directors had questions on specifications regarding the project. This district will revisit this topic at the February Technical Committee meeting.

12) The Technical Committee reviewed a draft proposal from district staff regarding a Whole Farm Approach for grazing systems. This proposal would be structured similar to the Whole Farm Approach for cropland. This proposal could be submitted to DCR for future program consideration.

13) District Staff informed the Technical Committee about the upcoming Tillage and Cover Crop Surveys which will take place this spring. DCR has contracted the work for the cover crop survey and the district is responsible for the Tillage Survey.

14) Due to recent power outages, the district is exploring options for informing producers for alternative ways to supply their livestock with water if their pressurized water system is inoperable.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report without further discussion. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

6) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE MATTERS

R. Runkle moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:23 A.M. as provided for in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A) (1) to discuss personnel performance matters. The Associate Directors and the District Manager were invited to attend. T. O’Halloran seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, T. O’Halloran unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 10:29 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. (R. Runkle, R. Bradford, unanimous)

T. O’Halloran moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. M. Sands seconded the motion. (T. O’Halloran, M. Sands, unanimous)

7) DIRECTOR REPORTS

S. Sharpe let the Board know that the Vegetable Program in Greene County would be tonight (February 1, 2022) and that there would be a topic of Solar Powered Watering Systems. She also let the Board know that there will be a Beef Cattle Program on March 9 to discuss retained ownership and herd health.

T. O’Halloran announced that Farm Bureau announced that there might be an upcoming change to the policy of “Farm Use” vehicle tags.

L. Graves attended the Agriculture Business Banquet in Richmond and let the Board know that Agricultural Stewardship Act Program has hired Tim Abbott as an additional employee and he will take over for Tim Higgs in the area extending from Harrisonburg through the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. L. Graves will also be attending the Mid Atlantic Fruit and Vegetable Conference in Pennsylvania this week.

8) STAFF REPORTS

G. Wichelns updated the Board on the progress of advocating for budget amendments, stating that he emailed members of the State General Assembly and did get some responses. He also announcing that the Dam projects are complete and paid and all necessary documents have been sent to NRCS in Richmond. He invited members of the Board to come along for dam owner inspections on April 13th and 14th.

9) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR – D. Cross addressed several topics covered in her written report submitted to the Board. She reviewed State Budget Amendments of interest to SWCDs, personal changes at DCR that are likely to impact SWCD employees and several mandatory grant agreement items. D. Cross also alerted the Board about an upcoming agreement with DCR addressing the Tillage Survey. The VASWCD Area II Spring Meeting will be held virtually on April 20, 2022.

DOF – E. Furlow announced that there is an open position at the Department of Forestry for Rappahannock County but that the rest of the department has been fully staffed for the Culpeper District. He reminded the Board that it is almost pine/hardwood planting season, and that Spring fire season begins on February 15th. He also announced that DOF is working on implementing a Hardwood Cost-Share Program which intends to improve existing forests. He also shared that as the season approaches, free pine seedlings will become available. E. Furlow invited the Board and public to attend the Virginia Forestry Association Annual Meeting which will be held from May 3-6 in Blacksburg.

NRCS – A written report was submitted by R. Rexrode.

10) PLAN FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IN PERSON)

Committees will meet at the Madison Extension Office on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Legislative 10:00, Technical 10:20. Tentatively, the Education Committee will meet the same day at 4:00 PM via Zoom or Telephone. **BOARD MEETING FOR FEBRUARY WILL TENTATIVELY BE HELD TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022, in person, at 10:00 AM at the Piedmont Virginia Community College in Greene County.**

11) ADJOURNMENT

R. Bradford motioned to adjourn February 1, 2022, Board meeting at 11:14 AM. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Graves, Chairman

Stevie Ross
Administrative Secretary

Date Approved _____, 2022