

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PVCC
Greene, Virginia 22973
March 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:02 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lynn Graves, Madison County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Steve Morris, Greene County
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper 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
Brad Jarvis, Associate Director, Madison County
Bob Williamson, Associate Director, Culpeper County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Stephen Hill, Madison County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene 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 (Telephone)

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Following a moment of silence, L. Graves led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were two handouts: District Technical Committee Report Addendum and DCR Report.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the February 1 2022, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. T. O'Halloran moved to approve the minutes as presented. M. Sands seconded the motion. (T. O'Halloran, M. Sands, 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 and the Operations Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. The Personnel Committee was added to the Agenda as a Closed Session as 5.3. 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.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
TREASURER’S REPORT

5) **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

5.1) **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

R. Bradford updated the Board on the *Whole Farm Approach Grazing Pilot* which was created by G. Wichelns and A. McCullen with the help of District staff. A draft of the pilot was sent to Darryl Glover, Deputy Director of Soil and Water Conservation at DCR, who suggested some changes and advised to send the proposal to the Technical Advisory Committee once modified.

R. Bradford informed the Board that the Technical Committee will be discussing an invitation the District has received to participate in a Pilot program designed by DCR to implement a new practice; SL-10E (Enhanced Grazing Land Management). The practice is designed to use enhanced soil testing and nutrient management along with strategic placing of hay feeding areas to promote microbial activity. It is proposed that this could lessen the need for nitrogen fertilization on stock piled tall fescue.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS:

February 15, 2022 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)

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

Items in italics were added at the March 1, 2022 Board Meeting in Greene 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>
CCI-SL-6N	2022 VACS	Robert Brockman	07-22-0279	470578	Madison	\$ 4,861.25	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Robert Brockman	07-22-0279	470579	Madison	\$ 13,587.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Cherry Grove Farm Ent. Inc.	07-22-0236	469092	Orange	\$ 5,298.58	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2022 VACS	David Dowler	07-22-0282	470569	Rappahannock	\$ 16,095.00	\$ 1,051.25
SL-1	2022 VACS	Western View LLC	07-22-0283	470680	Culpeper	\$ 43,862.50	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2022 VACS	Mike Coates	07-22-0284	470696	Madison	\$ 25,911.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Hazel River Farm LLC	07-22-0280	470160	Culpeper	\$ 43,635.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Kenneth Gerhart	07-22-0291	470550	Madison	\$ 12,275.50	\$ 0.00

SL-8B	2022 VACS	Tyler Marshall	07-22-0285	470702	Orange	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2022 VACS	Nathan Rosenberger	07-22-0290	470783	Culpeper	\$ 1,742.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Shane Cheek	07-22-0287	470707	Orange	\$ 885.80	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2022 VACS	Bees and Trees Farm LLC	07-22-0281	470663	Culpeper	\$ 441.00	\$ 0.00
WP-3	2022 VACS	Waterstone Farm LLC	07-22-0289	470770	Madison	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 105.00
WP-3	2022 VACS	Waterstone Farm LLC	07-22-0289	470778	Madison	\$ 1,251.00	\$ 104.25
WP-3	2022 VACS	Waterstone Farm LLC	07-22-0289	470779	Madison	\$ 1,008.00	\$ 84.00
WP-3	2022 VACS	Waterstone Farm LLC	07-22-0289	470780	Madison	\$ 1,512.00	\$ 126.00
WP-3	2022 VACS	Waterstone Farm LLC	07-22-0289	470781	Madison	\$ 1,698.00	\$ 141.50
FR-1	2022 VACS	Andrew Knick	07-22-0300	469097	Greene	\$ 6,870.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2022 VACS	Andrew Knick	07-22-0300	469098	Greene	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Charles Woolfrey	07-22-0303	471720	Orange	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	La Grange Cattle Company LLC	07-22-0301	471233	Culpeper	\$ 7,278.75	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Robert Clements	07-22-0263	470407	Rappahannock	\$ 7,376.25	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2022 VACS	Mystic Hill Farms LLC	07-22-0302	417644	Culpeper	\$ 840.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Ron Burlison	07-22-0297	470913	Orange	\$ 7,963.75	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Roundabout Farm	07-22-0305	470010	Orange	\$ 33,823.35	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2022 VACS	Charles Woolfrey	07-22-0304	471729	Orange	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 0.00

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Credit
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Brian Dodd	07-21-0056	408790	Culpeper	\$ 8,373.58	\$ 190.15
SL-7	2021 VACS	Spotswood LP*	07-21-0304	431780	Culpeper	\$ 14,169.94	\$ 2,003.70
FR-1	2022 VACS	Kendal Shaver	07-22-0052	447032	Madison	\$ 3,130.00	\$ 207.50
FR-3	2022 VACS	Kendal Shaver	07-22-0052	447036	Madison	\$ 11,275.75	\$ 27.31
CCI-CNT	2022 VACS	AMCARWILL LLC	07-22-0237	468978	Madison	\$ 4,778.50	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Cherry Grove Farm Ent. Inc.	07-22-0236	469092	Orange	\$ 5,298.58	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Charles Woolfrey	07-22-0303	471720	Orange	\$ 4,875.00	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	La Grange Cattle Company LLC	07-22-0301	471233	Culpeper	\$ 7,278.75	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2022 VACS	Robert Clements	07-22-0263	470407	Rappahannock	\$ 7,376.25	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc. **	07-21-0049	404690	Orange	\$ 62,188.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc. **	07-21-0049	404690	Orange	\$ 16,875.13	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Edgewood Miller Farm LLC***	07-21-0081	418924	Orange	\$ 27,732.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Edgewood Miller Farm LLC***	07-21-0081	418924	Orange	\$ 10,218.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Lindsay Eastham****	07-22-0131	426672	Rappahannock	\$ 28,109.97	\$ 0.00

*Increase for additional stream exclusion fence and pipeline footage.

**Increase due to well depth and combining two systems together, and increased fence and pipeline footage.

***Increase due to added buffer width.

****Increase for additional stream exclusion fence and pipeline footage.

3) The following BMP applicants have requested to cancel their contract:

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount	Tax Credit
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Green Leaf Land & Timber LLC	07-20-0316	379625	Culpeper	\$100,000.00	\$ 0.00
WP-2A	2020 VACS	W.J. Davis	07-20-0353	383947	Madison	\$ 92,439.30	\$ 0.00
NM-1A	2022 VACS	AMCARWILL LLC	07-22-0240	468991	Madison	\$ 1,104.08	\$ 0.00

4) 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-1	DEQ16679	Christine Stephens	07-22-0293	470792	Madison	\$ 210.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	William Nicholson	07-22-0249	471894	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-1	DEQ16679	Wanda Anderson	07-22-0307	471925	Madison	\$ 175.00

5) 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	Theresa Sisson	07-22-0243	469114	Madison	\$ 162.50
RB-1	DEQ16679	Alison Crane	07-22-0160	466625	Madison	\$ 175.00
RB-3M	DEQ16679	Debra Hurt	07-22-0238	468986	Madison	\$ 237.50

6) 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>
RB-3M	DEQ16679	William Nicholson	07-22-0249	469509	Madison	\$ 1,000.00

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

- a. There was discussion concerning the wetness at the downstream right toe of the slope on Beautiful Run #4. It was decided that the District will monitor and pursue a design for tile drainage to address the issue.
- b. The Committee requests that the Board grant the Technical Committee Chairman the authority to open bids and make an award on their behalf for tree and road clearing on several Beautiful Run dams. Sealed bids are due to the District Office by 4 P.M. on Monday, March 7, 2022 and will be opened in Orange the following day.

8) 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.

9) The Board of Directors discussed both the Whole Farm Approach – Grazing Pilot Project and the Grazing Land Management Enhanced Pilot Project (SL-10E).

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

5.2) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

G. Wichelns presented the Board with a question from staff regarding mileage reimbursements. As of January 1, 2022, the IRS set the mileage reimbursement rate as 58.5 cents per mile. With rising gas prices, staff inquired about an increase in this reimbursement rate. R. Brame moved to continue matching the IRS recommended rate. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Brame, M. Sands, unanimous)

G. Wichelns confirmed that the Operations Committee had fully completed a review of the Desktop Guide for Fiscal Operations.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Operations Committee Report without further discussion. R. Brame seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, R. Brame, unanimous)

5.3) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE MATTERS

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 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 10:19 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)

R. Runkle moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

6) DIRECTOR REPORTS

T. O'Halloran announced that the zoning application for the Amazon Data Center on Route 3 will soon be going before the Culpeper Board of Supervisors.

R. Bradford shared that the Woods and Wildlife Conference at Germanna Community College Workforce Center was well attended.

B. Jarvis reminded the Board that there will be a Beef Producers Education Program on Wednesday evening at 5:30, dinner will be provided, and it is not too late to register.

D. Verhoff brought two books to recommend for reading. The first book was *Toxic Legacy* by Stephanie Seneff which discusses the toxicity of weedkillers. The second book was *Dirt to Soil* by Gabe Brown which is about regenerative farming.

S. Morris shared that he had recently read about studies elaborating the effect that pharmaceuticals have on fish. Aside from when not being properly disposed of, pharmaceuticals also make their way into the water through human excrement and wastewater treatment plants. The studies show that antidepressants have had an effect on migration and spawning habits in fish.

L. Graves announced that the State Association Quarterly Meeting will be held on March 24th. He then stood up to present a Chairman's Award Plaque to a former District Board Chairman who is now head of the District Personnel Committee and has dedicated many years of service to the District, Robert Runkle. All clapped and congratulated Robert Runkle on his recognition.

7) STAFF REPORTS

G. Wichelns acknowledged the generosity of the various organizations that host our monthly Board meetings. Then, he reported that he had escorted two contractors for the tree removal bid at dam sites. Many trees were damaged as a result of heavy snow and strong winds and should ideally be removed before dam inspections are done in April. The bids will be opened by G. Wichelns and R. Bradford next week. G. Wichelns also reported that he and S. Ross have been working on updating documents to reflect changes of land ownership in all areas that would be affected by any dam failures, all to include updated contact information in the event of an emergency. This can be a slow process but it is underway and is a Virginia Code requirement. G. Wichelns and S. Ross are also looking at all easements co-held with Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF). All will be inspected by VOF this year. G. Wichelns then shared with the Board that he met with Culpeper County to begin discussions for their involvement in an upcoming grant that will include the Town of Culpeper. This grant will not be submitted until July.

8) **AGENCY REPORTS**

DCR – D. Cross reminded the District that FY22 3rd Quarter reports are due on April 15, 2022 and that the review of *Desktop Procedures for District Fiscal Operations* needs to be completed and done this month. She also went over some potential changes to the State Budget that will include multiple increases. D. Cross also reminded the Board that Tillage Survey MOUs need to be signed by April 1st. She went over other upcoming dates as listed on her written report and announced open CDC positions in Abingdon and Suffolk.

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

9) **PLAN FOR MARCH COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IN PERSON)**

Committees will meet at the Madison Extension Office on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00. Tentatively, the Education Committee will meet the same day at 3:30 PM via Zoom or Telephone. **BOARD MEETING FOR APRIL WILL TENTATIVELY BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022, in person, at 10:00 AM at the Orange Madison Co-op Orange Unit in Orange County.**

10) **ADJOURNMENT**

R. Bradford motioned to adjourn March 1, 2022, Board meeting at 10:52 AM. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,

Stevie Ross
Administrative Secretary

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: April 5, 2022