

**MINUTES**  
**CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**PVCC**  
**Greene County, Virginia**  
**February 4, 2025**

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Mike Sands at 10:01 AM.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Lynn Graves, Madison County  
Mike Sands, Rappahannock County  
Robert Williamson, Culpeper County  
Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County  
David Cox, Greene County  
Robert Runkle, Greene County  
Anthony Jewett, Madison County  
Robert Bradford, Orange County  
Robert Brame, Orange County  
Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County  
Steve Morris, At-Large Director, Greene County

**DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:**

Sarah Sharpe, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Greene County  
Molly Elgin, Associate Director, 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  
Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist  
Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist  
Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist  
Trevor Talley, Conservation Specialist  
W. Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Debbie Cross, DCR  
Ed Furlow, VDOF  
Griffin Robeson, VDOF  
Rachel Duvall, VCAP  
Davis Lamb, Greene County Board of Supervisors

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

M. Sands called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. Following a moment of silence, S. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were seven handouts: Finance Committee Report, Technical Committee Additions, DCR Report, NRCS Report, and three Staff Reports.

**2) DRAFT MINUTES**

M. Sands called for approval of the substance of the January 7, 2025, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. R. Williamson moved to approve the Minutes as presented. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (R. Williamson, M. Biniek, unanimous)

**3) AGENDA APPROVAL**

M. Sands called for Agenda approval. The Finance Committee Report was added to the Consent Agenda. The Technical Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.1. The Operations Committee Report was removed from the Consent Agenda and placed on the Agenda as 5.2. R. Brame moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. D. Verhoff seconded the motion. (R. Brame, D. Verhoff, unanimous)

**4) CONSENT AGENDA**

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT  
TREASURER’S REPORT  
NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS

Greene	112 Acres	EQIP- Livestock Water System, Fence, Tree Planting, Brush Management, Prescribed Grazing
Greene	1 Acre	EQIP- Seasonal High Tunnel
Madison	9.6 Acres	EQIP- Seasonal High Tunnel
Madison	1 Acre	EQIP- Seasonal High Tunnel (2)
Orange	1 Acre	EQIP- Seasonal High Tunnel

**5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

**5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT WITH ADDITIONS**

**January 21, 2025 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)**

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Anthony Jewett, Madison; Robert Williamson, Culpeper; Mike Sands, Rappahannock; Greg Wichelns, District Manager; Spencer Yager, Conservation Specialist; David Massie, Conservation Specialist; Amanda McCullen, Conservation Specialist; Kendall Dellinger, Conservation Specialist; Lily Smith, Conservation Specialist; Cheyenne Sheridan, Conservation Specialist; Henny Calloway, Conservation Specialist; Trevor Talley, Conservation Specialist; Richard Jacobs, Conservation Specialist; Becky Haines, Program Assistant

*Items in italics were added at the February 4, 2025 Board Meeting in Greene County, Virginia*

1) The following Conservation Plans were thoroughly reviewed by the Technical Committee and recommended for Board approval:

Thomas W. Clark	CP-7-20-0040
Deborah LaMountain	CP-7-25-0051
Jesse Lynch	CP-7-25-0052
Wesley A. Lohr	CP-7-25-0053
Mystic Hill Farms LLC	EQIP 2018 7433A7230BY
<i>Coates Family Farm LLC</i>	<i>CP-7-25-0054</i>
<i>Keith Morris</i>	<i>CP-7-23-0052</i>

- 2) 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-6W	2025 VACS	Steven L. Walsh	07-25-0459	648872	Madison	\$ 3,233.75	\$ 0.00
CCI-SL-6W	2025 VACS	GNG Farms, LLC	07-25-0458	648794	Culpeper	\$ 4,355.00	\$ 0.00
NM-3C	2025 VACS	AJ Miller Farms, LLC	07-25-0446	648541	Madison	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6N	2025 VACS	Robert C. Swann	07-25-0460	589674	Culpeper	\$ 30,343.50	\$ 2,528.63
SL-6W	2025 VACS	Thomas W. Clark	07-25-0462	647667	Culpeper	\$ 5,428.20	\$ 215.95
SL-6W	2025 VACS	Deborah LaMountain	07-25-0431	647697	Greene	\$ 10,601.25	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2025 VACS	Mystic Hill Farms LLC	07-25-0280	639401	Culpeper	\$ 32,059.82	\$ 1,065.43
SL-7	2025 VACS	Mystic Hill Farms LLC	07-25-0280	648761	Culpeper	\$ 4,392.93	\$ 1,017.23
SL-8H	2025 VACS	Brandy Rock Farm Inc.	07-25-0440	648295	Culpeper	\$ 31,100.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2025 VACS	Dale Welch	07-25-0451	648640	Rappahannock	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2025 VACS	Battlepark Farm	07-25-0449	648591	Culpeper	\$ 11,180.40	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2025 VACS	Battlepark Farm	07-25-0449	648590	Culpeper	\$ 3,760.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2025 VACS	Mike Coates	07-25-0455	648766	Madison	\$ 2,512.80	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2025 VACS	M & W Cattle Co.	07-25-0452	648722	Orange	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8B	2025 VACS	M & W Cattle Co.	07-25-0452	648723	Orange	\$ 14,400.00	\$ 0.00
WP-2W	2025 VACS	Wesley A. Lohr	07-25-0439	648555	Madison	\$ 8,110.59	\$ 381.91
<i>SL-1</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Bradnon Lohr</i>	<i>07-25-0464</i>	<i>649121</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 18,150.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-6W</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>John Edwin Forrester</i>	<i>07-25-0425</i>	<i>605416</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 488,208.20</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-8H</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Bradley Rosenberger</i>	<i>07-25-0095</i>	<i>593035</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,471.60</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-8B</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Bradley Rosenberger</i>	<i>07-25-0096</i>	<i>593036</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 3,200.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-8H</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Nathan Rosenberger</i>	<i>07-25-0094</i>	<i>593032</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 6,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-8B</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Nathan Rosenberger</i>	<i>07-25-0093</i>	<i>593028</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 44,000.00</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>SL-8H</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Payne Hay And Straw Inc.</i>	<i>07-25-0433</i>	<i>647935</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 7,949.60</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>
<i>WP-2W</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>Keith Morris</i>	<i>07-25-0469</i>	<i>586478</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 26,584.00</i>	<i>\$ 779.00</i>

- 3) 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>
CCI-SL-6W	2025 VACS	GNG Farms, LLC	07-25-0458	648794	Culpeper	\$ 4,355.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Wade F. Bradshaw	07-24-0189	636129	Madison	\$ 42,713.61	\$ 2,818.88
CCI-SL-6W	2025 VACS	Steven L. Walsh	07-25-0459	648872	Madison	\$ 3,233.75	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2025 VACS	Glentress LLC	07-25-0002	627898	Rappahannock	\$ 33,414.27	\$ 2,149.53
FR-3	2025 VACS	Glentress LLC	07-25-0002	628607	Rappahannock	\$ 3,874.13	\$ 0.00
FR-1	2025 VACS	Bjorn Bolte	07-25-0167	617172	Rappahannock	\$ 21,800.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2025 VACS	Bjorn Bolte	07-25-0167	617180	Rappahannock	\$ 2,237.50	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2024 VACS	Keyur Parikh	07-24-0425	584092	Rappahannock	\$ 5,730.00	\$ 1,027.10
SL-7	2025 VACS	Timothy Beahm	07-25-0411	547227	Rappahannock	\$ 8,187.69	\$ 682.25

- 4) The following BMP participant has 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-8H	2025 VACS	Terri W. Elgin*	07-25-0386	646788	Orange	\$ 2,869.40	\$ 0.00

\*Application was approved for \$2,800 with 2025 VACS funds. Increase of \$69.40 of 2025 VACS Funds were approved for an increase of 3.47 acres of harvestable cover crop.

- 5) The following BMP participants 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-6N	2024 VACS	Thomas W. Clark	07-24-0370	582240	Culpeper	\$ 3,486.00	\$ 581.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Barabara Johnson	07-22-0075	454003	Orange	\$ 39,166.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2023 Transfer	Barabara Johnson	07-22-0075	454003	Orange	\$ 9,102.50	\$ 0.00

6) The following Locally Funded 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	Locally Funded	Wilhelmina Platts	07-25-0445	648568	Culpeper	\$ 1,950.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Melissa Ingham	07-25-0444	648532	Culpeper	\$ 1,787.50
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Linda Haselton	07-25-0195	648318	Greene	\$ 4,875.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Elizabeth Bailey	07-25-0198	648589	Rappahannock	\$ 3,250.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Jewel Henderson</i>	<i>07-25-0442</i>	<i>648301</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Erica Burkholder</i>	<i>07-25-0473</i>	<i>649352</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 360.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Kristeia Eaton</i>	<i>07-25-0477</i>	<i>649399</i>	<i>Orange</i>	<i>\$ 270.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Don Brauning*</i>	<i>07-25-0340</i>	<i>649314</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Tammy Hockensmith</i>	<i>07-25-0479</i>	<i>649409</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Ruth Morsch	07-25-0474	649353	Orange	\$ 2,112.50

*\*Don Brauning changed from RB-3M to RB-1*

7) The following Upper York River Residential applicant has been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3M	PO17407	Shirley Tucker	07-25-0447	648546	Orange	\$ 4,225.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>Contract</u>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3M	DEQ17220	John Gaffney	07-25-0476	649397	Madison	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Debra Williams	07-25-0480	649424	Madison	\$ 1,787.50
RB-4	DEQ17220	Alison Washington	07-25-0448	648573	Culpeper	\$ 8,125.00

9) 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	Kailey Olinger	07-25-0478	649408	Greene	\$ 247.50
RB-3M	PO17083	Alfred Schnepel	07-25-0472	649350	Greene	\$ 1,625.00

10) 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	Robert Ellis	07-25-0463	649076	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	Timothy Beahm	07-25-0467	649269	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	William W. Taylor	07-25-0475	649391	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Peacefield LLC*	07-25-0456	649365	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Hazel River Farm LLC**	07-25-0457	649364	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00

*\*Peacefield LLC changed from RB-1 to RB-3M*

*\*\*Hazel River Farm LLC changed from RB-1 to RB-3M*

11) 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-3M	PO17406	Elizabeth Disbrow	07-25-0171	618555	Culpeper	\$ 275.00
RB-3M	PO17406	Elizabeth Disbrow	07-25-0171	643385	Culpeper	\$ 1,842.50
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Lois Weik</i>	<i>07-25-0069</i>	<i>591618</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>
<i>RB-3</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Gerald Hoffman</i>	<i>07-25-0149</i>	<i>640654</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 3,750.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Bruce Lugn</i>	<i>07-24-0420</i>	<i>584031</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 412.50</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Brandon Settle</i>	<i>07-24-0678</i>	<i>588774</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,925.00</i>
<i>RB-5</i>	<i>PO17406</i>	<i>Donald Essig</i>	<i>07-25-0032</i>	<i>590068</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$15,628.62</i>

12) 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-1	PO17084	Darleen Shaffer	07-25-0073	642181	Rappahannock	\$ 340.00
RB-3M	PO17084	William Collins	07-25-0387	646854	Culpeper	\$ 453.75
RB-3M	PO17084	Kathleen Burney	07-25-0230	625104	Rappahannock	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	PO17084	Steven Harrelson	07-24-0367	582913	Rappahannock	\$ 910.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Mark Anderson</i>	<i>07-25-0197</i>	<i>623468</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Michael Murphy</i>	<i>07-25-0201</i>	<i>647064</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 212.50</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Whippoorwill Farm LLC</i>	<i>07-24-0641</i>	<i>588418</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 525.00</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	Jeffrey Jorgensen	07-25-0369	646240	Culpeper	\$ 260.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Joanna Vere Nicoll	07-24-0640	588390	Madison	\$ 312.50
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Joanna Vere Nicoll	07-24-0640	588391	Madison	\$ 312.50
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Joanna Vere Nicoll	07-24-0640	588392	Madison	\$ 312.50
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Chadwick Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0393</i>	<i>583495</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 187.50</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Chadwick Lohr</i>	<i>07-24-0393</i>	<i>583599</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 187.50</i>
<i>RB-3</i>	<i>DEQ17220</i>	<i>Janet Hyler</i>	<i>07-25-0239</i>	<i>646999</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 4,500.00</i>

14) The following Locally Funded 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>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Tamara Benson</i>	<i>07-25-0142</i>	<i>608144</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 320.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Don Brauninger</i>	<i>07-25-0340</i>	<i>649314</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 212.50</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Joey Taylor</i>	<i>07-25-0208</i>	<i>624537</i>	<i>Greene</i>	<i>\$ 281.25</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Amanda Hidalgo De La Cruz</i>	<i>07-25-0343</i>	<i>645451</i>	<i>Madison</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>
<i>RB-4P</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Nargil Grigsby</i>	<i>07-25-0027</i>	<i>590028</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 8,250.00</i>

15) 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>
RB-3M	PO17083	Peter Gfrerer	07-24-0670	588629	Orange	\$ 465.00

16) The following Residential participants 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>
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Linda Haselton	07-25-0195	623246	Greene	\$ 2,437.50
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Elizabeth Bailey	07-25-0198	623514	Rappahannock	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	DEQ17084	Randolph Parker	07-25-0202	623679	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Peacefield LLC</i>	<i>07-25-0456</i>	<i>648784</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
<i>RB-1</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Hazel River Farm LLC</i>	<i>07-25-0457</i>	<i>648786</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 225.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>DEQ17084</i>	<i>Randolph Parker</i>	<i>07-25-0202</i>	<i>623679</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>
<i>RB-3M</i>	<i>Locally Funded</i>	<i>Don Brauninger</i>	<i>07-25-0340</i>	<i>645443</i>	<i>Culpeper</i>	<i>\$ 1,625.00</i>

17) The following Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (VCAP) practice has been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Permeable Pavement	Culpeper County	Culpeper	\$ 20,000.00

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

- a. Inclement weather has temporarily delayed all construction at Beautiful Run #1B.

19) The Technical Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan. The Committee felt that all was being addressed.

- 20) The Technical Committee Chairman made a motion for Board approval of submitting a variance request, which will be sent to DCR Staff in Richmond for ultimate approval, for contract 07-25-0450, WP-4LC, J-Team Dairy LLC, Orange County. The Technical Committee approved the motion.
- 21) An Agreement Transferring Maintenance Responsibility for Best Management Practices Form was signed for contract 07-23-0471, Instance 528476 has been approved by the Technical committee. The contract has been transferred from Michael J. Biniek to JTMG Property LLC.

22) *The Technical Committee Chairman made a motion to support the approval of the following application that was submitted to the DCR Variance Committee:*

<i>Practice</i>	<i>Fund</i>	<i>Participant</i>	<i>Contract</i>	<i>Instance</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Tax Credit</i>
<i>SL-6W</i>	<i>2025 VACS</i>	<i>John Edwin Forrester</i>	<i>07-25-0425</i>	<i>605416</i>	<i>Rappahannock</i>	<i>\$ 488,208.20</i>	<i>\$ 0.00</i>

23) *Zachary Gihorski is transferring both the SL-6W contract (07-25-0412) and the SL-6N contract (07-25-0413) to Val Verde Farm LLC. This transfer is prior to project completion.*

- M. Biniek recused himself from the room for the discussion of Technical Committee Minutes.
- R. Bradford made a motion to approve contract 07-25-0425 for funding with the DCR-approved variance. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)
- R. Bradford made a motion to remove item number 17 from the Technical Committee additions. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)
- M. Sands made a motion to accept the Technical Committee Report with revised Additions. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (M. Sands, R. Williamson, unanimous)

**5.2) OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

- A. Jewett made a motion to confirm the review and District compliance of the Desktop Procedures for Fiscal Operations. R. Brame seconded the motion. (A. Jewett, R. Brame, unanimous)
- R. Bradford made a motion to confirm the review and District compliance of the District’s Strategic Plan. R. Brame seconded the motion, (R. Bradford, R. Brame, unanimous)
- G. Wichelns provided an update on revisions to the District Policies, highlighting changes made to the “Policy on Land Use Immediately Adjacent to Flood Control Dams” on page five. These updates aim to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the long term. R. Bradford made a motion to accept the updates made to District Policies. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

**6) CLOSED SESSION: PERSONNEL MATTERS**

- R. Runkle 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 District Manager was invited to attend. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, R. Bradford, 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”. S. Morris seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, S. Morris, unanimous)
- R. Bradford moved to accept the recommendations from the Personnel Committee. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Bradford, M. Sands, unanimous)

**7) DIRECTOR REPORTS**

R. Williamson expressed his gratitude to Greg, Stevie, and the Culpeper District Office for providing the location and resources necessary to complete Phase I and Phase II of his New Director Training, as well as his FOIA Training. All three trainings were successfully completed on February 3, 2025.

D. Cox welcomed all to Greene County and announced his appointment to serve on the Agriculture Forestal Committee under the Greene County Board of Supervisors.

L. Graves stated that he plans to attend the VASWCD Executive Meeting with the Association in two days. He also noted that the AgriBusiness Council Meeting in Richmond was canceled due to a city water issue.

**8) STAFF REPORTS**

R. Jacobs reported that he attended three trainings this month: a two-day Chesapeake Bay Landscape Professional (CBLP) meadows webinar, a DEQ Construction General Permit (GCP) update webinar, and a NOAA Pilot Precipitation Modeling update. He will be assisting Stephanie in hosting a collaborative Rain Barrel Workshop focused on Greene County residents with the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission in March.

C. Sheridan reported that she attended the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council session and that she has successfully completed her Conservation Planner Certification.

D. Massie reported that he and the ag staff attended the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council session where Mr. Williamson and Mr. Biniak were also present. He noted that the session was well-organized and emphasized hay production.

A. McCullen reported that she attended the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council session and particularly enjoyed learning more about bale grazing.

S. DeNicola announced that she will be hosting a Rain Barrel Workshop with Richard and the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Jack's Shop Kitchen in Greene County. The workshop is limited to twenty participants, and spots are filling quickly. Registration costs \$50 and includes an EarthMinded Rain Barrel. She also reported that all species of trees are still available for order in the District's Annual Tree Sale.

G. Wichelns reported that the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission has received a Federal Infrastructure Grant from DEQ to provide 100% septic reimbursements to residents at or below 200% of federal poverty guidelines. While discussions have taken place about partnering with the Culpeper District held grants to implement these practices, no formal plans have been made to do so at this time. He also reported that Schnabel Engineering is drafting proposals for gate valve replacements on some District dams. Additionally, the District has recently received two annual FOIA requests – one for personnel information and the other for purchasing/vendor information. Both requests have been processed in compliance with FOIA regulations.

**9) AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS – R. Rexrode submitted a written report.

DCR – D. Cross submitted a written report and highlighted several key items. She reminded staff that VACS contracts must be fully completed and signed by the appropriate District staff, District Director, and the participant. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of assisting participants who require Nutrient Management Plans by connecting them with a planner well in advance of practice completion to prevent payment delays. She noted that while she has been sending bi-weekly QA/QC Reports to staff, moving forward, these reports will only be sent if there are issues that need to be addressed. She also announced that DCR's Public Communications & Marketing Outreach team has developed several VACS promotional videos that Districts can use in their marketing efforts. She then reviewed a list of upcoming dates and additional reminders.

VDOF – Griffin Robeson introduced himself as the new Area Forester for the Rappahannock District.

**10) PLAN FOR FEBRUARY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Committees will meet at the Madison Extension Office on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Personnel 9:00, Operations 9:30, Technical 10:00. Following the Technical Committee Meeting, there will be an Annual Emergency Services Meeting. The Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at the Madison County Extension Office at 3:30. **BOARD MEETING FOR MARCH WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON TUESDAY, March 4, 2025, in person, at EverGRO in Orange County, Virginia.**

**11) ADJOURNMENT**

M. Sands motioned to adjourn the February 3 Board meeting at 10:47 AM. M. Biniek seconded the motion. (M. Sands, M. Biniek, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist

Lynn Graves, Chairman

Date Approved: