

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Town of Orange Public Works
Orange, Virginia
July 6, 2023

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lynn Graves, Madison County
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Brame, Orange County
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County
Brad Jarvis, Associate Director, Madison County
Bob Williamson, Associate Director, Culpeper County
Warren Lee, Associate Director, Orange County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
Philip Morris, Greene County
Steve Morris, Greene County
Stephen Hill, Madison County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Wichelns, District Manager
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist
Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Education Specialist
Brandy Harris, Conservation Specialist
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Cross, DCR
Rex Rexrode, NRCS
Stuart Baker, VDOF
Davis Lamb, Greene County

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, W. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were eight handouts: Modified FY24 District Operating Budget, District Amended Legislative Committee Report, District Technical Committee Addendum, DCR Report, NRCS Report and three Staff Reports.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the June 6, 2023, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. D. Verhoff moved to approve the Minutes as presented. M. Sands seconded the motion. (D. Verhoff, M. Sands, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. The Legislative Committee Report was placed on the Agenda as 5.1. The Technical Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. The Operations Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.3. D. Verhoff moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (D. Verhoff, R. Runkle, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda adopted as modified.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

FY24 ADMINISTRATIVE AND OPERATIONAL GRANT AGREEMENT

DCR/SWCD AGREEMENT NUMBER 503-OPS-24-08-GF

FY24 COST SHARE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT AGREEMENT

DCR/SWCD AGREEMENT NUMBER 503-CSTA-24-08-GF

NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS

Culpeper	78.1 Acres	Brush Mgmt., Herbaceous Weed Control, Wildlife Planting, Tree Planting, Timber Stand Improvement
Culpeper	155.3 Acres	Brush Mgmt., Herbaceous Weed Control, Wildlife Planting, Tree Planting, Prescribed Burning
Madison	244 Acres	Brush Mgmt., Herbaceous Weed Control, Wildlife Planting, Tree Planting, Timber Stand Improvement

5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

5.1) LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Legislative Committee presented the Amended Draft FY25 District Legislative Agenda for consideration with a recommendation for approval. The only amendment was the removal of item number three on the previous draft, which was in support recalibrating “Base TA” for the VACS Program to be consistent with “Base Level Funding” as identified by DCR by the Budget Template process. TheDraft Agenda now includes: Support funding for the Virginia Agricultural Best Management Cost Share Program (VACS) and associated Technical Assistance (TA) at the full level as identified by the most current Ag Needs Assessment Study; Support District Operations funding at 100% of the need as identified by the most recent Budget Template submissions; Recommend funding for the District Small Dam Repairs at \$1 million per year for each year of the biennium; and Recommend funding for VCAP at \$2 million per year for each year of the new biennium, plus provide \$500,000 per year for each year to support the development and/or expansion of SWCD staff capacity for the VCAP Program.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Legislative Committee’s recommendations as presented. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

5.2) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS:

June 20, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper; Robert Runkle, Greene; Mike Sands, Rappahannock; Brad Jarvis, Madison VCE; Jack Bourdan, Madison VCE Intern; Greg Wichelns, District Manager; Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist; David Massie, Conservation Specialist; Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist; Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist; Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist; Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist; Brandy Harris, Conservation Specialist

Items in italics were added at the July 6, 2023 Board Meeting in Orange 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>
NM-1A	2023 VACS	Bar M Farms LLC	07-23-0477	529423	Orange	\$ 1,269.20	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2023 VACS	Brandy Rock Farm Inc.	07-23-0483	529473	Culpeper	\$ 1,320.00	\$ 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>
FR-1	2022 VACS	Andrew Knick	07-22-0300	469098	Orange	\$ 2,593.50	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2022 VACS	Andrew Knick*	07-22-0300	469097	Orange	\$ 12,828.42	\$ 0.00
NM-1A	2023 VACS	Bar M Farms LLC	07-23-0477	529423	Orange	\$ 1,269.20	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2023 VACS	Glebe Farm LLC	07-23-0440	527800	Culpeper	\$ 2,432.40	\$ 0.00
NM-4	2023 VACS	Dennis Brown	07-23-0300	522470	Culpeper	\$ 810.00	\$ 0.00
NM-5P	2023 VACS	Dennis Brown	07-23-0301	522471	Culpeper	\$ 8,712.00	\$ 0.00
NM-5P	2023 VACS	Wedderburn Farm	07-23-0410	525792	Culpeper	\$ 888.00	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2023 VACS	Brian Craig	07-23-0062	510679	Culpeper	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Wedderburn Farm	07-23-0151	518271	Culpeper	\$ 9,720.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Moriah Grain Farm LC	07-23-0033	501788	Culpeper	\$ 30,600.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Levi Atkins	07-23-0088	514729	Rappahannock	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.**	07-23-0122	517605	Culpeper	\$ 5,430.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Beauregard Farm, Inc.	07-23-0141	517891	Culpeper	\$ 20,430.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP**	07-23-0135	517814	Culpeper	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP**	07-23-0140	517890	Culpeper	\$ 125,820.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	William Brown III	07-23-0147	517966	Culpeper	\$ 8,034.30	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Herren Farms, LLC**	07-23-0056	506677	Culpeper	\$ 67,590.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Hunter Weaver	07-23-0104	517303	Madison	\$ 600.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Brooke Farms**	07-23-0070	513684	Orange	\$ 9,503.20	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Brooke Farms**	07-23-0070	513686	Orange	\$ 64,740.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Payne Hay And Straw Inc**	07-23-0173	518636	Culpeper	\$ 5,234.60	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Mt. Pony Farms	07-23-0266	521283	Culpeper	\$ 49,534.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Mt. Pony Farms	07-23-0267	521284	Culpeper	\$ 3,671.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Nathan Rosenberger**	07-23-0275	521486	Culpeper	\$ 22,705.80	\$ 0.00
SL6-N	2021 VACS	Hunter Weaver	07-21-0004	390414	Madison	\$ 16,406.03	\$ 3,700.18
SL6-N	2022 VACS	Hunter Weaver	07-21-0004	390414	Madison	\$ 4,687.14	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Tim Neale***	07-23-0152	518110	Orange	\$ 46,128.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Senterfitt Farms****	07-23-0263	521209	Madison	\$ 28,664.59	\$ 960.74
SL-6W	2020 VACS	Chadwick Lohr*****	07-20-0065	363172	Madison	\$ 51,665.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Chadwick Lohr*****	07-20-0065	363172	Madison	\$ 11,602.50	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2021 VACS	Locust Dale Enterprises LLC	07-21-0303	431797	Culpeper	\$ 2,531.25	\$ 0.00

SL-7	2023 VACS	Locust Dale Enterprises LLC	07-21-0303	431797	Culpeper	\$ 885.73	\$ 284.75
SL-7	2021 VACS	Locust Dale Enterprises LLC	07-21-0306	431819	Culpeper	\$ 2,632.50	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2023 VACS	Locust Dale Enterprises LLC	07-21-0306	431819	Culpeper	\$ 676.50	\$ 275.75
SL-15A	2023 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.	07-23-0389	525158	Orange	\$ 56,000.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2022 VACS	<i>Kathryn L. Hughes</i>	07-22-0099	463906	Madison	\$ 6,345.60	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2022 VACS	<i>John Schwab</i>	07-22-0117	464307	Rappahannock	\$ 4,438.25	\$ 277.39
SL-6N	2022 VACS	<i>Brook Lane Farm LLC</i>	07-22-0242	469105	Orange	\$ 8,219.75	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2023 VACS	<i>Brook Lane Farm LLC*****</i>	07-22-0242	469105	Orange	\$ 1,941.45	\$ 3,836.85
SL-6N	2021 VACS	<i>William Settle</i>	07-21-0144	388322	Rappahannock	\$ 14,620.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2022 VACS	<i>William Settle</i>	07-21-0144	388322	Rappahannock	\$ 1,459.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2023 VACS	<i>William Settle</i>	07-21-0144	388322	Rappahannock	\$ 2,377.50	\$ 2,436.75
SL-6W	2021 VACS	<i>Brandon VanHoven</i>	07-21-0018	394753	Orange	\$ 80,841.65	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	<i>Brandon VanHoven</i>	07-21-0018	394753	Orange	\$ 18,040.50	\$ 0.00

The Technical Committee approved an increase for:

*additional acres of riparian forested buffer planted.

**additional acres of cover crop acres planted and/or change in cover crop species.

***two additional troughs, pipeline, and stream exclusion fence.

****additional buffer acreage and wider crossing

*****additional footage of pipeline or stream exclusion fence.

3) The following BMP participants have cancelled their application:

<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-CNT	2023 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.	07-23-0388	525157	Orange	\$ 13,575.00	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2022 VACS	10 Gables Farm LLC	07-22-0241	468977	Madison	\$ 337.50	\$ 18.13
NM-1A	2023 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.	07-23-0391	525161	Orange	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2023 VACS	Judith Addis	07-23-0004	487566	Culpeper	\$ 10,517.50	\$ 1,126.88
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Robert Norris	07-23-0369	524011	Culpeper	\$ 27,338.50	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2023 VACS	Roger Gough	07-23-0273	521329	Madison	\$ 746.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2023 VACS	Timothy Weekes	07-23-0238	520661	Orange	\$ 1,040.20	\$ 0.00
WQ-4	2023 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP	07-23-0139	517889	Culpeper	\$ 3,420.00	\$ 0.00

4) The following Upper 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	DEQ17220	Nicole Lam	07-23-0481	529466	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Donald Nicholson	07-23-0478	529463	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Margaret Haluska	07-23-0325	529445	Madison	\$ 320.00
RB-3	DEQ17220	Cecelia Rowe	07-23-0305	529479	Madison	\$ 4,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Karen Parkinson	07-23-0480	529465	Culpeper	\$ 1,000.00
RB-4	DEQ17220	Rose Moore	07-23-0482	529468	Culpeper	\$ 4,000.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Wendy Holt	07-23-0402	529453	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Lucy Gibbs	07-23-0485	529580	Madison	\$ 1,600.00

5) 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-3M	DEQ17084	Victoria Fortuna	07-23-0479	529464	Rappahannock	\$ 1,000.00

6) The following Upper Rapidan 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	PO17083	Meredith Lobello	07-23-0416	529368	Orange	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Donna Armstrong	07-23-0484	529579	Madison	\$ 1,600.00

7) The following Upper 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-3M	DEQ17084	Elizabeth Hille	07-23-0444	528521	Rappahannock	\$ 3,000.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Joseph Facchina</i>	<i>07-23-0429</i>	<i>526557</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 320.00</i>
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Anne-Marie Stacey	07-23-0326	528940	Rappahannock	\$ 2,000.00
RB-4P	DEQ17084	Michelle Trufant	07-23-0437	527744	Rappahannock	\$ 6,000.00

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-3M	PO17083	Arianne Wojcik	07-23-0097	516463	Orange	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Meredith Lobello	07-23-0416	529368	Orange	\$ 1,000.00
<i>RB-5</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Kristine Roberts</i>	<i>07-23-0212</i>	<i>520063</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$18,526.40</i>

9) 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-1	PO16974	Jennifer Bryington	07-23-0323	522999	Orange	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO16974	Patricia Cumberbatch	07-23-0366	524574	Orange	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	PO16974	Sidney Pace II	07-23-0061	510630	Orange	\$ 2,000.00

10) 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	DEQ17220	Anne-Marie Pfaff	07-23-0290	521869	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Linda McLaughlin	07-23-0277	521631	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Wendy Holt	07-23-0402	529453	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Margaret Haluska	07-23-0325	529445	Madison	\$ 320.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Donna Alvey	07-23-0425	527865	Culpeper	\$ 1,261.50
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Sheri Dodson	07-23-0302	522488	Culpeper	\$ 300.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Christopher Cowan</i>	<i>07-23-0353</i>	<i>523787</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Louis Messa</i>	<i>07-23-0447</i>	<i>527979</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Faye Cowan</i>	<i>07-23-0338</i>	<i>523035</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 260.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Constance Chamberlin</i>	<i>07-23-0016</i>	<i>529533</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 400.00</i>
<i>RB-4</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Ronald Peters</i>	<i>07-23-0376</i>	<i>526547</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 4,000.00</i>

11) The following Residential applicants have 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-1	PO17083	Meredith Lobello	07-23-0416	525809	Orange	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Bradley Stepp	07-23-0078	514639	Culpeper	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Wendy Holt	07-23-0402	525266	Culpeper	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Leon Jarvis	07-23-0311	522676	Madison	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Glen Woodward	07-23-0086	514723	Culpeper	\$ 1,500.00
RB-3M	PO16974	George Yancey	07-23-0012	487494	Orange	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Diana Wright	07-23-0024	495795	Madison	\$ 1,600.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Margaret Haluska	07-23-0325	523002	Madison	\$ 1,600.00
RB-4	DEQ17220	Kevin Grand Pre	07-23-0307	522497	Madison	\$ 4,400.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Rick Lyles</i>	<i>07-23-0138</i>	<i>517886</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>April Galdamez</i>	<i>07-23-0168</i>	<i>518616</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Justine Gray</i>	<i>07-23-0076</i>	<i>514628</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Jennifer Weaver</i>	<i>07-23-0268</i>	<i>521285</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

- 12) The Technical Committee discussed and approved the FY 2024 Cost Estimate List, Secondary Considerations, and Carryover List. District Staff will send the Secondary Considerations to DCR for approval and staff will finalize the Carryover Report for Mr. Graves' signature.
- 13) The Technical Committee briefly discussed the Clean Water Farm Awards nominations for this year. Directors are encouraged to discuss nominations with Staff members.
- 14) Brad Jarvis, Unit Coordinator Extension Agent at Madison VCE, presented the Technical Committee with information on a pilot project that aims to assist producers with obtaining nutrient management plans through the submission of soil samples, crop information, and soil management history to the Virginia Tech Soils Lab. More details to follow.

R. Bradford reported that all additions have been reviewed by the Technical Committee and that payments listed have been approved. R. Bradford also reminded all to continue to consider nominees for District Conservation Awards and stated that the Technical Committee hopes to review nominations at the July Technical Committee Meeting.

R. Brame moved to authorize the submission of the Secondary Considerations to Sarah Bottenfield at DCR. R. Runkle seconded the motion. (R. Brame, R. Runkle, unanimous)

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report as presented, including the additions and the Carryover Report. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

5.3) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:

G. Wichelns briefly reviewed the updated Draft Operations Budget which now includes a second additional line item for hiring a second additional staff member and also provided a brief review of the Budget Template document and the Committee's recommendation for approval.

G. Wichelns reported that the Culpeper District Office is moving forward with Mr. Corbin to secure a building expansion design and let the Board know that both NRCS and Rural Development have offered to continue to share space with the Culpeper District until the expansion is complete. He also reported that the Orange USDA office is currently renegotiating their lease and that he is not sure what changes might occur, but that he expects the District to continue to be able to utilize office space there. More news on this is expected by January, 2024.

R. Brame moved to approve the Operations Committee Report as presented, including approval of the Operations Budget and the Budget Template document for submission to DCR. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (R. Brame, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

6.1) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL 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 Matters. The Associate Directors and the District Manager were invited to attend. R. Brame seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, R. Brame, unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 10:27 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. (R. Runkle, R. Brame, unanimous)

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

Robert Runkle, Personnel Committee Chair, read a Board Resolution (below) recognizing District staff for their hard work and accomplishments, including obligating unprecedented funding, managing an increased workload, and reaching every 6th grade class in the five-county district. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Runkle announced that the Board has awarded each Full Time Staff member of the District a \$1,500 bonus, and Part Time Staff with a \$750 bonus. Lynn Graves presented each award individually.

RESOLUTION

Whereas The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District (District) is a Political Subdivision of the Commonwealth of Virginia established October 4, 1939, and charged with providing local leadership and direction for the management of natural resources in the Member Counties;

Whereas The District Board of Directors, as elected by their constituents, is charged with, among many other things, the employment and management of competent District Staff to develop and/or deliver conservation programs and services to their constituents;

Whereas The trajectory of the Commonwealth of Virginia for accomplishing its agreed upon or otherwise required water quality and land management goals, continues to steepen year after year;

Whereas Commonwealth of Virginia Fiscal Year 2023 brought to the District unprecedented levels of program funding and unprecedented levels of workload across all program areas;

Whereas That amidst the unprecedented workload and program expansions that District Staff morale and work ethic remained intact and high;

Whereas In 2023 District Staff placed a record level \$7 million in agricultural cost share funds; the highest ever by the District;

Whereas In 2023 District Staff continue to implement 4 different Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) watershed projects while also pursuing 2 more such projects in the District;

Whereas District Staff have been involved from the inception with the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) and have significantly expanded VCAP activity in the District in 2023;

Whereas District Staff recently completed a 3 year National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration BWET grant educating all 6th graders in the District and their instructors on watershed education;

Whereas District Staff continue to provide excellent financial and administrative services to the District Board year after year and ;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; That on this date, July 6, 2023 the Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors acknowledges all the aforementioned facts to be true and that the District Staff be officially recognized for their professionalism, productivity and team effort and hereby instruct the District Manager to secure an award wall plaque of this Resolution and for it to be permanently affixed to the walls of the District Office; and that all Full Time District Staff receive a \$1,500 Year End Bonus; Part time \$750.

7) DIRECTOR REPORTS

W. Lee reported that he will be stepping down from his position as Orange County Associate Director. He also reported that Lake of the Woods has been busy with many watershed activities and that nearby developers are planning to expand and construct a new development containing about 2,700 homes. The Orange County Board of Supervisors gave its approval for the project.

B. Jarvis reported that the Madison County Fair is coming up and that the Madison Extension Office has been cleaning in preparation for this. He also reported that a USDA Certified Meat Processing Plant which has been under development but was delayed and is now expected to open in the next 45 days.

S. Sharpe reported that her recent Goat Program hosted 15-20 participants. She also reported that Greene County has hired Cathy Schafrik as the new Greene County Administrator.

M. Sands reported that there will be a Producer Workshop titled “Bees and Beef” for integrating wildflowers into grazing systems on August 3rd at the Smithsonian Institute in Front Royal and follow up at a local farm in Flint Hill. He will be sending information on this via email.

L. Graves reported that he attended the Virginia SWCD Association Meeting via Zoom in mid-June.

8) STAFF REPORTS

R. Jacobs reported that land development site plans have quieted down some over the summer. He also reported that VCAP successfully obligated half of their \$4m funding.

S. DeNicola reminded all that if they would like to make any changes to their personal information on the website, to get that information to her by July 20. She also reported that she had refrigerator magnets printed as a form of outreach for both the NOAA grant and TMDL grants. She also reported that the Annual Banquet is scheduled for November 16, 2023, at Pepper’s Grill in Culpeper.

G. Wichelns reported that the second and final round of this year’s dam mowing has commenced and is expected to be completed very soon. He also reported that new 319 grants may be available and that he is researching possibilities. He also reported that the development of TMDL Implementation Plans for the Rivanna and Lower Rapidan TMDL grant will soon be underway and that he expects to hear more mid-late August. G. Wichelns also reported that he and members of the Technical Committee participated in Emergency Training for dams in Madison County.

9) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR- Debbie Cross thanked the Culpeper District staff for their hard work and congratulated them on a successful year. She submitted a written report and brought attention to a few key items. Several things are due on July 17, 2023, including FY24 Grant Agreements, FY24 Budget, FY24 Plan of Work, and Quarterly & Year End Reports. She reported that DCR Assessments should take place during August or September. She also reported that there is a new SWCD Representative in the Office of the Attorney General named Darrell Kuntz, and a new DCR Agricultural BMP Engineering Specialist named Tracy Culbertson. She included contact information for both of these new hires in her report.

NRCS- Rex Rexrode submitted a written report and went over a few key items. Most notably that USDA is expanding its work on wildlife conservation by investing at least \$500m nationwide over the next five years. He also reported that the Culpeper Service Center has received \$485,479 in pre-approval applications, primarily EQIP with some CSP.

VDOF- Stuart Baker reported that his office is located in Madison County but that he also covers the areas of Orange and Spotsylvania. He also reported that Kinner Ingram has completed a map of Forestry Contacts that is now available for distribution.

10) PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie DeNicola presented Scholarships to this year’s Scholarship Recipients. Each recipient was awarded \$2,000 to go towards their educational pursuits. Recipients were as follows:

- Madisyn Corron, Eastern View High School: Plans to attend Mary Washington University to study Agriculture. She was awarded the John Boldridge Memorial Scholarship.
- Abby Johnson, Madison County High School: Plans to attend Virginia Tech to study AgriBusiness. She was awarded the Laura Campbell Memorial Scholarship.
- Lindsey Breeden, Orange County High School: Plans to attend George Mason University to study Environmental Science.
- Bryant Chiles, Orange County High School: Plans to attend Christopher Newport University to play football and study Environmental Science.

- Blane Jennings, Orange County High School: Plans to attend Germanna Community College to study Environmental Science.

John Chiles, father of Bryant and previous member of Culpeper District staff, thanked the Board, on behalf of all of the scholarship recipients and their families.

11) PLAN FOR JULY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IN PERSON)

Committees will meet at the Culpeper District Office on Tuesday, July 18, 2023. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00. The Education Committee will meet on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Madison Extension Office at 3:30. **BOARD MEETING FOR AUGUST WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON TUESDAY, August 1, 2023, in person, at the Washington Volunteer Fire Hall in Rappahannock County.**

12) ADJOURNMENT

L. Graves motioned to adjourn the July 2023 Board meeting at 11:12 AM. R. Brame seconded the motion. (L. Graves, R. Brame, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: August 1, 2023