

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PVCC - Greene
Stanardsville, Virginia
October 3, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:12 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lynn Graves, Madison County
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County
Tom O’Halloran, Culpeper County
Philip Morris, Greene County
Steve Morris, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Robert Brame, Orange County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County
Bob Williamson, Associate Director, Culpeper County
Brad Jarvis, Associate Director, Madison County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Robert Runkle, Greene County
Stephen Hill, Madison County
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County

STAFF PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Rex Rexrode, NRCS
Debbie Cross, DCR
Ed Furlow, VDOF
Nancy Rybicki, USGS

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. Following a moment of silence, W. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were three handouts: Technical Committee Additions, one Staff Report, and DCR Report.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the September 5, 2023, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. T. O’Halloran moved to approve the Minutes as presented. R. Brame seconded the motion. (T. O’Halloran, R. Brame, 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. R. Brame moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. T. O’Halloran seconded the motion. (R. Brame, T. O’Halloran, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda adopted as modified.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

TREASURER’S REPORT

NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS

Orange	0.5 Acres	Seasonal Hi Tunnel
Rappahannock	55.7 Acres	Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Wildlife Habitat Management, Forest Stand Improvement
Rappahannock	25 Acres	Brush Management, Forest Stand Improvement, CREP Renewal

5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS:

September 19, 2023 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Tom O’Halloran, Culpeper; Robert Runkle, Greene; Mike Sands, Rappahannock; Greg Wichelns, District Manager; Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist; Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist; Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist; Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist; Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist

Items in italics were added at the October 3, 2023 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>
FR-1	2024 VACS	Haney Trust	07-24-0101	552269	Orange	\$ 9,851.25	\$ 643.44
SL-1	2024 VACS	Carolton Farms LLC	07-24-0158	562563	Orange	\$ 2,564.50	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Alexander Stumpf	07-24-0151	562442	Orange	\$ 3,870.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Terri Elgin	07-24-0153	562446	Orange	\$ 3,003.60	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Merlyn Koontz	07-24-0161	563450	Orange	\$ 1,540.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	John Ford	07-24-0172	565943	Culpeper	\$ 4,620.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Virgil Sisk	07-24-0135	561645	Madison	\$ 380.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Virgil Sisk	07-24-0135	561650	Madison	\$ 1,040.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Brooke Farms	07-24-0145	562395	Orange	\$ 64,740.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Brooke Farms	07-24-0145	562397	Orange	\$ 9,503.20	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Custom Harvesters	07-24-0146	562402	Orange	\$ 29,883.70	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Custom Harvesters	07-24-0146	562405	Orange	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 0.00

SL-8B	2024 VACS	Cleaveland Farm LLC.	07-24-0147	562407	Orange	\$ 59,444.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Glen Cove Farm Inc	07-24-0148	562420	Orange	\$ 4,928.70	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Kenwood Farm LLC	07-24-0149	562432	Orange	\$ 4,060.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Marshall Dairy	07-24-0150	562434	Orange	\$ 23,757.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Brandon VanHoven	07-24-0152	562444	Orange	\$ 3,034.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Lazy Creek Farm Inc	07-24-0154	562447	Madison	\$ 38,756.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Lazy Creek Farm Inc	07-24-0154	562448	Madison	\$ 5,530.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Lewis A Lamb & Sons Inc	07-24-0155	562450	Madison	\$ 19,110.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Lewis A Lamb & Sons Inc	07-24-0155	562451	Madison	\$ 11,280.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Shepherd Sons Farm	07-24-0156	562452	Madison	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Tatum Farm LLC	07-24-0157	562558	Madison	\$ 25,947.90	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Goodwin Brothers LLC	07-24-0159	562921	Orange	\$ 11,300.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Goodwin Brothers LLC	07-24-0159	562923	Orange	\$ 1,607.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	J.R. & J.G. Goodwin LLC	07-24-0160	562925	Orange	\$ 1,530.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.	07-24-0163	563479	Orange	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Black Nine Equestrian	07-24-0016	531878	Madison	\$ 66,415.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Quaker Barn LLC	07-24-0125	524606	Rappahannock	\$ 48,375.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Wade Bradshaw	07-24-0189	564234	Madison	\$ 48,560.03	\$ 635.56
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Glenburnie Farm LLC	07-24-0192	570501	Orange	\$ 2,556.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Cherry Grove Farm Ent. Inc.	07-24-0209	576036	Orange	\$ 3,060.00	\$ 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
NM-3C	2023 VACS	Shawn Woodfolk	07-23-0340	523365	Madison	\$ 786.00	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2023 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc	07-23-0257	520841	Orange	\$ 1,408.95	\$ 0.00
NM-5N	2023 VACS	Piedmont Grain & Cattle Inc.*	07-23-0319	522989	Orange	\$ 7,520.00	\$ 0.00
NM-5P	2023 VACS	Somerset Plantation Inc	07-23-0258	520843	Orange	\$ 2,582.36	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2024 VACS	Timber Meade Poultry LLC.	07-24-0074	544521	Orange	\$ 2,625.00	\$ 0.00
SL-10	2024 VACS	J. Wells Waugh	07-24-0075	544522	Orange	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 0.00
WP-4LL	2024 VACS	Garrett Chambers	07-24-0144	562264	Orange	\$ 257,883.16	\$ 25,000.00
NM-3C	2023 VACS	Dennis Brown	07-23-0299	522468	Culpeper	\$ 2,094.00	\$ 0.00
SL-1	2023 VACS	Locust Dale Enterprises LLC	07-23-0286	521793	Culpeper	\$ 7,349.94	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Kenneth L. Anderson	07-24-0068	542558	Madison	\$ 72,231.30	\$ 1,006.43
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Erich Jenkins	07-23-0018	570571	Madison	\$ 70,260.52	\$ 662.31

The Technical Committee approved an increase for:

*additional acres receiving variable rate fertilizer in accordance with the nutrient management plan.

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

Practice	Fund	Participant	Contract	Instance	County	Amount
RB-1	DEQ17220	Darrell Zwemke	07-24-0177	568088	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	David Wasulko	07-24-0182	568266	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Harrison Grayson	07-24-0181	568244	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Cheryl Myers	07-24-0168	563893	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Charles Plisio	07-24-0180	568204	Madison	\$ 1,000.00
RB-4	DEQ17220	William Berry	07-24-0187	569007	Madison	\$ 4,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Louis Kreh	07-24-0142	575299	Madison	\$ 2,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Donaphine Shamburg	07-24-0208	576035	Madison	\$ 1,200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Michael Hale	07-24-0131	575520	Madison	\$ 320.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Shane Clark	07-24-0210	576037	Madison	\$ 220.00

<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Karen Parkinson</i>	<i>07-24-0212</i>	<i>576145</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>George Beker</i>	<i>07-24-0203</i>	<i>574915</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>George Beker</i>	<i>07-24-0203</i>	<i>574917</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>George Beker</i>	<i>07-24-0203</i>	<i>574918</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

Holly Walker contract 07-24-0007 instance 532958 cost share increased from \$240.00 to \$260.00.

4) 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	DEQ17084	Carolyn Cobb	07-24-0176	568010	Rappahannock	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	John Tole	07-24-0174	567998	Rappahannock	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	Pamela Alther	07-24-0179	568121	Rappahannock	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	William Eastham Jr.	07-24-0169	563928	Rappahannock	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	Dorothy Scott	07-24-0043	568071	Rappahannock	\$ 320.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Roger Piantadosi	07-24-0175	568002	Rappahannock	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Brandon Luke	07-24-0178	568119	Rappahannock	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Jason Burkett	07-24-0140	561934	Rappahannock	\$ 1,000.00
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Kevin Cromwell</i>	<i>07-24-0207</i>	<i>576034</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Monica Worth</i>	<i>07-24-0206</i>	<i>576033</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 1,600.00</i>

5) 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-1	PO17083	Rebecca Gore	07-24-0183	568379	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	PO17083	James Davies	07-24-0170	563935	Orange	\$ 1,000.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Terry Benschhoff</i>	<i>07-24-0115</i>	<i>574138</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 320.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>James Davies</i>	<i>07-24-0170</i>	<i>575513</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 2,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Christine Till</i>	<i>07-24-0188</i>	<i>569974</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>

Dennis Brida contract 07-24-0027 instance 532987 cost share increased from \$1000.00 to \$1300.00.

6) The following Upper York 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	PO16974	Bernard Verling Jr.	07-24-0165	563814	Orange	\$ 1,600.00
RB-4	PO17407	Ronnie Shifflett	07-24-0185	568790	Orange	\$ 4,000.00
RB-4P	PO17407	Jennetta Breeden	07-24-0184	568768	Orange	\$ 6,400.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17407</i>	<i>Libby Ramey</i>	<i>07-24-0211</i>	<i>576067</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-4P</i>	<i>PO17407</i>	<i>Jennetta Breeden</i>	<i>07-24-0184</i>	<i>576139</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 9,600.00</i>

7) The following Upper Hazel River 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Victoria Fortuna</i>	<i>07-24-0137</i>	<i>561926</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

8) The following Upper Rapidan River 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>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Dennis Brida</i>	<i>07-24-0027</i>	<i>532987</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,300.00</i>

9) 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Holly Walker</i>	<i>07-24-0007</i>	<i>532958</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 243.75</i>
<i>RB-4</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Rose Moore</i>	<i>07-23-0482</i>	<i>529468</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 4,000.00</i>

<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>James Mattix</i>	<i>07-24-0033</i>	<i>533565</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Judy Reed</i>	<i>07-23-0456</i>	<i>528007</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Rosemary Campbell</i>	<i>07-24-0037</i>	<i>535951</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 250.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Kathleen Jones</i>	<i>07-24-0030</i>	<i>533483</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>

10) 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>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>William Berry</i>	<i>07-23-0446</i>	<i>527978</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17083</i>	<i>Terry Benshoff</i>	<i>07-24-0115</i>	<i>557009</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Louis Kreh</i>	<i>07-24-0142</i>	<i>561051</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Michael Hale</i>	<i>07-24-0131</i>	<i>561171</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,500.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>James Davies</i>	<i>07-24-0170</i>	<i>563035</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Karen Parkinson</i>	<i>07-23-0480</i>	<i>529465</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>
<i>RB-4P</i>	<i>PO16974</i>	<i>Jennetta Breeden</i>	<i>07-24-0184</i>	<i>568768</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 6,400.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO16974</i>	<i>Will Likins</i>	<i>07-23-0386</i>	<i>525082</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Bioretention (BR)	Lake of the Woods Association	Orange	\$ 8,096.18
Dry Well (DW)	Doug Whipple*	Culpeper	\$ 4,160.00

*The Technical Committee approved an increase for the cost of the pipe.

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

- a. Mountain Run #18 had a new water level sensor installed.

13) District Staff provided a list of the completed random verifications and any necessary actions required by the Board.

14) The Technical Committee discussed Agricultural Stewardship Act (ASA) policy form for handling water pollution complaints received by VDACS. The contact and procedures for ASA complaints will remain the same for the current fiscal year. District Staff will not participate in any investigations but will be available to assist landowners with remedial plans when requested.

15) District Staff received a complaint concerning a potential best management practice violation. District Staff will meet with the landowner and tenant to discuss and remedy the situation.

16) A BMP participant has requested to transfer a contract to a new participant prior to payment:

- a. Contract 07-24-0068, Kenneth Anderson transfers to Roger Leventer.

17) Two BMP participants have requested to transfer a contract to a new participant to fulfill the lifespan on the practice:

- a. Contract 07-19-0064, Robert Ashcom transfers to Royce Professional Services LLC
- b. Contract 07-15-0020, Dwight Boston transfers to Sidney Robert Pace II

R. Bradford stated that the Committee discussed the District Policy for handling ASA Complaints and recommends keeping it as is with no changes.

R. Bradford moved to approve the Technical Committee Report as presented, including the recommendation to keep the current District Policy for ASA Complaints as is. S. Morris seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, S. Morris, unanimous)

6) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS

R. Brame moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:20 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. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (R. Brame, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Brame moved to reconvene at 10:31 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". T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (R. Brame, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

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

7) DIRECTOR REPORTS

T. O'Halloran attended a meeting with the Rappahannock River Basin Commission in Orange County at the Government Center. The Virginia Corridor Project expressed their desire to connect military planning efforts in order to enhance collaboration on conservation efforts towards the Bay improvement. Matthew Wells, DCR Director, when discussing dam safety projects, clarified the various classifications of dams, emphasizing that high hazard does not necessarily mean dangerous. Additionally, Tom mentioned the construction of a new Data Center in Caroline County, which is expected to consume around 14 million gallons of water per day from the river basin. The meeting discussed potential strategies to mitigate the environmental impact of this development.

S. Morris conveyed information from an article he had perused regarding the Chesapeake Bay Report. According to the report, oxygen depletion in the Bay has reached its lowest levels in years, with the article attributing this decline to the persistent drought conditions, which have led to reduced runoff. He also informed the Board that there are currently no candidates running for the vacant District Board seat in Greene County.

S. Sharpe reported that she will be hosting two upcoming events. The first event is a Beef Workshop scheduled for Monday, October 23. The second event is How To Start a Farm, which will take place on Friday, November 17. Additionally, Sarah informed the Board about plans to build two Data Centers in Louisa County.

B. Jarvis provided an update on the newly released Virginia Farm Bureau legislative topic, which focuses on self-prepared nutrient management plans for farmers solely utilizing commercial fertilizer. This legislation aims to assist farmers in keeping their plans up to date by providing them with tools and processes. By implementing this process, there is a potential to alleviate the workload of conservation specialists, as a significant number of farmers fall into this category. Brad proposed further discussions on this matter be held within the Committees. Additionally, Brad informed the Board about the upcoming Women in Ag event scheduled to take place on December 15 and 16 at Senterfit Farm in Madison County. He encouraged the District to participate in this event by promoting Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Cost Share Programs. Notably, Temple Grandin, Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University and notable author and animal behaviorist, will be delivering a keynote address on the 16th.

B. Williamson attended the Open House event held at the Orange County USDA Office Building to represent the Board for Cynthia Smith's Retirement. According to his report, the event was pleasant and enjoyable.

L. Graves attended the Association Meeting in Richmond and discussed the Legislative Report, which is set to be voted on. No changes have been made to the report. He also reminded the Board that the Early Bird registration for the Annual Meeting in December will close on October 13th.

8) STAFF REPORTS

S. DeNicola provided an update stating that she is currently occupied with Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEE), while her hired assistants are taking care of classroom responsibilities. She also mentioned that she has placed an order for trees for the upcoming 2024 Tree Sale and informed the Board that flyers will be distributed in the near future.

K. Dellinger reported that she and John Jeffries recently had an Engineering Job Approval Authority (EJAA) Review with Amanda Pennington, DCR Engineer, and according to Kendall, the review went smoothly and was successful.

S. Yager reported that he received a request from Martha Moore at Virginia Farm Bureau, who contacted him to discuss Cost Share Programs with Conservation Districts from Texas. Representatives from Texas Conservation Districts visited with Spencer and took a trip to Nixon Farms and Earl Lamb's Dairy to gain insights into the implementation of cost share practices. This visit aimed to provide them with a better understanding of how such programs are executed in other states. They returned to Texas with a lot of information.

R. Jacobs reported that he sent an email containing a link to the *15 Minutes in the Forest* video, which focuses on haul roads and driveways. He informed the Board that he will be participating in what he anticipates being the final DEQ Stakeholders Group Meeting, where the draft consolidated erosion and sediment control and stormwater management handbook is being discussed. Following the meeting, Richard expects that the draft handbook will then have a 60-day public comment period. The final handbook will be published by July 2024.

G. Wichelns reported that he attended the Rivanna TMDL Public Meeting and provided an update that it is expected that it will take approximately a year before this TMDL can be utilized as a funding source for applications. Wichelns also shared that the New Landowner Conservation Services Workshop had a successful turnout, with approximately 55 landowners in attendance. Multi Agency Information Binders from this event are available for purchase at the Culpeper Office while supplies last, and a free PDF version of the binder can be accessed and downloaded from our website. He reported that the District has applied for two License Plate grants and is awaiting a response, which is anticipated in November. Additionally, Mr. Corbin has been provided Building Construction and new Lease documents, and Wichelns will provide an update once he receives a response. Wichelns then provided an update on the concern raised regarding a potential encroachment on a dam in Culpeper County by a development planning to construct around 240 homes. However, the construction for this project is currently on hold due to unrelated reasons. The Culpeper District is soon to undergo an RMP Program Review, and Wichelns is hopeful for a positive outcome, as during the previous review several years ago, the District achieved a perfect score of 100%. In terms of equipment updates, the Culpeper Office has received a new truck, specifically a 2024 Dodge Ram 1500 Crew Cab, as well as a new Laser Level. A drone has been ordered, although it has not yet arrived.

9) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR- D. Cross provided a brief summary of her written report to the District Board. She emphasized the upcoming deadline of the submission of Quarterly Reports by October 16. She also mentioned important events such as the Ag BMP TAC scheduled for November 1 and the SWCD Dam Owners Virtual Meeting on November 16. Debbie commended the District on their Annual Report and discussed a Budget Amendment that was approved by the Governor on September 14. She let the Board know that there will be an upcoming election of the Area II Vice Chair.

NRCS- R. Rexrode submitted a written report. He informed the Board that Congress has reached a decision on the Federal Budget, resulting in avoidance of a government shutdown. He mentioned that the Service Center is currently facing a shortage of staff, specifically lacking Rural Development Staff.

VDOF- E. Furlow reported that two employees at VDOF have been promoted. He also mentioned that he will be attending the Regional Training at Graves on October 4th. Additionally, Furlow informed everyone that the Tree Nursery is fully stocked and is currently accepting orders, including Stephanie's large order for the District Tree Sale. Furlow discussed a new Cost Share Program at VDOF that aims to support Hemlock life through insect control. The program offers a maximum payout of \$1,500. Lastly, there has been a land use change in Greene County, which has resulted in numerous inquiries regarding Forestal Land use.

10) PLAN FOR OCTOBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IN PERSON)

Committees will meet at the Madison Extension Office on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00. The Education Committee will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the Madison Extension Office at 3:30. **BOARD MEETING FOR NOVEMBER WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON TUESDAY, November 7, 2023, in person, at the Madison County Extension Office.**

11) ADJOURNMENT

L. Graves motioned to adjourn the October 2023 Board meeting at 11:18 AM. P. Morris seconded the motion. (L. Graves, P. Morris, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: November 7, 2023