

MINUTES
CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Pepper's Grill
Culpeper, Virginia
February 6, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:06 AM.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Lynn Graves, Madison County
Anthony Jewett, Madison County
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County
Tom O'Halloran, Culpeper County
David Cox, Greene County
Robert Runkle, Greene County
Robert Bradford, Orange County
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County
Bob Williamson, Associate Director, Culpeper County
Brad Jarvis, Associate Director, Madison County
Steve Morris, At-Large Director, Greene County
Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County

DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:

Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County
Robert Brame, Orange County

STAFF PRESENT:

Greg Wichelns, District Manager
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist
Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist
Stephanie DeNicola, Education Specialist
Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist
David Massie, Conservation Specialist
R. Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist
Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debbie Cross, Conservation District Coordinator, DCR
Luke Bello, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Orange County

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Following a moment of silence, W. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were five handouts: Education Committee Report, Technical Committee Additions, one Staff Report, NRCS Report and DCR Report.

L. Graves took a moment to welcome Orange County's new Agriculture Extension Agent, Luke Bello.

2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of the January 2, 2024, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. S. Morris moved to approve the Minutes as presented. T. O'Halloran seconded the motion. (S. Morris, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

3) AGENDA APPROVAL

L. Graves called for Agenda approval. M. Sands moved to adopt the Agenda as presented. T. O’Halloran seconded the motion. (M. Sands, T. O’Halloran, unanimous)

4) CONSENT AGENDA

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT
 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT
 EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT
 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT
 TREASURER’S REPORT
 NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS

Culpeper	1 Acre	EQIP – Seasonal Hi Tunnel
Culpeper	1 Acre	EQIP – Seasonal Hi Tunnel
Orange	53.3 Acres	CSP Renewal – Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Field Border, Forest Stand Improvement
Rappahannock	124 Acres	EQIP – Forest Management Plan

5) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS

January 23, 2024 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)

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

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	Paula Whyman	07-24-0129	558699	Rappahannock	\$ 46,342.50	\$ 3,026.88
FR-3	2024 VACS	Paula Whyman	07-24-0129	558702	Rappahannock	\$ 4,290.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	VACS 2024	Lynda Davis	07-24-0401	583560	Madison	\$ 6,685.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2024 VACS	Thomas Clark	07-24-0370	582240	Culpeper	\$ 3,486.00	\$ 581.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Rivandale Farm LLC	07-24-0383	583351	Orange	\$ 128,002.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Timothy Pent	07-24-0303	581703	Madison	\$ 38,238.25	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2024 VACS	Crystallis LLC	07-24-0399	583537	Madison	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 375.00
SL-7	2024 VACS	John D. Davis	07-24-0397	583514	Greene	\$ 13,112.00	\$ 819.50
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Tyler Marshall	07-24-0387	583399	Orange	\$ 12,494.70	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	C.R. Tanner & Sons	07-24-0382	583343	Madison	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	C.R. Tanner & Sons	07-24-0382	583350	Madison	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2024 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.	07-24-0163	583355	Orange	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 0.00
WP-2N	2024 VACS	Alden Pullen	07-24-0374	582925	Culpeper	\$ 23,257.00	\$ 3,130.75
WP-3	2024 VACS	AMCARWILL LLC	07-24-0390	583481	Madison	\$ 4,222.50	\$ 351.88
WP-4LL	2024 VACS	Henshaw & Sons Farm LLC	07-24-0121	583562	Madison	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 0.00
WP-2W	2024 VACS	Belle Plain Farm LLC	07-24-0410	583798	Madison	\$ 4,703.58	\$ 268.98

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-6W	2024 VACS	Belle Plaine LLC	07-24-0123	558239	Madison	\$ 5,321.35	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	David Eddins	07-23-0233	518424	Greene	\$ 66,021.25	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Keith Morris*	07-24-0329	582114	Culpeper	\$ 31,532.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Keith Morris	07-24-0349	582480	Culpeper	\$ 80,595.25	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2024 VACS	Paula Whyman	07-24-0129	558699	Rappahannock	\$ 46,342.50	\$ 3,026.88
FR-3	2024 VACS	Paula Whyman	07-24-0129	558702	Rappahannock	\$ 4,290.00	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2023 VACS	Donal B. Day	07-23-0417	525807	Rappahannock	\$ 3,879.20	\$ 228.27
FR-3	2023 VACS	Donal B. Day	07-23-0417	525808	Rappahannock	\$ 384.61	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2023 VACS	Lynda S. Davis	07-23-0401	525265	Madison	\$ 9,881.34	\$ 0.00
WP-2W	2024 VACS	Belle Plaine Farm LLC	07-24-0410	583798	Madison	\$ 4,703.58	\$ 268.98

*The Technical Committee approved an increase for additional pipeline and sleeving of pipeline.

3) The following BMP participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for an increase:

<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	2023 VACS	David Eddins*	07-23-0233	518424	Greene	\$ 66,021.25	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2024 VACS	David Sears**	07-24-0350	582525	Orange	\$ 12,272.00	\$ 767.00
SL-8B	2024 VACS	Harris Ag. Properties Inc.***	07-24-0163	563479	Orange	\$ 57,170.00	\$ 0.00

*The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$13,026.50 for additional stream exclusion fence, interior cross fence, and water troughs to facilitate a rotational grazing system.

**The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$7,380.00 for additional pipeline footage and a new pump and pressure tank for an existing well that required an upgrade.

***The Technical Committee approved an increase of \$12,170.00 for additional acres planted in cover crops.

4) The following BMP 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>	<u>Tax Credit</u>
SL-6W	2021 VACS	Richard R. Hastings	07-21-0247	424501	Madison	\$ 25,411.35	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 VACS	Lewis P. Jenkins	07-23-0405	523757	Madison	\$ 97,276.50	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2022 VACS	Beauregard Farm LP	07-22-0253	469533	Culpeper	\$ 9,616.00	\$ 601.00
WP-4SF	2024 VACS	Henshaw & Sons Farm LLC	07-24-0121	558079	Madison	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 0.00

5) The following Mountain Run, Muddy Run, and Lower 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	PO17406	Joey Jenkins	07-24-0389	583466	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Todd Siebeneck	07-24-0391	583504	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Ronald Chadman	07-24-0395	583501	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583515	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583516	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583518	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583519	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583558	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	PO17406	Daniel Coleman	07-24-0396	583520	Culpeper	\$ 1,000.00
RB-3M	PO17406	Julie Page	07-24-0388	583461	Culpeper	\$ 1,200.00
RB-3M	PO17406	Christina Stockton	07-24-0394	583500	Culpeper	\$ 1,000.00
RB-5	PO17406	Mandie Sayers	07-24-0402	583569	Culpeper	\$ 14,400.00
RB-1	PO17406	James McCabe	07-24-0403	583630	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Bernard T. Fletcher	07-24-0406	583710	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17406	Bernard T. Fletcher	07-24-0406	583711	Culpeper	\$ 200.00

<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bernard T. Fletcher</i>	<i>07-24-0406</i>	<i>583712</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bernard T. Fletcher</i>	<i>07-24-0406</i>	<i>583713</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bernard T. Fletcher</i>	<i>07-24-0406</i>	<i>583714</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bernard T. Fletcher</i>	<i>07-24-0406</i>	<i>583715</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Paula Moore</i>	<i>07-24-0415</i>	<i>583811</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 320.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Karen Hughes</i>	<i>07-24-0413</i>	<i>583806</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,600.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>David Hutcheson</i>	<i>07-24-0414</i>	<i>583808</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Brandy Harlow</i>	<i>07-24-0404</i>	<i>583681</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,300.00</i>
<i>RB-3</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bethany Gardner</i>	<i>07-24-0418</i>	<i>584090</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 2,500.00</i>

6) 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Leonard Menhart</i>	<i>07-24-0392</i>	<i>583494</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583368</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583484</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>John Giannico</i>	<i>07-24-0385</i>	<i>583363</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Jeffrey Shifflett</i>	<i>07-24-0407</i>	<i>583771</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Chadwick Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0393</i>	<i>583495</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Chadwick Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0393</i>	<i>583599</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

7) 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Richard Rose</i>	<i>07-24-0384</i>	<i>583359</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Richard Rose</i>	<i>07-24-0384</i>	<i>583361</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Andrew Peyton</i>	<i>07-24-0417</i>	<i>583821</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 320.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Scott Kelly</i>	<i>07-24-0409</i>	<i>583781</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>

8) 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583485</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583488</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583489</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Gregory Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0386</i>	<i>583490</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Joyce Estes</i>	<i>07-24-0408</i>	<i>583772</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>Lisa Evans</i>	<i>07-24-0411</i>	<i>583799</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>

9) 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>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17407</i>	<i>Jenny Chitwood</i>	<i>07-24-0381</i>	<i>583222</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,200.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17407</i>	<i>Anita Dade</i>	<i>07-24-0416</i>	<i>583819</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 300.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17407</i>	<i>George Lloyd</i>	<i>07-24-0412</i>	<i>583802</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 1,000.00</i>

10) 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>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Michael Chapman</i>	<i>07-24-0316</i>	<i>581749</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 187.50</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Brandon Luke</i>	<i>07-24-0178</i>	<i>568119</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 425.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Jason Stell</i>	<i>07-24-0238</i>	<i>578516</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

11) 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	PO17083	Jamie Eveland	07-24-0312	581741	Greene	\$ 200.00
RB-1	PO17083	Phyllis Browning	07-24-0365	582895	Madison	\$ 187.50
RB-3M	PO17083	David Estes	07-24-0139	581152	Greene	\$ 3,200.00
RB-4	PO17083	Jennings Webb	07-24-0113	581797	Madison	\$ 6,400.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17083</i>	<i>William Hannold</i>	<i>07-23-0412</i>	<i>525795</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 187.50</i>

12) The following Mountain Run, Muddy Run, and Lower 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	PO17406	Tony Abbott	07-24-0380	583145	Culpeper	\$ 200.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Joey Jenkins</i>	<i>07-24-0389</i>	<i>583466</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

13) 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	Richard Kuhn	07-24-0264	581134	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Barry Mountain	07-24-0314	581745	Madison	\$ 200.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Donaphine Shamburg	07-24-0208	581897	Madison	\$ 1,575.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Nicole Lam</i>	<i>07-23-0481</i>	<i>529466</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-4P</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Dana Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0124</i>	<i>558240</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>
<i>RB-4</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Lucy Gibbs</i>	<i>07-24-0281</i>	<i>579748</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 6,400.00</i>

14) The following Residential participants 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	Margaret Marquis	07-23-0474	528853	Orange	\$ 260.00
RB-3M	PO16974	Jenny Chitwood	07-23-0400	525262	Orange	\$ 1,200.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Zachery Trask	07-24-0341	582347	Orange	\$ 2,000.00

15) The Technical Committee grants the authority to the District Manager to approve contractual changes to non-permitted residential septic contracts to facilitate on-site efficiency for contractors.

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

- a. Annual dam inspection dates are April 3rd and 4th. Backup dates are April 10th and 11th. Anyone wishing to attend should notify the District Manager.
- b. Recent storms in January resulted in high waters at many dams with one emergency spillway activating in Madison County. The Technical Committee continuously monitored all situations.

17) A Conservation Programs Outreach Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2024. Semi-annual land use recipient outreach mailing has been completed.

6) **CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS**

R. Runkle moved that the Board go into Closed Session at 10:06 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. Runkle, T. O'Halloran, unanimous)

Following the return from Closed Session, R. Runkle moved to reconvene at 10:16 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”. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

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

7) **DIRECTOR REPORTS**

D. Verhoff reported his attendance at the Virginia Association for Biological Farming (VABF) Conference in Roanoke, highlighting its informative nature and the impressive turnout.

S. Sharpe reported that she will be hosting a workshop focusing on fence laws and lease writing in Stanardsville on February 21st. She will also be hosting a virtual homesteading workshop that will commence for five Tuesdays in a row beginning on February 13th.

B. Jarvis provided an update on the ongoing efforts to revamp Virginia Tech’s Soil Testing Lab, a collaborative project between Virginia Tech and the University of Tennessee. He emphasized the potential benefits of enhancing the lab’s capabilities by being able to provide more efficient soil analysis services. VA Tech is working with DCR to potentially streamline some nutrient management plan writing options. Jarvis expressed optimism that the lab will be operational within the next 3-4 months.

B. Williamson reported his attendance at the Virginia AgriBusiness Council Dinner, which proved to be a resounding success with an impressive turnout of approximately 1,200 individuals, notably including over 100 Delegates and Senators.

L. Graves reported that he also attended the Virginia AgriBusiness Council Dinner and concurred with Mr. Williamson on the success of the event.

8) **STAFF REPORTS**

R. Jacobs reported on his recent activities including a meeting with Culpeper County and the Town of Culpeper to discuss conservation programs available in the Mountain Run, Muddy Run, and Lower Hazel TMDL IP area. Additionally, he has been collaborating with Orange and Culpeper counties to update sediment control ordinances using the consolidated handbook. He noted that there is a need to update references, definitions, and codes within these ordinances. He also mentioned a noticeable increase in site plans for both data centers and solar farms.

S. DeNicola provided an update on the annual tree sale, stating that she has made sales to roughly 115 customers and that all species of trees are still in stock. She also reported that the NOAA Grant concluded on January 31st. Throughout the duration of the grant, an impressive outreach effort was made, reaching over 2,800 students. She shared that the District plans to continue the MWEE project without the NOAA grant from mid-March through the end of April.

S. Yager reported on his participation in the Forage and Grassland Council Meeting alongside most of the District’s agricultural staff. He emphasized the exceptional quality of the speakers at this year’s event.

D. Massie reported that he also attended the Forage and Grassland Council Meeting and that he intends to attend the No-Till Conference in Harrisonburg later this week.

G. Wichelns provided an update on the Lower Rapidan TMDL Implementation Plan (IP) Development, stating that the first public meeting is scheduled for February 21st at the Carver Center in Culpeper County and that there is currently no information available regarding when the next Technical meeting for the North Fork Rivanna River IP will be. He reported that he and Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist, have commenced work on preliminary grant proposals for both IPs to ensure timely submission once the IPs are approved and funds become available. He also announced that registration for the District’s Conservation Services Update Workshop on March 15th is now open and that the Area II Spring Meeting will take place at Grelen Nursery on April 17th. In addition, he reported that the District recently received a FOIA request from “Virginia Open the Books”

seeking personnel salary information. Wichelns confirmed that the request has been accurately responded to in compliance with FOIA regulations.

9) **AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS- R. Rexrode submitted a written report. He highlighted that in terms of staffing, a replacement for Cynthia Smith in the FSA Orange Office has not been hired yet and that Pamela Greenfield has been temporarily holding the position. Operations in the Culpeper Service Center are running with himself and Corey Bray full time, and John Jeffries part time. Carlie Pemberton from the Fredericksburg office has been lending support once a week, and Ashleigh Cason contributes to assist with her existing contracts when she is available. He also reported that in recent development, the Act Now program initiative has provided the opportunity to expedite application approvals and get applicants at a certain threshold under contract within 30 days.

DCR- D. Cross submitted a written report. She emphasized that as per the FY24 Grant Agreement, Deliverable #13, New Directors are required to complete a two-phase New Director Orientation. Phase One entails an online course, followed by a final quiz. Phase Two involves an in-person session, which can conveniently be completed at the upcoming Area Meetings this Spring. Both phases of this orientation are to be completed by June 30th. D. Cross expressed her gratitude to all Directors for their timely compliance with the FOIA and COIA training requirements and their commitment to staying up to date. She provided a few other important dates and reminders, which can be found listed within her written report.

10) **PLAN FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS (IN PERSON)**

Committees will meet at the Culpeper District Office on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Legislative 10:00, Technical 10:15. The Education Committee will meet on the same day at the Madison Extension Office at 3:30. **BOARD MEETING FOR MARCH WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON TUESDAY, March 5, 2024, in person, at the Blue Ridge Cafe in Greene County.**

11) **ADJOURNMENT**

L. Graves motioned to adjourn the February 2024 Board meeting at 10:53 AM. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (L. Graves, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary

Lynn Graves, Chairman



Date Approved: March 5, 2024