# MINUTES

# CULPEPER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

# Washington Fire Hall Rappahannock County, Virginia September 2, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynn Graves at 10:04 AM.

**<u>DIRECTORS PRESENT:</u>** Lynn Graves, Madison County

Mike Sands, Rappahannock County Robert Williamson, Culpeper County Dennis Verhoff, Culpeper County Robert Runkle, Greene County Anthony Jewett, Madison County Robert Bradford, Orange County Mike Biniek, Rappahannock County

Steve Morris, At-Large Director, Greene County

**DIRECTORS NOT PRESENT:** David Cox, Greene County

Robert Brame, Orange County

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 Kendall Dellinger, 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: Bella Brush, NRCS

Peter Schoderbeck, VDOF Madeline Kenerly, VDOF

Davis Lamb, Greene County BOS Stephanie Cornnell, VSWCB, Area II

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

L. Graves called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Following a moment of silence, S. Yager led the Pledge of Allegiance. There were five handouts: Technical Committee Additions, Education Committee Report, NRCS Conservation Plans, DCR Report, and one Staff Report.

# 2) DRAFT MINUTES

L. Graves called for approval of the substance of August 5, 2025, Draft District Board Meeting Minutes and for any substantive corrections or additions. R. Runkle moved to approve the Minutes as presented. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, R. Williamson, 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. M. Sands moved to adopt the Agenda as modified. R. Bradford seconded the motion. (M. Sands, R. Bradford, unanimous)

# 4) CONSENT AGENDA

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT TREASURER'S REPORT NRCS CONSERVATION PLANS

Rappahannock 111 Acres EQIP – Brush Management, Herb. Weed Control, Tree

Planting, Forest Stand Improvement

Greene 225 Acres ALE – Easement Plant, Pasture and Hayland Planting,

Forage Harvest Management, Access Control, Prescribed

Grazing, Nutrient Management

# 5) ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

# **5.1) TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

# **August 19, 2025 Technical Committee Meeting Minutes (Updated)**

Present: Robert Bradford, Chairman; Lynn Graves, Madison; Anthony Jewett, Madison; Mike Sands, Rappahannock; 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; Debbie Cross, DCR Conservation District Coordinator

#### Items in italics were added at the September 2, 2025 Board Meeting in Washington, Virginia

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

JP Linden LLC	CP-7-25-0039
Gables Farm LLC	CP-7-22-0003
Vera Brenneman	CP-7-26-0018
Ferris Crilly	CP-7-26-0004
Amanda Davis	CP-7-23-0018
L&P Land Co. DBA Retreat Farm Rapidan	CP-7-26-0005
William Queitzish	CP-7-25-0013

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>	Tax Credit
CCI-WP-2W	2026 VACS	Tatum Farm LLC	07-26-0108	690712	Madison	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 0.00
FR-3	2026 VACS	10 Gables Farm LLC	07-26-0095	671840	Madison	\$ 9,547.50	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2026 VACS	Vera Brenneman	07-26-0081	665488	Madison	\$ 70,485.25	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2026 VACS	Ferris Crilly	07-26-0105	690054	Madison	\$ 22,812.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2026 VACS	L&P Land Co. DBA Retreat Farm Rapidan	07-26-0107	690597	Orange	\$ 31,790.70	\$ 83.08

SL-6W	2026 VACS	Amanda Davis	07-26-0096	673041	Culpeper	\$ 47,135.70	\$ 109.33
SL-7	2026 VACS	Ferris Crilly	07-26-0105	690485	Madison	\$ 7,968.00	\$ 498.00
SL-8B	2026 VACS	Tyler Marshall	07-26-0117	691108	Orange	\$ 29,477.00	\$ 0.00
SL-8H	2026 VACS	Levi Atkins	07-26-0044	661250	Rappahannock	\$ 400.00	\$ 0.00
WQ-1	2026 VACS	William Queitzish	07-26-0109	690717	Madison	\$ 13,590.00	\$ 0.00
WQ-12	2026 VACS	JP Linden LLC	07-26-0031	660821	Orange	\$ 25,473.75	\$ 2,122.81
WQ-12	2026 VACS	JP Linden LLC	07-26-0101	685453	Orange	\$ 19,092.75	\$ 1,591.06
LE-1T	2026 VACS	Susan Pooton	07-19-0385	332109	Madison	\$ 1,330.51	\$ 58.70
SL-6W	2026 VACS	GNG Farms LLC	07-26-0082	667008	Culpeper	\$ 35,840.00	\$ 0.00
SL-7	2026 VACS	Loyd J. Simpson	07-26-0024	704555	Madison	\$ 3,894.00	\$ 243.40
SL-7	2026 VACS	Robert Bradford	07-26-0080	663626	Orange	\$ 6,560.00	\$ 410.00

# 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>	Tax Credit
CCI-WP-2W	2026 VACS	Tatum Farm LLC	07-26-0108	690712	Madison	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2025 VACS	Celt Run Farm LLC	07-25-0529	651089	Greene	\$ 16,156.00	\$ 0.00
SL-6W	2022 VACS	Henshaw & Sons Farm LLC	07-22-0378	475535	Madison	\$ 25,459.44	\$ 2,266.52
SL-6W	2025 VACS	Thomas Gilbert	07-25-0036	590071	Orange	\$ 66,440.65	\$ 0.00
WP-4LL	2024 VACS	Henshaw & Sons Farm LLC	07-24-0121	583562	Madison	\$ 274,471.21	\$ 5,143.94

# 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>	Tax Credit
SL-6W	2024 VACS	Brian Morris*	07-24-0478	584964	Greene	\$55,101.25	\$ 1,335.05

<sup>\*</sup>Application was approved for \$48,944.25 with 2024 VACS Funds. Increase of \$6,157.00 of 2024 VACS Funds were approved for pipeline sleeving due to rock, machine time, stone for crossing, and clearing and grading to facilitate a rotational grazing system.

# 5) The following Locally Funded applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	<b>County</b>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	Locally Funded	Joseph Lynch	07-25-0673	658135	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Daniel Swanson	07-26-0097	681914	Culpeper	\$ 292.50
RB-1	Locally Funded	Holland Markwalter	07-26-0098	682225	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Virginia Wharton	07-26-0102	686149	Culpeper	\$ 360.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Virginia Wharton	07-26-0102	686023	Culpeper	\$ 360.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Stephen Josephson	07-26-0111	690977	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	John Boldridge	07-26-0112	691004	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Duane Kuykendall	07-26-0104	689851	Culpeper	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Thomas Gowdy	07-26-0103	689266	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Clayton Van Doren	07-26-0100	683355	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Helen Stroud*	07-26-0099	682356	Culpeper	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Joseph Hayes	07-26-0116	691047	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Jayson Woods	07-26-0110	690955	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Craig Swingle	07-26-0106	690398	Greene	\$ 1,950.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Alan Edmunds	07-26-0115	691041	Madison	\$ 1,787.50
RB-1	Locally Funded	Michael Mendell	07-26-0123	702779	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Michael Mendell	07-26-0123	702790	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Michael Mendell	07-26-0123	702801	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Carla Coelman	07-26-0126	702911	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Linda Dodson	07-26-0149	704488	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Daniel Dodson	07-26-0150	704510	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Kristin Zuro	07-26-0146	704325	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Peter Herold	07-26-0145	703916	Culpeper	\$ 270.00

RB-1	Locally Funded	Jennifer Bierhuizen	07-26-0143	703913	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Jason Haley	07-26-0148	704453	Rappahannock	\$ 360.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Joyce Whitlock	07-260127	702924	Culpeper	\$ 360.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Bryan Beasley	07-26-0142	703912	Culpeper	\$ 247.50
RB-1	Locally Funded	A Le Boi Farms LLC	07-26-0138	703814	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-3	Locally Funded	George Stover	07-26-0144	703915	Culpeper	\$ 4,875.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	David Camp	07-26-0124	702863	Rappahannock	\$ 4,875.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Catherine Cobos	07-26-0125	702893	Rappahannock	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Kathryn Reinbolt	07-26-0141	703911	Rappahannock	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	John Mcginley	07-26-0147	704422	Culpeper	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Mark Corneal	07-26-0139	704708	Madison	\$ 1,625.00
RB-4	Locally Funded	Melissa Oakley	07-26-0153	704671	Greene	\$ 6,250.00

<sup>\*</sup>Helen Stroud Increased from RB-3M Level 1 to RB-3M Level 2

6) The following Upper Rapidan River Residential applicants have been approved by the Technical Committee for funding:

<b>Practice</b>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	County	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	PO17083	Erin Salling	07-26-0114	691025	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Elizabeth Herndon	07-26-0113	691022	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Amy Lucas	07-26-0118	691214	Greene	\$ 3,575.00
RB-1	PO17083	Diana Myers	07-26-0140	703819	Madison	\$ 360.00
RB-1	PO17083	Erik Norell	07-26-0136	703751	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-1	PO17083	Daniel Auville	07-26-0134	703743	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-1	PO17083	Steven Hutchison	07-26-0092	701703	Greene	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	PO17083	John Colvin	07-26-0132	703740	Orange	\$ 1,787.50
RB-3M	PO17083	William Morris	07-26-0131	703652	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Karen Newman	07-26-0086	701951	Greene	\$ 3,575.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Karolyn Weaver	07-26-0130	703125	Madison	\$ 4,225.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Hope Kidwell	07-26-0129	703108	Orange	\$ 2,600.00
RB-3M	PO17083	John Keltonic	07-26-0155	704926	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Zachery Santulli	07-26-0156	705907	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-4	PO17083	Thomas King Jr.	07-26-0128	702979	Greene	\$ 6,250.00

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

<b>Practice</b>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<b>Contract</b>	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQ17220	Mary Thornton	07-26-0154	704715	Madison	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Mary Thornton	07-26-0154	704780	Madison	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Theresa Mawire	07-26-0152	704638	Madison	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Christen Fox	07-26-0135	703749	Madison	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17220	Debra Roy	07-26-0133	703742	Madison	\$ 360.00
RB-4	DEQ17220	Donnie Boyd	07-26-0157	705992	Madison	\$ 6,875.00

8) 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	PO17407	Charles Pitera	07-26-0119	692692	Orange	\$ 3,250.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Dwight Boston	07-26-0069	701202	Orange	\$ 5,200.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Allison Cooke	07-26-0151	704593	Orange	\$ 1,787.50

9) The following Locally Funded participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	Locally Funded	Joseph Lynch	07-25-0673	658135	Culpeper	\$ 225.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	James Derdeyn	07-26-0010	659328	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50

RB-1	Locally Funded	James Derdeyn	07-26-0010	659329	Rappahannock	\$ 187.50
RB-1	Locally Funded	Joyce Whitlock	07-26-0127	702924	Culpeper	\$ 340.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Eugene Weaver	07-26-0067	661742	Madison	\$ 320.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	James Irwin	07-25-0539	651231	Greene	\$ 225.00
RB-3	Locally Funded	Justin Manella	07-25-0674	658148	Greene	\$ 3,750.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Duane Kuykendall	07-26-0104	689851	Culpeper	\$ 1,225.00
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Thomas Apollonio	07-26-0037	660946	Culpeper	\$ 379.35

10) The following Mountain Run, Muddy Run, and Lower Hazel River Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<b>Practice</b>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	<b>County</b>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3M	PO17406	David Rinker	07-25-0634	656896	Culpeper	\$ 212.50
<i>RB-1</i>	PO17406	Walter Burton	07-25-0611	655484	Culpeper	\$ 212.50

11) The following Upper Hazel River Residential participants have been approved by the Technical Committee for payment:

<b>Practice</b>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-1	DEQ17084	Kimberly Jones	07-25-0616	655494	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Mary Nelson	07-26-0038	660957	Culpeper	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Henry B Wood, Jr Trust	07-26-0013	659335	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Henry B Wood III	07-26-0011	659330	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Red Oak Mountain LLC	07-26-0012	659331	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Red Oak Mountain LLC	07-26-0012	659332	Rappahannock	\$ 212.50
RB-1	DEQ17084	Red Oak Mountain LLC	07-26-0012	659333	Rappahannock	\$ 225.00
RB-1	DEQ17084	Elizabeth Lucas	07-26-0050	661300	Culpeper	\$ 200.00

12) 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	PO17407	Rose Noxon	07-26-0047	661289	Orange	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Joseph Coates	07-26-0017	659357	Orange	\$ 1,175.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Shirley Tucker	07-25-0447	648546	Orange	\$ 3,022.50

13) The following Residential participants have been cancelled by the Technical Committee:

<b>Practice</b>	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Participant</u>	Contract	<u>Instance</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
RB-3M	PO17406	Helen Stroud	07-25-0619	655562	Culpeper	\$ 1,625.00
RB-1	Locally Funded	Russell Parrott	07-25-0246	655910	Greene	\$ 225.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Karen Newman	07-26-0086	667923	Orange	\$ 1,787.50
RB-3M	PO17407	Charles Pitera	07-25-0542	651240	Orange	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	PO17407	Dwight Boston	07-26-0069	6661769	Orange	\$ 2,600.00
RB-3M	PO17083	Steven Hutchison	07-26-0092	668597	Greene	\$ 1,625.00
RB-3M	DEQ17220	Donnie Boyd	07-25-0039	590110	Madison	\$ 1,787.50
RB-3M	Locally Funded	Michael Dow Jr.	07-25-0247	628757	Orange	\$ 2,600.00

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

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participant</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CL-1	John Keltonic	Orange	\$ 6,333.60
CL-1	Robin Schmid	Rappahannock	\$ 3,607.20
CW	Blake Jimenez-Calhoun	Greene	\$ 5,008.02

- 15) District staff gave an update on dams:
  - a. The second mowing of District dams is underway.
  - b. District Staff recently cleaned trash racks, checked depths around trash rack, and measured distance for wing fence at spillway at several dams in Madison County.
- 16) The Technical Committee reviewed the summary report from the random verifications (spot checks) that District Staff recently completed. Several letters will be sent to producers for remedial maintenance issues.
- 17) Clean Water Farm Award, Grand Basin Awards, and Conservationist of the Year Nominations:
  - a. Culpeper Glebe Farm LLC
  - b. Greene Evan Bowman
  - c. Madison Shepherd Sons Farm
  - d. Orange Brooke Farms
  - e. Rappahannock Thornhill Farms LLC
  - f. York River Bain Award Brooke Farms
  - g. James River Basin Award Calvin Powell
  - h. Rappahannock River Basin Award Muddy Flats Farm LLC
  - i. Conservationist of the Year Carl Stafford
- 18) The Technical Committee Chairman requests the authority of the Board to approve a WP-4LC practice (Contract # 07-26-0015) for Glenmary Farm Holdings LLC upon official approval from the DCR Variance Committee.
  - R. Runkle moved to approve granting authority to the Technical Committee Chairman to approve Glenmary Farm Holdings LLC's WP-4LC practice upon official approval from the DCR Variance Committee. M. Sands seconded the motion. (R. Runkle, M. Sands, unanimous)
  - R. Bradford recused himself during discussion of the addition of his SL-7 practice for payment approval.
  - G. Wichelns provided a handout showing a potential dam encroachment from a proposal to build a 200+ housing development, referencing the District's Policy Update from February 2025, which includes a requirement of a 100-foot setback which the proposal does not meet. He and the Technical Committee Chairman will be meeting soon with the developer.
  - M. Sands moved to approve the Technical Committee Report and Additions as presented, including the Clean Water Farm Awards, Grand Basin Awards, and Conservationist of the Year Award nominations. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (M. Sands, R. Williamson, unanimous)

# 6) DIRECTOR REPORTS

- R. Runkle reported that interviews have been conducted to fill the vacant Program Assistant position; however, a candidate has not yet been selected.
- L. Graves reported that he attended the Virginia Ag Expo, where District staff represented the District with an information table. He noted that a power and internet outage prevented him from attending the Area II Legislative Zoom Meeting but stated that he plans to attend the Association's Zoom Meeting on September 18.

# 7) STAFF REPORTS

- R. Jacobs reported that he attended the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission Land Use Committee and presented a VCAP funding update. The VCAP Steering Committee reviewed 40 applications statewide and approved \$158,000 in funding, with approvals determined by a pre-set ranking score.
- S. Yager reported that he attended a three-day VACDE Training Program at Graves Mountain Lodge, noting that all learning tracks were informative and well presented. He also announced that the District's Fourth Annual New Landowner Conservation Services Workshop is scheduled for Friday, September 5.

- S. DeNicola reminded all that anyone wishing to revise their bios for inclusion in the Annual Report should send updates to her as soon as possible. She reported that she presented on grant writing at the VACDE Training at Graves Mountain Lodge, noting that the session was well received. She also announced that the District's Annual Banquet will be held at Pepper's Grill on November 20, 2025.
- D. Massie reported that he represented the District at the Virginia Ag Expo and, despite less-than-ideal table placement, the District's table received good traffic. He also attended the VACDE Training at Graves Mountain Lodge and received his continuing education credits. He provided updates on the Clean Water Farm Awards and upcoming trainings and reminded members that the deadline for completing verifications is September 30.
- T. Talley reported that he represented the District at the Virginia Ag Expo with Mr. Massie and also attended the VACDE Training at Graves Mountain Lodge. He further noted that he is on track to complete his Conservation Planning Certification next month.
  - A. McCullen reported that she attended the VACDE Training at Graves Mountain Lodge.
  - K. Dellinger reported that she attended the VACDE Training at Graves Mountain Lodge.
- G. Wichelns provided an update on End of Lifespan Verifications, commending Lily and the contractor for their excellent work and noting that 2025 contracts are nearly complete and preparations for 2026 are underway. He reported that the District has hired a part-time employee to assist with the Virginia Voluntary Ag BMP Surveys. He also gave an update on Ag BMP T/A funds, noting ongoing discussions about the funding formula. While agricultural funding levels remain high at present, he cautioned that they may not stay this robust indefinitely.

# 8) AGENCY REPORTS

DCR – D. Cross submitted a written report and highlighted several key items. She reminded members that Quarterly Reports are due Wednesday, October 15, and noted that FY25 Random BMP Verifications (spot checks) are underway, with only two remaining in the Culpeper District. She provided updates and reminders regarding upcoming training opportunities and meetings. She also supplied a handout of the FY25 BMP/TA and FY Administrative Assessments, explaining that her initial remarks are printed in black ink and the Richmond office's comments in red ink. The Operations/Administrative Assessment received all "A" grades, while the BMP/TA Assessment did not, prompting discussion regarding the lower grades. S. Cornnell, Area II Representative on the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board was present to be part of this discussion, inviting District Staff and Board Members to provide feedback on the grading process, expectations, and related matters. The District expressed surprise at the poor scoring on one or two sections, noting that the results appeared inconsistent with some of the prior communications regarding EJAA. Staff shared their concerns and experiences and suggested more consistent, clear, and upfront guidance from DCR on specifically what the expectations are.

NRCS – B. Brush reported that she brought two conservation plans to the meeting for Board approval, noting that they are the final projects of the current season. She also reported that she will present on behalf of NRCS at the District's Fourth Annual New Landowner Conservation Services Workshop.

VDOF – M. Kenerly reported that applications for forest programs may now be submitted online. She noted that the Department has hired a new Technician, A. Markham, who is scheduled to begin on September 10. She also reported that Beech Leaf Disease has been identified in Orange and Fauquier Counties, explaining that the nematodes cause black striping under the leaves.

# 9) PLAN FOR SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committees will meet at the Culpeper District Office on Tuesday, September 23, 2025: 9:00 Personnel, 9:30 Operations, 10:00 Technical, followed by RMP TRC. The Education Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at 3:30 PM at the Madison Extension Office. **BOARD MEETING FOR OCTOBER WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM ON Tuesday, October 7, 2025, in person, at Pepper's Grill in Culpeper County.** 

# 10) ADJOURNMENT

D. Verhoff motioned to adjourn the September 2 Board meeting at 11:51 AM. R. Williamson seconded the motion. (D. Verhoff, R. Williamson, unanimous)

Respectfully Submitted, Stevie Ross, Administrative Secretary/Financial Specialist Lynn Graves, Chairman

Date Approved: October 7, 2025